



"If I aim for significance, that shifts my focus to impacting people"

RACHAEL TURNER

Builder and owner, Front Porch Properties

What is the first thing you do when you wake up?

I read a lot of books about habits of successful people, which has inspired me to change my morning routine. Now I get up at 5am and spend the first 90 minutes of my day on exercising, assessing my goals, journalling and learning new business skills. It's all those important things that get postponed in our busy lives, unless you make time for them. I've been doing this for about nine months and it's made a big difference.

Daily routine?

From about 7am I drop in on the job sites and touch base with my carpenters about how the projects are going. When I'm off-site, there is then the admin side of the business that needs to be tackled – invoicing, ordering materials, dealing with other contractors such as draftspeople and putting out 'fires', which always happen on building sites. I try to spend the afternoon working on developing the business, such as branding, updating the website, staff matters and preparing for new clients.

Fave inspirational quote?

One of my favourites is, "Aim for significance, not success". This reminds me that the trappings of

success – the money, the cars – will fade away, but if I aim for significance then that shifts my focus to impacting people positively and leaving a legacy.

How did you design your space?
When I left school, I studied classical piano at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, so for 10 years this room housed my music school (my grand piano is still here). But I spent a lot of time doodling floor plans and houses and I realised my true passion was in building. So five years ago I got my builder's qualifications and started this business, which specialises in American-inspired designs. We built this desk from leftovers from building sites. The timber is old oak, the legs are scaffolding, and even the subway tiles were salvaged.

Describe your office in three words?
Practical, inspiring and quirky.

Hard-copy diary or iPhone calendar?
I have tried both but gone back to a hard-copy diary, which I get every quarter from BestSelf Co.

How do you wind down on a Friday?
My husband and I sit in our garden on our Cape Cod chairs and share a few drinks, which is fantastic.

A trained classical pianist, Rachael Turner closed her music school to open her own building company. Her homemade office was constructed with leftovers from building sites.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN DOWNS.