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## Member Spotlight



Rebecca Henson, RID, IIDA, LEED AP

Director of Hospitality



Rebecca Henson is the Director of Hospitality at EDF International, a firm provides architecture and interior design services to owners and developers to create specific projects for their portfolios. EDF also works on many boutique designs, focusing on the needs and desires of the end user, which translate into project profitability for their

clients. As the Director of Hospitality at EDI International, Rebecca is responsible for all aspects of the Hospitality Team: managing the design process and project implementation from inception through completion; ensuring projects stay on schedule and in budget; and handling staff planning & scheduling.

After earning her Bachelors of Architecture degree at the University of Southern California, Rebecca returned to her hometown of Houston and landed her first job at EDI as an intern Interior Designer. Her first projects were hotels in the hospitality industry, a market with which she immediately fell in love. Later, she worked abroad in Luanda, Angola, providing full design services on several high-rise towers, gaining tremendous experience during those 4 years. She eventually boomeranged back to Houston and headed back to EDI, as the Hospitality Studio Leader and now as the Director of Hospitality.

Rebecca got involved with NEWH early in her career; it was the first professional organization that she joined as an intern at EDI. As she puts it, "NEWH has been a great source for networking over the years, and I've met some inspiring, creative people. My favorite event is the annual Student Day event; the opportunity for students to get 'insider' info from industry professionals is invaluable to their growing careers, and I'm honored to be a part of it."

Rebecca's passion has always been design & art; when she was 13, she tried to persuade her parents to let her install faux grass for her bedroom flooring, but was unsuccessful. Nowadays she has a lot of side crafting 'gigs,' such as intricate gift wrapping, custom invitations and nail art. She loves to travel and frequently visits hotels of all types to keep abreast of current industry trends, as well as learn from the successes and failures of other projects.



Mary Katherine Slocum,  
NEWH/Houston Chapter



Secretary  
Specification Representative



Mary Katherine Slocum, or 'MK' to her friends, is the Specification Representative for Wurth, Louis, & Company for Houston and Southern Louisiana. Her company is a leading provider of quality products to the woodworking industry; their brands include Blum, Formica, Rev-A-Shelf, Knape & Vogt, Grass Doellken Woodtape, and ML Woodtape. She focuses primarily on Formica Laminate, which is typically specified by designers & architects in most projects on furniture, countertops or in some other form.

Mary Katherine is originally from Louisiana and received her degree in Business Communications from Texas A&M University. She moved to Dallas soon after and had the opportunity to work for a drapery manufacturer; this was her first glimpse into the hospitality industry. Later, Mary Katherine was a middle school teacher for 5 years and she went on to get her Masters in Educational Administration to become a principal for a school. She eventually moved to Houston and completed a stint in oil and gas sales. "After having experience in so many industries, it's nice to be back in hospitality where I'm going to stay!"

Mary Katherine became involved with NEWH soon after joining Wurth. Her best friends here in Houston, Sara and Tracy Kaiser (also NEWH members) are very involved in the local chapter. Once she got a chance to get back in the hospitality industry, she knew it would be a great opportunity to start networking. She joined the Houston Chapter Board as Secretary and gets to be involved with a lot of different projects. She enjoys learning the inner workings of all the NEWH events and helping with scholarships as well as working with an awesome board!

Mary Katherine loves traveling, whether that be to her small hometown in Louisiana, her former stomping grounds in Dallas, someplace new overseas, or to a local patio for

cocktails with friends. She also never regrets a quiet day by the pool, relaxing without the stresses of work.



NEWH, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 322  
 Shawano, WI 54166  
 800.593.NEWH (6394) phone  
 800.693.NEWH (6394) fax



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