

A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR ALL

NOT ONLY IS SUZANNE EDWARDS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ANY WOMAN LOOKING TO START A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION, BUT SHE'S ALSO A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ANYONE WORKING IN THE SECTOR, MALE OR FEMALE.



SUZANNE EDWARDS - MANAGING DIRECTOR

Prior to creating Suzie Construction Ltd, Suzanne had previously worked in a range of different working environments, with the experience helping her hone her own unique approach to business, as she explains: “My background is in working with senior management with boards of directors or the chairman at companies like DHL Express Logistics and SQS, covering strategic planning and talent management driving growth within successful businesses. I therefore understand the formula for success and now it is my

opportunity to be effective for other talented women and men.”

Pooling all this collective experience, Suzanne took the decision to start her own company with the aim of adding value to the construction industry as a woman. “When I left SQS, I wanted to keep my skills up, so did a construction course, which provided the foundation on which to set up a building company. My husband, John, has been a huge support and inspiration throughout the whole process.

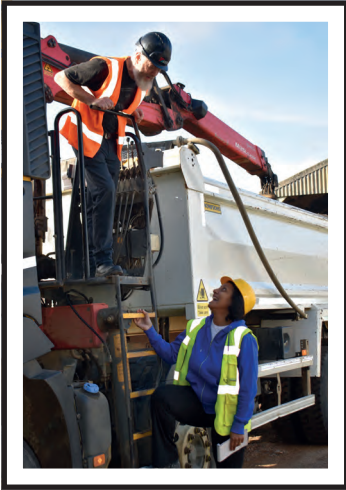
“Women have worked in the industry for years and we are now coming together more to make

an enormous difference in the sector. There has been a significant shift and I really want to be part of that, providing opportunities for others. This is an incredibly special thing for me.”

Over the years down the line, today Suzie Construction has a range of services and facilities for its clients operating within a 40 mile-radius of its base in Harrow.

In addition to its renovation work, Suzie Construction also builds extensions on residential properties in accordance with agreed plans. “We undertook an amazing-high end luxury extension Orangery project for our client

based in Hendon who wanted us to be part of a three-contractor team involving designers, the architect and us with the building of the shell. We met as a team prior to the commencement of the project. We devised a project plan which worked well for those involved in the project and the client. The only thing was that the client had no kitchen due to the planned works, however, we set up a temporary one and they managed well as they knew on completion their Orangery would look amazing. Our builder Roman, attended the meetings and collaborated well with the other contractors for us to achieve



a satisfied client. While there are a few items left to complete, the clients are extremely delighted with more planned building works.

“We have another rear and loft extension due, which is just going through the planning phase and will take place next year. Our builder, Maurice is supporting our client with the plans and will therefore be fully conversant with

the building requirements when they go to build. Therefore, we start our planning a year ahead with our extensions and book them in with our different teams of builders, which is an asset. We will look at ordering building materials from Selco, as they are in various locations which really helps with the logistics of where our clients are located.”

Another string to Suzie Construction’s bow is its provision of a grab hire and skip hire service, which really complements the building or renovation works, as it enables easy access for the company’s builders.

Other services the company can offer are painting and decorating, as well as End of Tenancy Solutions. It can also provide other construction or renovation companies with the post-construction cleaning for their

high end clients, and it has been fortunate enough to work on the backstage of Peaky Blinders.

If that wasn’t enough, the business also sells tools online at its website, www.suzieconstructiontools.com, and there are also plans to eventually develop its own tool range.

Being a woman has given Suzanne a different perspective on construction and a higher degree of empathy for her female clients, but her more unusual route into the industry has also given her a unique insight too. “My background in different sectors has 100 per cent given me a range of skills to better understand people and have a more professional approach that contains a number of elements, such as loyalty and trustworthiness. I’ve been very fortunate to have had these experiences and to incorporate the lessons learnt into

my own business. Being able to bring something different to the table has definitely helped.”

At a time when there’s such a shortage of skills in the industry, encouraging more females into construction can only be a good thing, particularly as they can offer a different vision. It’s very easy to get stuck in one way of doing things because that’s the only way it’s ever been done. Strategic planning is key and identifying the talents that every individual can offer, regardless of the career path they’ve been on.

Suzanne is a prime example of what’s possible, and having come so far already, her appetite for continual growth, both for her company and personally, remains undimmed. She even has plans to write a children’s book to educate children about the industry. Watch this space!

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