



At our last Gold Coast 7 x 7 Talk Series I had the privilege of being the MC. With our topic for the night '**tomorrow**' each of our speakers shared their own unique perspective to deliver an inspiring & informative insight into their own specific design discipline.

Something very positive from the night was the heartfelt way the panel shared their ideas with the audience about what they believe it takes to get a start & then go on to be successful within the design industry. I thought it was such a valuable conversation for emerging designers that I decided to create a summary of what I think is important. As we all know, tomorrow never comes, so the work you do today sets us up for a future that we will enjoy to live.

- The most important point is **believe that you can**. If you have passion for what you do and know in your heart that this is the path for you then you can achieve anything you want.
- Be prepared to **put in the hard yards to make something happen**. If you live a life by half and do not take on what you are doing with true dedication then you will just get half. All the people who have achieved will be able to share their story of the dedication & determination that it takes. My motto, if it is important enough to do then do it with the vigour of an elite athlete. The hard work will definitely be worth it in the end.
- Think about what you can **give instead of take**. If you want to connect with people, if you want to be part of a bigger picture then find ways to give back. As you approach your day, whether it be with clients, going for an interview, your community or anything you do always focus on what you can give.
- **Consider what you have in your hand**. If you want to be part of anything it is imperative to do the research to find out what you need to take you there. Often people freak out that they may not be good enough, but I prefer to think of it as adding layers. If what you want to experience is out of reach, keep adding layers until you have what it takes to make your dream a reality.

- **Be creative in everything you do.** As members of a creative profession it is easy to relate to creativity in a more traditional way. Here I am talking about a way of existing that will allow you to open up your thought to find new solutions to move forward in all areas of your life. In everything you do take time out to dream, plan, prepare & pursue whatever it is that you want to do. To me the study is only the beginning & from here an entire world of possibility can open up.
- Be flexible as what you think you want may not be where you are meant to end up. Very often when we set out in the world they are thinking about life from our own perspective only. I believe you need to **look outside your world to see the world.** If the path is not obvious then I challenge you to again be creative and look of new ways to move forward. Is there another path to lead you to the career you want, or is there something else that may bring new opportunities you have not even thought of yet.
- **Be authentic.** Think about who you are & what you have to offer. Look to surround yourself with likeminded people that will help you achieve, understand the core of who you are & keep you motivated. Whether this is workplaces, professional groups, mentors & social connections it is important to be you and be connected.
- Don't give up. **You are worth it.** I sensed the frustration from some of the group about finding their feet and making a start within their chosen career. Despina had the throwaway line, '*suck it up*'. Although I may not say it that way, I totally agree with what she said. I am such an advocate for not giving up on a dream. My personal journey began working as a tertiary teacher & living in rural Australia. I want to change to a creative path & with no city closer than a six-hour drive, two small children at my feet & living along a dirt track one might be excused for thinking it was mission impossible. Now I am an accredited designer working internationally, I meet the most amazing people, judge national design competitions and speak to groups here in Australia and overseas. I know firsthand that even if you think it is tough *don't give up, it is worth it.*

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*Ros Hemley MDIA is also conducting one **mentoring session** for emerging designers on 25 November from 3pm until 5pm at the Gold Coast. There are some spaces available if anyone is interested. This will include a presentation on finding success & building a design career within a competitive world. For more information please contact Danielle on 07 5576 1277.*