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CO's 20 Under 35: The Top Young Architects, Engineers and Contractors of 2019

BY [THE EDITORS](#) OCTOBER 1, 2019 9:00 AM



Eli Meltzer, 34

President, Meltzer/Mandl Architects, P.C.

Growing up with an architect for a dad, it wasn't too hard for Eli Meltzer to pick his profession. "In high school I used to do renderings for [my dad], using Form-Z, [which was] then the latest in architectural software, as a summer job," noted Meltzer of his father, Marvin.

But it was still a few years post-school (Dartmouth for undergrad and New Jersey Institute of Technology for his master's) before he joined the family business, which

focuses on housing. (Meltzer/Mandl has designed about 12,000 units since the firm's founding in 1995; founding partner David Mandl passed away about a decade ago).

The younger Meltzer first worked for KPF on 55 Hudson Yards. "There were four of us on the team," he said, "when I came in, it was in schematics; we did scale models. At KPF they do a lot of iterations. I stayed on through design [and] development ... I got to sort of touch everything on that building."

The next stop was Kliment Halsband Architects, which gave him the opportunity to work on a hospital project, and also to be lead designer and project manager of a \$44.7 million project for the Blind Brook elementary and high schools in Westchester. So, by the time he came to Meltzer/Mandl — back home to housing, if you will — Eli was 33, with six years of broad experience.

Meltzer said that the firm's affordable housing and market-rate housing practices inform each other. "I think there's a consistency to our work," he said

Do father and son fight, as partners often do?

"Of course," Meltzer said. "But my dad has one rule: No fights over dinner."—A.R.