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Pat Sablatura PE

Owner

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Pat Sablatura PE leaves quite an impression on clients, not only because of his quicker-than-quick turnaround of foundation, framing, and retaining/screen wall designs, but also because of his quicker-than-quick wit. After 20 years of working in a profession he loves, the owner of Synergetic Engineering still can't wait to answer his ringing phone, learn what the day holds and share his enthusiasm for his work with his clients.

Share about your interests growing up and your background.

I'm very proud to be a born-and-bred Texan. I was raised in Round Rock back when there was only one high school and stuck around ever since. Growing up, I was always fiddling around outside. Whether indoors or outdoors, if it could be stacked, I would stack it up and build it out, using anything from baseball cards to Lincoln Logs, to rocks – everything I could get my hands on. I was always putting stuff together, and taking stuff apart, too. Having an insatiable curiosity, my parents drilled into my head, "Look with your eyes not your hands." Boy, was I a handful.

Back when I was growing up, when the streetlights came on you had to go home, but there was always enough time to build forts in the woods, dams in the creek, and skateboard ramps in the street. My parents were and still are totally supportive of my some-times-zany endeavors; one time I even built a scale model of the Alamo out of sugar cubes for a school project, and I remember Ma had to keep going to the store to get more sugar cubes because I kept running out as my project just kept getting bigger and bigger.

After high school, what path did you take?

I went to the University of Texas at

Austin and earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. Once I conquered the book smarts, I wanted to get the real world "field" smarts, which I feel is as much or even more important than the book smarts. After graduating college, I worked at a design-build firm gaining a decade's worth of invaluable hands-on experience regarding the daily trials and tribulations of a construction company, eventually branching off with my own venture, Synergetic Engineering.

Did you run the business solo or did you have partners?

I've always been a one-man show. Before I transitioned into my own company, I got my foot in the door with the architects around town as being a TDLR registered accessibility specialist (RAS). So, once I earned my engineering license, I already had accumulated a business clientele. From day one, it's been just a matter of word of mouth which translates to successfully completing over 800 design projects per year.

What would you say has helped you successfully build your business over the years?

There are three components that are equally important: my engineering degree, my business-owning personality, and AutoCAD drafting skills. Having the ability to draw and edit my own design plans is quintessential to my super-fast turnaround time because I don't have to rely on somebody else to do it. I routinely crank out structural design plans much, much faster than anyone else in the industry and, in this day and age where everyone is behind schedule, my clients really appreciate it.

Another facet that is important to me running a successful business is being technology-oriented so I can do so much more electronically these days. I have not used a plotter or printed my own drawings in 10 years. Email rocks.

What reputation do you have among your clients?

Some people call me "ASAP PAT" since I'm ultra-responsive, reliable, and get the projects done so quickly. I have a three-day turnaround on foundation design; everyone else is three months. I'm asked why I'm so fast and I say that's it's not that I'm so fast, it's that everyone else is so slow! My designs are simple yet thorough. Since I have 10 years field experience, my designs are very constructable, which contractors enjoy. Don't confuse my speed with inaccuracy; I'm spot on. Like my website says: Been there, built that. I've been around the block, built the block, demoed the block



How It Started vs. How It's Going: Twenty years at a job he loves means Synergetic Engineering Owner Pat Sablatura always finds the fun in his work.

and then rebuilt the block!

Also, I'm a nut. They say I use some pretty colorfully descriptive language. Whatever gets my point across. You may not know who I am when I walk in the door, but you'll know who I am when I walk out! I strive to maintain an "attitude of gratitude".

What do you enjoy about your work?

I enjoy talking with people and figuring out the most economical, cost-effective, buildable and structurally sound solution. I work to figure out what my clients are trying to accomplish and how best we can work together to achieve their design goal as fast as possible.

It's just so much fun. I have such a good time helping people. I'm never going to get too big for my britches; bigger isn't better. I expect every day to do the Structural Engineering 101 with whomever on whatever project is being built. Even though it's nowhere near my first rodeo, for a lot of these people, it IS their first rodeo, and I would want someone in my position to explain the basics to me, so I feel comfortable and understand the basics of what's going on. Thus, I'll spend as long as I need to with them until they fully understand my scope of what they hired me to do. Communication is key. Some people volunteer their time around the community whereas I volunteer my time on a daily basis via thoroughly explaining the hows and whys to my clients. It's just good karma.

How does it feel to be celebrating your business' 20th anniversary?

I really hadn't realized it has been 20 years! Time flies when you're having fun and, according to me, I've never worked a day in my life. I love what I do, and people can tell. That passion for what I do really conveys to my clients, and they feel comfortable with me. I'm a man of my

word, am very steady and principle-oriented, and I always do the best job for my clients. Plenty of clients hand me their wallets, but I never take them to Vegas! Right is right and wrong is wrong.

Do you have any plans to take yourself out for steak dinner to commemorate two decades of hard work?

No, because every day I have the rewarding opportunity to do what I do is a celebration; it's just plain fun! Every day is a milestone and every email and phone call I receive leads to a new adventure. I've seen a lot, but definitely not seen it all.

If someone is looking for a cookie cutter, lackadaisical, mundane, boring job, this isn't for them. This is a wake up every morning with an all-hands-on-deck mindset, because I'm getting it thrown at me from all sides! And I love it; I love the wheeling-and-dealing part, figuring out how people tick and what they're really looking for. At the end of the day, I know I've helped out a lot of people and enjoy the satisfied feeling of a job well done.

What do you enjoy when you are off the clock?

I have a laid-back Texan sort of attitude and can't ever seem to get enough Vitamin D so I'm constantly outside! Since I live on Lake Travis, I'm always boating, fishing, jet skiing, etc... anything outdoors and since building is in my blood, I've got a slew projects to fiddle with.... suffice to say there's never a dull moment and always something to do at the lake.

Synergetic Engineering offers foundation, framing, and retaining/screen wall design. It also provides privacy screen walls, tiltwall panel shop drawings, subdivision entry structures, structural compliance/certification letters and asbestos abatement investigations. –mjm