

Peggy McDonough Jan

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Architects are taught to shape the world with precision and intent, yet real-world practice often defies this notion. Peggy McDonough Jan AIA—President of MHTN Architects and former CA+P Adjunct Assistant Professor—examines the illusion of control in architecture and its impact on leadership, design, and professional growth.

As the first woman to lead one of Utah's long-established architecture firms, McDonough draws from personal experience, case studies, and contemporary thought leaders to challenge the myth of total influence. She will share seven guiding tenets that have shaped her career, offering insights on navigating uncertainty and redefining architectural agency by embracing a mindset of adaptability, humility, and responsiveness. In an era of increasing complexity, rethinking control may be a necessary evolution in the profession.

The Illusion of Control and the Mindset of an Architect

