

TOKAN Construction & Design



sponsor spotlight

By Heather Ferreras-Tokan

Tokan Construction and Design is a woman-owned and family-operated design-build firm. We provide a tailored, turnkey approach to design-build services and enjoy bringing aspects of our clients' personalities and backgrounds to each design. I serve as the President and Principal Designer at Tokan Construction and Design, and my husband Shawn is our Master Builder. Being able to work side by side with my husband is the most rewarding part of the job!

I was born in Queens, New York, where I grew up studying dance, the Graham and Horton technique, and of course ballet. At 13 years old, I auditioned for the prestigious LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts and was accepted. My dreams were coming true! I was going to learn from the famous Deborah Zall! However, when I would have a free period at school, I would sneak into the art department, and I remember being so

an episode and be inspired! I guess I have always had a love for design and construction because I would often rearrange my room at both of my parents' homes, as well as their living rooms (which would drive my mother crazy). When I was about eight, I would walk around my father's neighborhood in Queens and shop at different yard sales to purchase items to change the aesthetics in his house! I must admit, becoming a designer/remodeler was not my dream job, and I do not ever recall saying as a child that I wanted to be a designer. At that time, I simply liked spaces inside of a home to make sense aesthetically.

I met Shawn in 2015 while having dinner with his sister. At that time he was working for a company that painted and installed tile, and we soon started dating. It was then that I caught a glimpse of his talent and told him we should start our own design-build firm. On January 24, 2017, we launched our company and have been working hard, despite the tons of obstacles in our way, to make sure we build a company that always has our clients in mind.

interested in how colors and textures mixed with one another.

During weekends at my dad's growing up, I loved watching Bob Vila. I would take my father's screwdriver and uninstall, then reinstall, the doorknobs in his house! Although my father was not in the construction industry, he had the basic tools that most households have. I would watch



Shawn was born and raised in Hollywood, Florida. He grew up watching his father build, as he too had a small family-owned and operated construction company. As a young child, Shawn would follow his dad to job sites, and it was there that his father taught him how to be a builder. Not just any type of builder, but one who truly understands the trade! Shawn's father taught him the importance of being a conscientious builder, never cutting corners or taking shortcuts. He set the example of a diligent worker, not just in building, but in everything you do in life. He taught Shawn how imperative it is to be honest, to be kind, to be true to yourself and your craft, whatever that may be. In addition to being a builder, he was also a talented artist. I believe that being an artist is innate—you're either a natural or you're not—and Shawn definitely inherited his father's skills.

Shawn's father was his hero and best friend. Those days he spent with his father learning the trade have shaped him into the man he is today. Together Shawn and I have five children (he has three children from his first marriage, I have one from mine, and we had a daughter in 2017), and his children are his world. Just like his father did with him, he invites his sons to job sites to learn the trade. To teach them the concept of "do it right the first time," which involves making sure any interests, activities, jobs, and assignments are carried out in the right manner, the first time, and every time thereafter. Shawn's father passed away seven years ago, but I am sure he looks down at his son and is beyond proud that he's gone far past the extra mile to make sure his work is meant to last.

At Tokan Construction and Design, we believe that form follows function, and that is the cornerstone of our whole approach. It sounds obvious, but it is



not. Most design—be it commercial or residential—repels the purpose of what you are doing there to begin with! Whether it is a kitchen, office, or bathroom is irrelevant. We believe in creating harmony between simple aesthetics and efficiency. And it does not have to be outrageously pricey to be stylish AND useful. Why would someone want an overly ornate bathroom if it does not support the whole purpose of washing, grooming, soothing, or bathing? As a company, we strive to be an ally of the client, not an adversary or hustler. We want you to be happy, but we also want you to be comfortable and know that we have suggestions and ideas to fulfill YOUR vision, not take away from it. It sounds corny, but we are influenced by the arts and realize that everything

you do in life leaves a signature. Proof that you were there. And we take that very seriously: we want to be the company that gives you beauty, practicality, and endurance in what we build, design, or install.

Form follows function: this is our mantra. It is the easiest thing to remember and one of the hardest things to attain. But aiming high is what drives us. We all have bills, but that does not mean we cannot dream a tad bit too. It is important to have a vision and reliable service to offer someone. Especially in these strange times.

I recently learned that design, whether it be aesthetics or building is one of the most powerful forces. Whether we are aware of that or not. Design is inspiring, encouraging, empowering, and influential. Design helps us stay connected, and it is how some of us communicate, tell a story, or relate to something or someone. With the help of a designer, it encourages us to take risks, see things differently, and live outside our own bubbles.

If Tokan sounds like the right fit for you and your family's construction and design needs, give us a call at 954-526-1771 or email me at heather@TokanConstruction.com. You can also visit our website at TokanConstruction.com. We look forward to working with you!