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How did you find your way into the industry?

Coming from an architects' family, I developed interest in architecture when I was very young. I remember making models for my mom's project when I was 6!

What advice would you give to an emerging young leader just starting their professional career?

Be a sponge! Absorb as much knowledge as possible from as many professionals you meet as possible.

What traits do you think define a successful leader?

Who is humble, leads by doing, and fosters teamwork.

What is your current job and what types of projects are you working on now?

Planner & architect; I'm currently working on a couple of entitlement projects with retail and medium density residential units.

What do you find most challenging about your profession on a day-to-day basis?

With all the technologies available today, we rely heavily on them to complete our daily tasks including design. However I do find it negatively affect how we share ideas face-to-face with 'old school' hand sketches which I believe can never be replaced by any software (or at least not anytime soon).

What are you looking for in terms of career development - OR In what areas would you like to professionally develop further?

I'm focusing on industry related areas beyond architecture, planning & construction, such as acquisitions, financing, operations, & etc.

Describe a situation that was a great learning experience.
Obviously there have been numerous situations that were good learning experiences for me, but a very simple one comes to mind first for this question.

In one of my early career years, I won a Christmas card design competition held by the national firm of 300+ employees I was working for at the time. The winning design gets to be mass produced as the firm's holiday cards that year. I was disappointed when I finally got the reproduction which missed on a

few key design intents I had. So, even though it wasn't an in-depth experience with real development project, I learned that execution and details are the keys to any successful project.

How do you deal with stress at work?

I'm lucky to have quite a few colleagues I consider friends, and that definitely help reduce stress at work. Another way for me to deal with stress is to find fun with daily tasks: it could be doing something new with a project, or simply having lunch with teammates.

Outside of the office, anything outdoors or watching cartoons are my favorite ways to de-stress.