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# Veteran engineer, entrepreneur back in stadium game; building new HQ

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Jasmine Engineering is getting back into the sports business in a big way.

The Alamo City firm, which was involved in two high-profile San Antonio stadium projects decades ago, is involved in developing a new \$338 million downtown Austin arena that will be home to University of Texas basketball games, concerts and other



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events — replacing the Frank Erwin Center.

Jasmine Engineering founder and CEO Jasmine Azima is tackling multiple major projects, including a new headquarters for the San Antonio firm.

A calculated shift in business strategy by the company's founder and CEO, [Jasmine Azima](#), put it in position to be part of the Austin project.

Azima's firm, which she founded in 1984, was involved in building the Alamodome and Wolff Stadium. More recently, she pivoted the company from engineering and design services to commissioning, a process of validating other firms' design work.

"I was growing very fast, and it was a choice I had to make," she said. "I felt it was a conflict of interest where one day I am Jasmine Engineering doing design and the next day I am Jasmine commissioning."

Azima believes the new iteration has put her firm in position for more sports-related work.

"It's going to give us more opportunities. These projects don't go away," Azima said. "What this does is broaden our horizon. People will see this, and then on a national level we will get more sports projects."

Azima's firm has been involved in more than 700 projects, spanning a wide area of types, including airport and convention center expansions and Acelity LP's San Antonio headquarters building. She said one of the firm's greatest achievements has been its ability to routinely help complete projects on time and under budget.

Currently, Jasmine is involved in commissioning work on roughly \$3 billion of construction projects, and Azima believes there is plenty more such work available.

"I can service a lot of clients," she said.

## **Building a new HQ**

That return to stadium work comes as Jasmine Engineering is in the midst of its own construction project — a new corporate headquarters near East Commerce and Hackberry streets. Azima said Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert convinced her to be on the East Side.

“I started from nothing,” she said. “I wanted to give something back to the community.”

There are challenges. One of them is the demand on time outside San Antonio, particularly in Austin, where Azima has secured a second residence and established a satellite office. While retaining talent hasn't been an issue, hiring new people to help do the work has become more challenging.

“We are struggling to find people,” she said.

Azima's five-year plan includes a shift in ownership structure. She wants her team to have a financial stake in the firm, which could make recruiting easier and give her more time to pursue additional work.

“That's the goal,” she said. “The way our success is going to continue is by working with national firms.”

### **W. Scott Bailey**

Senior Reporter

*San Antonio Business Journal*

