

contract



ahead, be a know-it-all.
Accredited digital CEU classes on-demand.

[Sign up here](#)

contract

[NEWS](#) [PROJECTS](#) [PRODUCTS](#) [PRACTICE](#) [COMPETITIONS](#)


Practice

Contract Multivitamin: Mindi Weichman of Studio O+A

By Mindi Weichman • June 23, 2020



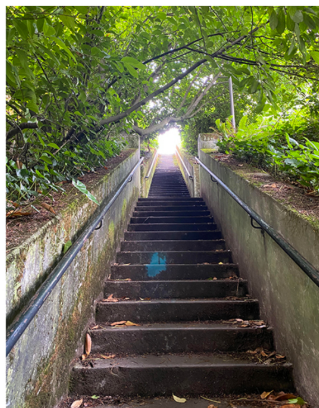
A dose of designer musings in their own words. Get to know someone new today!

Mindi Weichman
Design Director, [Studio O+A](#)
San Francisco

One thing we've learned from working at home—we can do it. At least, we can in the design industry. I've been surprised by how much of O+A's creative process can happen through virtual collaboration. Of course, it's better to be in one room, interrupting each other and poking our fingers onto plans, but since that's not possible right now, we are making this new reality work. There's no way to build a building on Zoom, however, and when a project reaches the construction phase, you really need to be on site.

For the last three years, O+A has been working on the interior design of two new buildings for adidas's North American headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Designed by a local firm, LEVER Architecture, the project started construction in August 2018. Before COVID-19 hit, I was flying with coworkers from San Francisco to the job site almost every week. But once the shelter-in-place order came down, our office stopped traveling.

About two months in, it was becoming apparent that we really needed an O+A presence at the job site. Flying to Portland once a week would mean long, exhausting days spent traveling, not to mention exposure to unknown travel environments and people. We decided the safer, smarter move would be to drive to Portland and rent a house for six weeks so I could finish closing out construction on one of the buildings and catch up on progress for the other.



A set of stairs in Portland, Oregon.



Laser Cut Metal Solutions
DIVIDERS | WALLS | COLUMNS



magazine


[View Digital Edition](#)
[Archived Issues](#)

contract newsletters

Stay on top of the latest commercial interior design trends, innovative products and projects.

[Sign up now](#)


My husband is a residential architect with his own practice, and he too has been working remotely during the shelter-in-place. When you're working remotely, how remotely isn't really an issue, so he decided to join me in Portland. We've been here five weeks, and it has been great to be around people on the construction site and interact socially (from a safe distance, of course). It has also been a nice change of scenery from our 500-square-foot apartment in the middle of San Francisco. In Portland, we have a little more space—even a yard.

Although my husband and I miss our San Francisco home, there are benefits. We usually travel a lot for our jobs—in any given week, one of us is on an airplane. Now we can stop work at 7:00, have a cocktail, and make dinner together. We start most days with a walk around Portland, instead of going to the gym. All of this togetherness has been a nice change!

There was never pressure from the project team to have O+A on site. Safety was and is their top priority. Since we temporarily relocated, adidas and the construction team have been very supportive and happy to have “boots on the ground.” Our clients see the design and construction team as one big family—and the family has welcomed my husband and me warmly.

After having been away from the site for six plus weeks, I've been busy with the things that require a designer's eye. In design, the smallest details can make a big difference. I'm at the job site every day, supervising furniture installation and brand execution, joining site walks with our design partners, and helping to solve problems real time in the field. As soon as I step into the buildings, five people are asking for feedback.



request contract
media kit 2020

latest multivitamin



Contract Multivitamin:
Christian Stayner of
Stayner Architects

June 30, 2020 • Multivitamin



Contract Multivitamin:
Anastasija & Martin
Lesjak of INNOCAD
Architecture & Design

June 30, 2020 • Multivitamin



Contract Multivitamin:
Rob Marcalow of Kuth
Ranieri Architects

June 16, 2020 • Multivitamin



NEED HELP BUYING A HOUSE?
GET UP TO \$7,500.

[LEARN MORE](#)

B|E|C|U



sections

News
Projects
Products
Practice
Competitions

tools

About Us
Contact Us
Advertise
Newsletters
Site Map

resources

Reader Service
Whitepapers