

RICS MATRICS YOUNG SURVEYOR OF THE YEAR 2022 FINALISTS

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What was your role and background before becoming a surveyor?

I started my surveying career straight from university, having obtained a First-Class Honours Degree in BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management at Oxford Brookes University. Whilst at university, I started a carpet cleaning business to help fund my studies, which gave me a great start in business.

What made you consider a career in surveying?

Whilst growing up, there were always property programmes on the tv at home...Grand Designs (which I still enjoy watching today), Homes Under the Hammer, Property Ladder, DIY SOS, and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition etc. Ever since secondary school, I knew that I wanted a career in property. I was fascinated by renovation and the idea of restoring a property to its former glory and extending its life by a further 100+ years. To learn how to do this, I pursued a career in surveying. Although I am yet to renovate a historic building, it is still a goal of mine (albeit an expensive one).

Which qualification route did you take and why?

As mentioned above, I knew from an early age which career path I wanted.

At the time, the best route was to enrol on an RICS accredited course at university. Upon graduating, I joined an independent firm of Chartered Surveyors and qualified as a Chartered Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) having followed the Residential Survey and Valuation pathway.

What would you say has been the highlight of your journey so far?

Having the courage to leave a secure job and start my own surveying practice in 2016. In the first few weeks of handing in my notice, I found out my wife was pregnant with twins. The years' salary that I had saved to begin this new venture, halved overnight! This was a driving factor, and I knew I had to make it work. Thankfully, it did, and now I feel I can take on new challenges and calculated risks with little fear.

If you could give one piece of advice to anyone considering a career in surveying, what would it be?

“Take your time. The more time you spend learning and shadowing senior surveyors, the more confidence you will have. A good foundation together with continued CPD will be clear to see later in your career, and more opportunities will present themselves. Don't chase a salary but instead focus on the right job at the right surveying firm. You have plenty of time to make money, and in my experience, more money does not equate to more happiness for most people.”

A great work ethic must be an important factor in your career, what or who inspires and motivates you to be the best you can be?

A good attitude, discipline, and a desire to improve are the key factors I look for

when recruiting. I have read numerous books by extraordinarily successful people, to try and understand the keys to their success, e.g., Sir Richard Branson, Lord Alan Sugar, many dragons from Dragons Den etc. They share a similar mindset to many of my sporting role models including Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Roger Federer, and the Williams sisters. I try to be the best version of myself by continually reflecting on past experiences and making necessary changes in order to develop. My top five personal development books I would recommend include:

- The Chimp Paradox
- 12 Rules for Life
- The Power of Habit
- Communication and the Art of Persuasion
- Start with Why

How does it feel to be a finalist in the RICS Young Surveyor of the Year Awards 2022?

I never thought I would be shortlisted at such a prestigious event amongst many talented individuals. To be nominated for a second-year running is a great achievement and I am very much looking forward to celebrating with friends and colleagues on the evening.

Find out more about the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation

Scan the QR code on your phone to read more on our website, or visit www.sava.co.uk

