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# 'A step above' is career building block for Lisa Duprez

By [Ellen Graves](#) Feature  
Saucy, April 1, 2006

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Figuring out how to build a completed start-up in a construction project is typically a two-week problem solving process of passing ideas on paper back and forth between construction manager, architect and subcontractor.

Lisa Duprez project executive at Commerce Builders, got to the solution in one afternoon.

"Focusing on the needs of our clients" is how the 40-year-old general contractor and construction manager firm likes to describe it.

"I've taken it a step above," Duprez says. "I decided the start-up deserved a all-hands-on-deck approach."

With the architect, Duprez went to the fabricator's for a half-day brainstorming session that would quickly check off one of myriad details calling for attention. "I'm always looking for an opportunity and where we can go over an edge," she says.

Duprez joined Commerce last summer, sure that the up-and-coming firm would be the place where she could accomplish the goal she's built her career around—making a name for herself in construction.

Since 1990, with a degree in construction engineering and an emphasis on construction management from Arizona State University, Duprez has been strategically constructing her experience in Boston, northern Illinois and Chicago.

"I grew up in a family in construction. My father was in construction management and my mother in real estate. I wanted to apply the values and ethics, taught by example, with the latest technology offered in our industry. New England offered the historical foundation and a tradition of knowledge of the latest and greatest in technology," she says.

Olson, Walsh Brothers, Bar & Bar and Shamrock provided Duprez with a range of general contracting expertise.

"I have worked in the capacity of estimating project management in various sectors and to day in the field all by choice, all by design," she says. "In order to become a leader in the industry, I needed to understand the different positions that make up construction management. [\[continue\]](#)

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