

MARY GEORGIU

Founder, Designer Touches Ltd, Epsom

CONTACTS: 01372 270211 / designtouches.co.uk

A top interior design studio based in Epsom, Designer Touches' projects range from luxury Surrey mansions to mega-yachts owned by the rich and famous.

- 1 The secret to my success is that I love what I do. I don't see my career as a job; it is a lifestyle. I enjoy constantly finding out about what is new within the market, as well as listening and pulling inspiration from all sources, both inside and outside of our industry.
- 2 I think to be successful, you have to have faith in the people around you; both your colleagues at work and also your family. I am juggling so many balls all at once that, without their support and help, it would be extremely difficult to keep them all in the air.
- 3 It has to be my dad; he has a brilliant work ethic and an entrepreneurial mind. From a young age, I have watched him grow a successful textile factory and build his clientele to include some of the world's most renowned fashion designers. He has guided and supported me throughout my career and is a true inspiration to me.



MELANIE HURLEY

Owner, Rocket Catering, Great Bookham

CONTACTS: 01372 800626 / rocketcatering.co.uk

A family-run boutique catering company, Rocket is made up of a team of creative and driven individuals who love what they do.

- 1 I think it's all about listening to what the client wants. Also, my USP is that I have 15 years' event management background, so I am able to 'live the event' in my head before it happens. The clients like this; they feel comfortable knowing everything is going to run smoothly. I love being able to say to them, so, all you need to do is sort out what you are going to wear – leave the rest to us! I also have a lovely team – I call them my Rocket Food Angels. Always happy to muck in, always smiling, and never watch that clock!
- 2 I am lucky because I have my lovely family close by who are always on hand to help me with my son (aged 11). I also think it is super-important to have 'mummy time', so I always try and fit that in at least once a week. For years, on Tuesday nights, we always have our 'date night', which is something I always look forward to! I also try really hard to fit in exercise at least a couple of times a week. Exercise releases those natural endorphins and gives me a time to think, create and conjure up my next menu!
- 3 The one person who inspires me enormously is Yotam Ottolenghi – a fabulous chef from Jerusalem. He has so much enthusiasm for fresh ingredients and, like him, I just love to create, fresh colourful food that explodes with flavour in your mouth.

JO JUDGE

Head of residential development sales, Savills, Guildford

CONTACTS: 01483 796810 / savills.com

Part of the national group Savills, this section works closely with developers to sell new-build houses and apartments, ranging from £150,000 to £4,000,000, in Surrey.

- 1 To have no secrets! Just sheer hard work and determination; what you see is what you get. Whatever it is you decide to do, just do it to the best of your ability and make sure you enjoy it. When I wake up in the morning, I like to go for a run so I can focus on what I need to do in the day ahead; often the list is endless, so I pick my top five priorities that are achievable. They will be the first things I do when I walk through the door at the office. Mission accomplished.
- 2 When I find it, I will bottle it and sell it! I would love to say the work phone and laptop are hidden away after a certain time in the evening but you can never escape when you have an iPhone!
- 3 There are many people who inspire me, both at work and within my social circle, but I would have to say two people: my father and Sir David Attenborough. Sir David for his enthusiasm and therapeutic tones and my father for also being in his 80s and continuing to work hard, always caring for others and having a positive outlook on everything.

