

THE CONSTRUCTION CULTURE

RICHARD ALAN DANKS, PE

Life Member | ASHRAE

Retired, Chief of Energy and Environmental Management Office | NASA

ASME American Society of Mechanical Engineers



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ABOUT RICHARD DANKS

Mr. Danks has a combined 42 years in the facilities arena as a design engineer, estimator, and field engineer. He led a research team investigating "design for maintainability" sponsored by the Construction Industry Institute. Mr. Danks also served as division-level manager for operations, maintenance design, construction and facility planning organization. Performed strategic planning, HR and operational problem solving for large aerospace research campus. He retired as Chief of Energy and Environmental Management Office overseeing compliance with laws and regulations and energy conservation efforts. Post-retirement, Mr. Danks served as an independent consultant and expert witness for contractor liability litigation.

BACKGROUND

Richard Danks started out as a mechanic at a boatyard. He finally accepted a job at the Austin Company where his father worked for many years, but not until after he had applied and been rejected more than 60 times from other companies. He has traveled across the United States working on a multitude of project types and programs.

This podcast discusses the culture of the construction industry as an employee. Rick lets the listener into his specific experiences, good and bad in the industry. He also gives future employees some advice that helped him during his time, along with some things he wished he would've known.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about what was discussed in this episode of the Building HEROes Podcast, please use these additional resources.

- [ASHRAE](#)
- [The American Society of Mechanical Engineers](#)
- [The Austin Company](#)
- [Powerful Energy Resources from BetterBricks](#)

IMPORTANT TIMESTAMPS

- 0m24s:** Rick's exploration through the trades and industry with the help of his father.
- 14m10s:** Learn from your mistakes, everyone makes them.
- 17m08s:** The clash between politics & industry.
- 19m09s:** Codes & operation; are they actually improving design?
- 24m00s:** Building automation & controls for energy savings.
- 26m37s:** Private vs. Public projects and integrated design strategies
- 35m48s:** Culture of the industry; the integrated design process with difficult people.
- 47m22s:** Words of advice from Rick Danks.
- 55m09s:** Closing comments from Rick Danks for future Architects and Construction Managers.

