

*While we had them we picked the brains of some of our executives to learn some of the secrets of their success.*



"To be a senior executive you have to be familiar with the technology used in the business today, develop powerpoint, manage voice mail, do video conference call, and work globally. It is a critical part of being a successful executive."

- Billy Dexter, Heidrich & Struggles

"If you are interested in an overseas assignment, prepare by learning the language(s) and the culture(s) of the countries in which your company has presence. Some companies have partnerships with language programs and schools; take advantage."

- Jimmie Paschall, Marriott

"I travel worldwide and have a challenging schedule, to put it mildly. But I work to find the time to motivate and encourage young professionals... That's what being a true leader is all about: leading... pushing... encouraging."

- Don Thompson, McDonald's

"We saw a decade ago where the culture was headed in terms of multiculturalism and embracing all cultures. The next evolutionary point is taking our understanding of the multicultural consumer and how those consumers influence popular culture or the total market."

- Don Coleman, Global Hue

"While public private partnerships are often a good thing to do, this do-good is often necessary but not sufficient. It needs to go beyond the charity aspects of what you are doing and fit with your business needs."

- Reggie Van Lee, Booz Allen

FOCUS



Stacy Bourne - First African American Female on the AIA National Board of Directors

Stacy Bourne's appointment to the American Institute of Architects National Board of Directors is a first for an African American woman. As Chair of the Board Diversity Council since 2009, Bourne is responsible for overseeing AIA's efforts to increase diversity and inclusion within the organization.

Bourne's firm, The Bourne Group, LLC, is based in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Also known as Innovations by Design, the company's expertise includes commercial renovations and new construction, urban design/master plans and interior design. One of their projects is the West Indian Company administration building.

There are approximately 100,000 practicing architects in the U.S. and an ongoing study counting the number of black female architects in the profession, Bourne noted. Of her role at AIA she said she has no qualms. "I am used to being the only or one of few black female architects in the room at AIA, so it's not new to me."