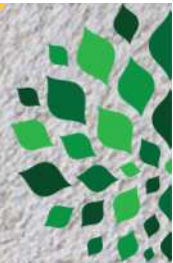


02

EDITION
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

14th November 2018

INSIDE
THE OAK



THE MISSION

A WINNING APPROACH

PATH

PERFORMANCE

ACCURATE

TRUST

HARMONY

LONE OAK
SOLUTIONS



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PREFACE

Inside 'The Oak' brings to you true reflection of Lone Oak Solutions and what we stand for.

In the very first edition which was released last quarter, we talked about our journey of 'Building Dream Team'. This edition is focused on PATH that will lead us achieve our vision. We embarked on our journey just two years back and it is very unique and special time for us as we continue to grow and reach new milestones each day.

It has become all the more important to keep our focus clear on building a culture that emanates from our purpose i.e. being Performance Oriented and Proactive in our approach, Accurate and On-Time delivery of services and we achieve this with Teamwork and Harmony.

Inside you will find quarterly update on events and news related to LOS, inspiring and joyful stories shared by Team members, columns on fitness, festivals, poems, industry trends, latest technology and mouth-watering recipe for It's Dessert. Also, we got to capture an exciting interactions with Chris Weekley and Amit Bhakta of David Weekley Homes.

Let us thank the team for their tremendous contribution and fervour in making this such a delightful read. and, hope you enjoy as much as we did in bringing this to you!

Inside 'The Oak' Team:

Dhanshri Swami, Khushali Patel, Mitesh Rathod, Pooja Kanada, Pooja Pothiwala, Prit Sheth, Radhika Marathe, Stuti Parekh, Vishwa Shah and Vrajesh Bhavsar

- Aparajita Gaekwad

VISION & MISSION

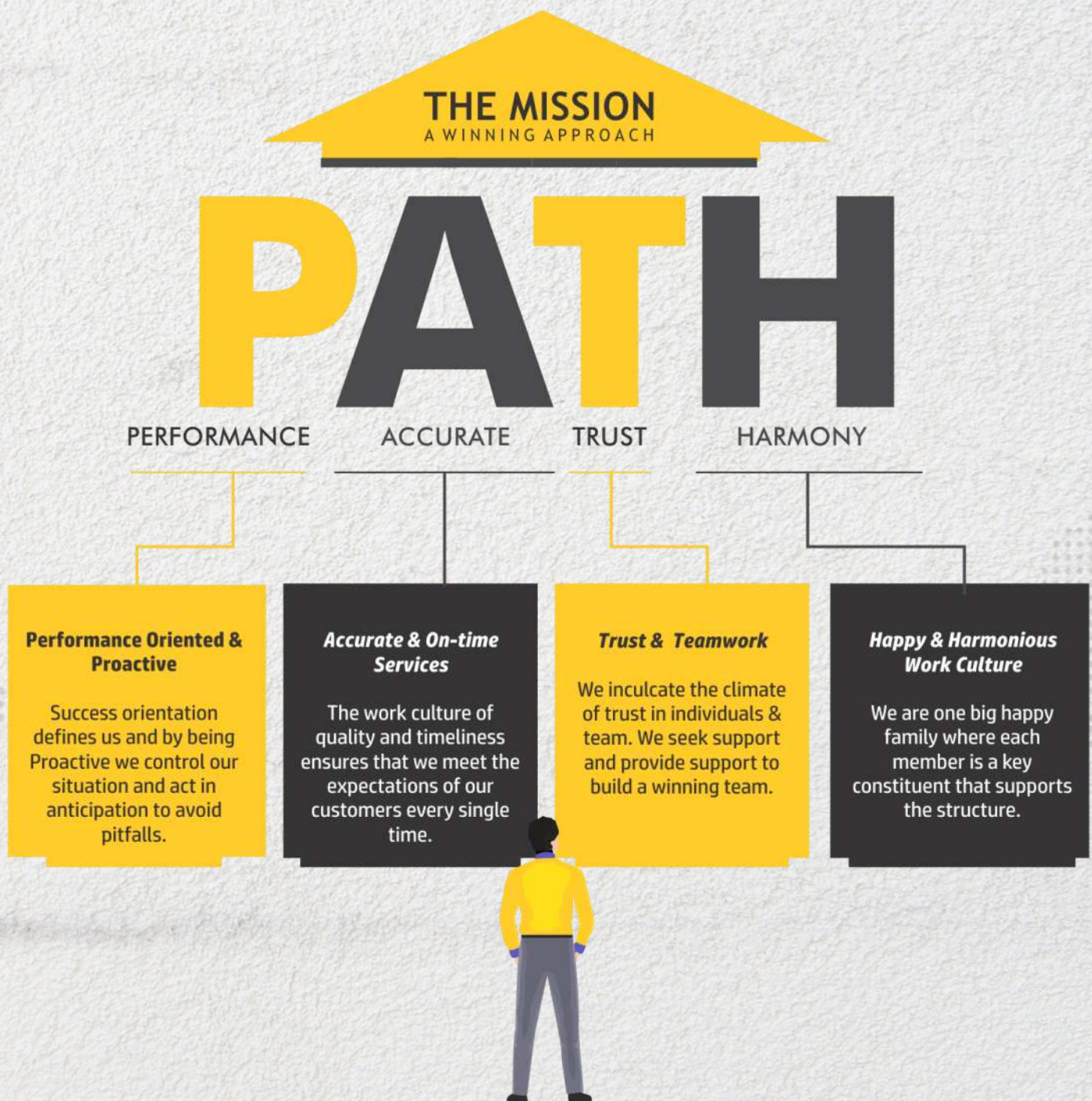
OUR VISION *Why we exist?*

To provide World-Class Services to our Affiliates.

As an affiliate company, our vision dovetails into the vision of David Weekley Homes of “Building Homes and Enhancing Lives”. We endeavour to provide them our services – by being proactive, on-time and of high quality. This in essence captures the expectations and deliverables and this is our DNA.

OUR MISSION *How do we get there?*

The mission statement with acronym of P.A.T.H. is our GPS which will lead us to our ultimate goal.



LET'S CELEBRATE

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Naresh Jangid
Graphic Visualization
09-Jul-18



Nidhi Bhatt
Design Services
16-Jul-18



Khushboo Shah
Design Services
16-Jul-18



Prit Sheth
Design Services
16-Jul-18



Mitesh Rathod
Design Services
16-Jul-18



Pooja Kanada
Purchase Department
16-Jul-18



Dhvani Chauhan
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Vishwa Shah
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Namrata Brahmabhatt
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Meet Brahmabhatt
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Abhilasha Dhake
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Megha Tulsiyani
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Jayveersinh Gohil
Design Services
01-Aug-18



Sneha Verma
Graphic Visualization
02-Aug-18



Vrajesh Bhavsar
Graphic Visualization
20-Aug-18



Bhumi Panchal
Purchase Department
03-Sep-18



Jincy Lalpurwala
Design Services
17-Sep-18



Priyanka Walhe
Purchase Department
17-Sep-18



Bansuri Patel
Purchase Department
17-Sep-18



Tanvi Patankar
Information Services
17-Sep-18



Krishna Patel
Design Services
17-Sep-18



Aayushi Shah
Design Services
17-Sep-18

PROMOTIONS



Jignesh Prajapati
Design Services - Trainer II



Khushali Patel
Production Designer I



Megha Joshi
Production Designer I



Shilpan Pradhan
Production Designer I

WORK ANNIVERSARIES



Sukruti Gandhi
Information Services
11-July



Chirag Shah
Information Services
24-July



Purva Lele
Design Services
01-Aug



Abhishek Vala
Design Services
01-Aug



Pooja Parekh
General Management
01-Sept



Dhaval Ghadge
General Management
01-Sept



Jignesh Prajapati
Design Services
04-Sept



Vishal Shah
Information Services
25-Sept



Ushma Ahuja & Shyam Ahuja
04-July-2018

BIRTHDAYS



Mirangi Sheth
Design Services
02-Jul



Mitesh Rathod
Design Services
19-Jul



Priyanka Walhe
Purchase Department
25-Jul



Aparajita Gaekwad
General Management
26-Jul



Abhishek Vala
Design Marketing
03-Aug



Krunal Pancholi
Information Services
08-Aug



Shachi Saraiya
Information Services
08-Aug



Jayveersinh Gohil
Design Services
09-Aug



Bhavya Mistry
Design Services
17-Aug



Ushma Ahuja
Purchase Department
18-Aug



Ankit Wadhvani
Information Services
06-Sep



Khushboo Shah
Design Services
07-Sep



Radhika Marathe
Design Services
19-Sep



Stuti Parikh
Design Services
22-Sep



Meet Brahmhatt
Design Services
23-Sep



Dipsa Parikh
Design Services
30-Sep



Dhvani Chauhan
Design Services
30-Sep

WEEKLEY COLUMN



Chris Weekley with his family

Chris Weekley is the Senior Vice President of David Weekley Homes and has been with the company for 11 years. Chris is married to Sarah, and they have five children Grayson (11), Sawyer (8), Asher (6), Tobin (4) and Thatcher (2)



David Weekley with his children and grandchildren.

1. Can you tell us about your early days with DWH? How did you get interested in home building?

I started at David Weekley Homes as a Builder, building homes for our customers and working with our sales team to make sure that we exceeded our customers' expectations. After a year building homes in two communities in Austin, Texas, I moved onto our Sales team. I have to admit that sales is a tough job, because our team sells the most expensive product that people buy, their homes! After working for David Weekley Homes in Austin for two years I moved to Houston to begin to work in management.

2. What was your game plan for LOS while starting the company?

David Weekley Homes has been working with Indian companies over the last ten years. While our partnerships were fruitful, we were convinced that we could grow our capabilities much more quickly and broadly if we were to start our own company in India. The great news is this has worked well, better than we could have imagined, and that is because all of our great team at Lone Oak Solutions!

3. LOS just completed 2 years, and it has grown from 2 departments to multiple, where do you see LOS 5 years from now? (Vision, Mission – PATH)

Wow, this is a tough question because LOS has grown and done so much in such a short time. First of all, the team will continue to grow as we continue to grow David Weekley Homes in the US. I see our existing departments growing, as well as adding new expertise, like our new Graphic Visualization team. I hope that we continue to build on the wonderful culture you all have inspired in the team, and that our existing team members will continue to grow their knowledge and skillsets and receive promotions.

4. Which is your favorite task you look forward to during the day? (Work related)

I love our team, I love interacting with smart, dedicated, fun people. It's a blessing to come to work everyday with our great people!

5. How does DWH manage competition?

First of all, David Weekley Homes is just a company, our people are what sets us apart. We have great homes, great designs, great systems but most builders are pretty good at those things. But I would put up any of our team against a competitor's team any day, and I know we would come out on top. It's not always easy, and some days are harder than others, but with hard work and dedication towards a common goal, we prevail over the long run.

6. How do you strike balance between work & family?

This is another tough question and something I continue to do my best to balance every day. I have five children from ages two to eleven and I travel a lot for work, so it's important that when I am at home, I am focused on my family. I used to say "yes" to anything people asked of me, to help them with a project or to mentor someone, now, due to my time limitations I am much more thoughtful of what I say "yes" to because time is the ultimate commodity, and I respect my work and my family too much to waste time on things I don't care deeply about.

7. What hobbies do you pursue outside of work?

I really focus on my family, my kids are involved in dance, soccer, volleyball and several other activities and I spend my free time supporting their goals and hobbies. On a personal note, I do enjoy running two to three times a week.

8. Which has been your most memorable moment so far with LOS?

There are so many! Meeting the team for the first time in our old office over the Pizza Hut is a memory that will last forever. Trying all the wonderful Indian food with our team, including cheese naan! Walking through our new office before we started work and then seeing the finished product for the first time. Our Grand Opening of our office with your families and your surprise dance at the end was wonderful as well. We have just begun, and I look forward to creating memories for years and years and years to come!

- Radhika Marathe

✔✔ I love our team, I love interacting with smart, dedicated, fun people.
It's a blessing to come to work everyday with our great people! ✔✔

WEEKLEY COLUMN



**Amit Bhakta with
his family**

Amit Bhakta – Architectural Design Manager joined David Weekley Homes July 2011. He and his wife, Tina, have a one son, Jaiden (2).

1. Tell us about your most memorable / funny moments with LOS.

I would have to go back to our very first trip in February 2017. Myself, Ryan Hartzog and Nicholas Krejci were making our first trip to Vadodara as we had just hired our first two Design Services Team Members and were going to complete their onboarding in person. As part of the onboarding we had developed training binders which covered all aspects of David Weekley Design, so you can imagine the binders were very large. We had 3 binders to take along with other David Weekley company material so it was just logical to check in a bag.

Well for the entire duration of the trip Ryan and Nicholas would continue to poke fun at the fact I checked a bag for a 4-day trip. It became the topic of many jokes until the last day. You know the saying – he who laughs last, laughs best...on the last day, hours before our flight to Mumbai, Ryan and Nicholas went souvenirs shopping. They bust through the doors of the office with three bags full of gifts with nowhere to put them...who is asked if he has room....ME!

Luckily we were able to fit everything in and get the souvenirs back to the HST Team Member. No harm, no foul!

2. Tell us about your most challenging project with DWH.

In 2013 Design Service had a backlog of over 100 items on the Production Rack and no matter what we tried we could just not catch up. We decided to hold an 8-week Blitz where we asked Team Members to volunteer their time over the weekend to catch up on work. We had set targets for each day and tracked our progress each day on a large Blitz chart to motivate the team. Our top target was 90 items complete at the end of 8 weeks which would have increased productivity by 60%.

The team rallied together to great success everyone was motivating each other and assisting with work. We surpassed the 90 items goal and went on to complete 120 items, increasing productivity by 114%. An amazing accomplishment through team work!

3. We have a team which has rapidly grown in 2 years, what piece of advice would you give to the new TM's?

You are absolutely right. To think we had hired our first two Team Members 18 months ago and now we are 70+ covering Design, IS, Purchasing and Graphic Visualization. My advice to new TMs and current is Every Team Member has put their heart and soul into creating something special. It is especially unique as this has taken efforts from teams half way across the work from one another. Just like our Vision states our goal is to provide World Class Services through building Trust and Teamwork. Without Teamwork our harmonious work culture will begin to change. Each Team Member choose to be at work and to the best they can do with Excellence, Passion, Integrity and Commitment.

I am so proud of each of our Team Members and I am looking forward to the success of Lone Oak Solutions.



**On our first visit to LOS, I had a chance to visit
Gateway of India, Mumbai with Ryan & Nick.**

4. What makes DWH a leader in home building industry?

What Makes David Weekley Homes Such a Great Home Builder? Our People.

Our secret to success is making this an extraordinary place to work. Happy Team Members mean delighted Customers, and you know how we feel about delighting our Customers – We wouldn't have it any other way.

Some other reasons people choose David Weekley Homes as their home builder are...

Design – Great design isn't just measured in square feet on a calculator. It is expressed in how you live in the home. The key to having your new home live larger is making it feel larger. Architects call it form and function – at David Weekley Homes we call it Life Design. This unique concept includes four components: Sight Lines, Traffic Patterns, Room Placement and Windows & Light.

Choice – From a wide selection of homesites to numerous plans with multiple options to flooring, appliances, countertops, lighting fixtures there are many ways to inspire you to personalize your home.

Service - It may not be the first thing you look for when comparing home builders. But it will have a greater impact on your home owning experience than any other single factor.

5. What technique do you use to make your day most productive?

Keeping organized and delegating. I like to keep a to-do. Something so simple is very hard to keep up to date. I like to keep a list going at my desk and check off items as I complete them. I review the list before I leave in the evening and re write the list in the morning.

Each Sunday I like to review my calendar so that I am prepared for the week ahead. This allows me to start preparing for any non-reoccurring meetings. I also continue to review my calendar each evening for the next day.

6. How has the GV Team shaped up so far, and what should the team look forward to in next 2, 3 years?

We are just scratching the surface of what we can achieve. I just a short while we have producing renderings surpassing the quality we used to get. Our goal over the next year is to handle all photo realistic renderings for DWH. Looking forward 2-3 years, I can see us exploring 360 panoramas, walk through and augmented reality. Looking forward to growing this new department in the future.

7. What would your ideal day outside of work look like?

Spending time with my family. I have always been a family guy. I love spending Saturday mornings with my brother and Jaiden going grocery shopping...sound weird but it is our quality time. On the weekend we try to take Jaiden to the Zoo, Children's Museum or one of the many gardens around Houston. He is at such a curious age and just loves to explore.

8. You have experienced three different cultures (India, UK, USA), How have you imbibed them in your life?

I have been lucky to have experienced three different culture.

Growing up in the UK we lived in a small town, Welling borough, and had a close knit community. Moving away from home was one of the hardest things but I was sure glad I did. Living in big cities like Nottingham, London and Leicester gave me a lot of independence and shape who I am today. Big city life in the UK is very fast paced which is great for someone in their 20s but sooner or later you look to settle down.

I moved to America to be with my family and soon to be wife. Moving during the recession was crazy. Finding work in Architecture was very hard. I worked as a Construction Manager pursuing my American Dream! Two years later the urge to get back into Architecture lead me to David Weekley Homes. Never have I worked at a company where there is so much investment in their people. I always felt the culture was too good to be true and was waiting for the other shoe to

drop....well it never did. Now married with a child life is very different that living in London. Houston is great city. So much to do and see but life is very similar to living in Welling borough.

I have visited India multiple times for both business and pleasure. I have to say as a young child one of my best memories was playing cricket with my cousins and grandfather. I think as I've grown older I began to look forward to my trips to India. We would spend around a week on vacation in a town called, Bardoli with my grandfather and cousins. it was very relaxing and invigorating.

Great design isn't just measured in square feet on a calculator. It is expressed in how you live in the home. The key to having your new home live larger is making it feel larger. Architects call it form and function – at David Weekley Homes we call it Life Design. This unique concept includes four components: Sight Lines, Traffic Patterns, Room Placement and Windows & Light.

- Radhika Marathe

THROWBACK



INSIDE "THE OAK"

Team LOS launched its very first newsletter Inside "The Oak" with a purpose to exchange the information related to LOS and celebrate our victories, milestones and much more.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

LOS celebrated 72nd Independence Day by conducting Rangoli Competition where Team actively contributed and showcased their creativity in Rangoli making with an Independence theme.





COOK OFF - LOS FUNFAIR

When it comes to Cooking, LOS Team nailed it with lots of variety in food. Different Teams came up with incredible recipes with amazing Stall decoration. Team had a great time in Cook off and enjoyed different cuisines like... Indian, Mexican, Italian, BBQ, Desserts and of course lots of games.



MONTH END CELEBRATION

LOS celebrates TM's Birthdays, Work Anniversaries on Last Friday of every month. Engagement team comes up with interesting games to make the celebration more entertaining and enjoyable.

- Pooja Parekh

WINNING WAYS

Q.1 Have you received a proper pat on your back? Told thank you for a job well done? Been noticed for putting in that extra bit of effort?

Oh yes, you got it all! Congratulations! how did it feel?

It's a great feeling to win Team Member of the Quarter and I was very wonderful to receive such a significant honor at LOS. It is one of the most memorable moment of my career so far and a great motivation to push myself and grow in my work.

Q.2 What is your motto or personal mantra?

From the beginning of my career, I follow this simple mantra in my life, "Be Good, Do Good!" I believe when we do 'good', it returns to us in some or the other form.

Q.3 What were your biggest professional challenges and how did you overcome them?

I always find a challenge as an opportunity because I know that I will get to learn many things from it. In the beginning of my career, I got a chance to work on a project where I was supposed to make a set of individuals work as a 'TEAM' that where every team member trusts each other and achieves goals collectively by increasing their productivity. Initially, I thought that it would be quiet difficult for me, as I was just a rookie in the corporate world. At that time one of my friends said something which really inspired me, he said "You have an experience of a month now and don't consider yourself as a fresher". This motivated me to face the challenge and I was able to build a team by introducing policies which created an employee friendly environment where the team truly believed in 'Team work' and 'Unity'. By this opportunity, I identified below step:

LEARN > PRACTICE > REVIEW > ADJUST

Q.4 What do you value most about our culture, mission and vision?

Personal values can also be incorporated in the answer and how they helped bring success to TM of quarter.

"Integrity"! It is the most important attribute to grow/cultivate within yourself. It is an idea of consistency of actions, values, methods, principles, expectations & outcome which always teaches me to develop in my personal as well as professional life.

Q.5 Kind words of wisdom, you would give to new entrants!

First, Welcome to one of the most people friendly organization you can ever start with. To grow professionally as well as personally in your career, LOS has provided us a fruitful mission 'PATH' to follow & achieve our goal i.e. being Performance driven and proactive in your work, always aim for Accuracy, Build Trust & work as a Team, Create and be a part of Happy & Harmonious work culture. This PATH will lead us to success!



Q.6 What makes you excited about Mondays?

Monday is my most productive day of the week and my motivation is my team. When you have a wonderful team to work with and especially, when your manager is extremely supportive and positive, you will wait for Mondays to come. She is my inspiration and always motivates me to work better day by day.

Q.7 Your status recently changed from 'Bachelorette' to a 'Married Woman'. So, how do you balance work and home? And, how does your new family feel about this achievement?

I can brag about being happily married since last December and I'm able to balance both work and home only because of the support I get from my partner, Kaushal & my family. From the beginning, they have encouraged me for my career which helps me a lot to strike a balance between work and personal life.

I'm lucky to have a big loving family and when they heard about this achievement, they were extremely happy and proud of me. We all went for ice cream party to celebrate my achievement and I really felt good that they take so much pride in what I do.



- Khushali Patel

3 CHEERS AWARD

Sneh Verma
Naresh Jangid
Riddhi Gupta
Sumit Saini
Clifton Varghese

LOS congratulates Graphic Visualization Team on reaching the milestone of completing rendering of 100 Images in the month of August.

LOS congratulates Graphic Visualization Team to reach a Milestone of completing rendering of 100 Images in the month of August. We applaud the passion, dedication and commitment of the Team. Extremely proud of the Team and the Achievement!!

LOS appreciates an enthusiastic Rookie- Mitesh Rathod for taking a great initiative called "Bond of Protection" where he along with his team went to the Border out post -Mucchi, Indo-Pak border in Gujarat to celebrate one of our unique festival- Raksha Bandhan with all the Soldiers. It is a festival where sister ties a sacred thread to protect her brother and celebrate their special bond. From LOS girls' team, 22 Rakhis were sent to them and two of our TMs - Purva Lele & Palak Chitania also joined Mitesh to celebrate this festival with the soldiers. We are proud to have such keen TMs working with LOS.

In this quarter, Kerala, a beautiful state of India, also known as God's own country faced severe floods that occurred due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. At least a million people were evacuated from different parts of the state. As a small initiative, Mitesh Rathod, Pooja Kanada and Jayanti Upadhyay collected few essential stuffs and sent to the needy people of Kerala. LOS would like to thank TMs for supporting such initiatives.



- Pooja Parekh

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT



Radhika Marathe

From Design Team, joined LOS in early 2017 and has been an integral part of the company since then. She has more than 4 years of experience in the field of Architecture. She is a great team player and approaches each day with a positive attitude.

So, let's read what we didn't know about Radhika & her journey with LOS

About myself, I am born, brought up, studied and now happily married and settled in Vadodara. I love spending time with my family and friends, cook some great dishes and have people come over for meals, chai and snacks at my home. I sometimes like to read, when someone recommends me some book. I love watching super hero movies, movies where good triumphs over evil. Beaches are my favorite travel spots. Nothing makes me happier than taking long walks along the coast and bathing in the sea. Also, I am foodie and like to eat and cook different variety of dishes.

Coming from a family of Engineers and Chartered accountants choosing Architecture wasn't an easy decision. But my parents always knew about my inclination towards art, and my fear of physics and mathematics. After getting into School of Architecture I had the best time of my life doing what I liked and learning so many new things at the same time. Along with learning the basics of Architecture, I also got to try my hand at pottery, glass etching, painting and



calligraphy.

Before joining LOS, I worked in different firms in Mumbai and Vadodara for 3 years, where in I got opportunity to work on many varied projects and got to work on different software. Along with the exposure the firms also gave me confidence and made me industry ready.

The opportunity of working with LOS came at the time when my life was in transition phase, as I was getting married. I remember my first interview with Sanjay, Chris and Ryan and now it's been exactly two years since then & I am still excited for the new possibilities of my role. One incident that will always stand out to me was when I was late for my interview with Amit and Nick. Sanjay being very particular about timing, was not happy about this but still he said to me on the phone "don't drive fast, take an auto" also during the interview nor once did Nick and Amit make me feel anything about me being late, they just said "it's okay, happens". That's when I thought to myself, I would be very lucky to work with all of them. They displayed the culture of the company, that we all know about since beginning.

Being one of the first few TM's of the company was an exciting, challenging and very interesting experience. I have learnt a great deal from Sanjay, Aparajita and Shilpan. The first few months will always remain special to me. We four Megha and Mudra defined the Vision, Mission - PATH and Values of the company which are now the guiding principals for all of us at LOS. Me and Shilpan were the first TM's in the Design Services, that gave us an opportunity to learn things in greater depths. Amit would call us daily for the first month and solve all our doubts as the wooden construction was very new to us.

I cannot thank Wes and Marcus enough for their tireless efforts in helping us learn & grow and solve our smallest and silliest of doubts. During my two successful years with LOS I was faced with many different opportunities - Production training, 101 Induction, conducting rack huddles, and recently Revit conversions and coordination calls, also this opportunity of writing for the Inside the Oak. All this has been possible because of the combined efforts of the team having a shared goal and knowing the PATH towards it. Looking forward to many more successful years with LOS & living the Mission: PATH each day for becoming "the best company to work for".

I have had many memorable moments with LOS, some of them being in our old office where we all worked very close to each other in tight spaces and I loved working on the designs of the new office. All the team bonding activities that take place in the office thanks to the people's team have played a crucial role in developing happy and harmonious work culture.

In conclusion I would like to thank one and all from DWH and LOS for letting me be a part of this awesome journey. And I look forward to contributing and growing along with the Team.



WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT



Shilpan Pradhan

Hello, I am Shilpan Pradhan from design services team.

I am a person who is positive about every aspect of life. There are so many things I love to do, to see and experience. I like to play cricket and volleyball. I like delicious food and classy shoes. I have been known to rant about latest happenings around the world. Unlike most people, I don't like reading at all, yet I have read many books on WW1 & WW2. I have also read Geeta, A big fan of lord Krishna and I quote him in my everyday life.

We are family of four, I live with my parents. My father works at nearby building of LOS, my brother's past company was also LOS'S neighbor company. What a coincidence! All three of us started our professional journey from the same campus. Nowadays, my brother is in southern state of India. He works as a HVAC engineer there. My mom- what a wonderful person she is, A great cook and likes to experiment with her food and of course I am her lab rat. Jokes apart, Seafood dishes are her specialty. We have just moved to our new home last month. Since then we are buying new stuff, yet many things are yet to be purchased. Buying stuff looks like never-ending process. I love animals, on and off the plate. Chicken Biryani is my favorite dish. I am trying to convince my parents to have a dog in the house since the stone age, but I am failing since.

I enjoy simple things in life but, I have some super ambitious goals as well. Being happy is a state of mind and I don't think people should settle for less than they deserve. I always look towards the next best thing and take everything with a pinch of humor (that gets me in trouble

many times :D). My girlfriend runs a comic page on our relationship on Instagram named "purple.patch_comic", which shows her struggle on daily basis with me :D

For the past year and a half, I have been a part of Lone Oak Solutions family. It was a great opportunity for me to be one of the initial members of LOS. I have seen LOS growing from a four desks space in Stemmons, to the temporary office and now in a fully functional office with more than 80 people. It's been a great journey. It is my privilege that I am there in each story/memory of LOS. it seems my joining in this company was a yesterday affair and I have seen myself grow as a professional and as a human being.

One of things from LOS, I won't forget is the day city was flooded and water was leaking through ceiling in the office. Team bonding is always fun when well arranged by the people's team, but the actual bond of the team came to light during the difficult times of the flood. TM's came out from their comfort zone and immediately started helping in moving furniture, appliances and other things. Many TM's came voluntarily the next day to help restore the office to its former glory.

Ok, lets focus on main topic of this article – "me". I am big fan of superhero comics and movies/tv series, I think they show us values and path which we can relate in our day to day life. I mean look at batman, he has everything in the world (except parents) still he follows certain values/path in his life which makes him what he is – A hero. You can relate that to the PATH of LOS. **All I am saying is that A hero can be anyone, even a man doing something as simple and reassuring as following company's mission-PATH on daily basis, so that team can achieve their big-time goal.**



▴▴ I enjoy simple things in life but, I have some super ambitious goals as well. Being happy is a state of mind and I don't think people should settle for less than they deserve. ▴▴

PROJECT 1: THALASSEMIA CAMP

IDEA

We aim to spread the awareness about Thalassemia among the citizens of Vadodara and conduct test for the same.

ACTION PLAN

We conducted the awareness programs and organised Thalassemia and Sickle cell tests for 220 students in Jeevan Sadhana School of Vadodara in association with the Red Cross Society on 18th September, 2018. In addition to this, we are going to conduct the tests in more schools of Vadodara during this year.



PROJECT 2: OUT OF THE CLASS

IDEA

To support a local government school with a scarcity of funds and providing it with resources and time to improve its standard of education.

ACTION PLAN

The plan for the Out-of-the-class project has been modified against the previous plan. The development of the computer lab is the priority as it is the most required resource for the school. With the study that was conducted for the computer lab, we found that many computers were in working condition but the software installed needed to be replaced & updated. So we now plan to install 6 brand-new PC systems along with computer tables & also update all the existing PCs with a Windows OS software.

Measured survey drawings of the existing area were made for the library and was used to design a space to make it more interactive & inviting for the students. The design consists of a series of platforms of varying heights, with shelves on one side & a white board on the other side, so as to also create an informal classroom space too. We have contacted various contractors & have received estimates.

To support the library project, we have a book collection drive in office & have received good response.

- Stuti Parikh

KNOW YOUR CITY

Mandvi Gate

Mandvi Gate, often termed as the North gate of the Royal Enclosure, is one of the major landmarks in Vadodara dating back to the Mughal period. It is located at the **Centre** of the walled city where the roads leading to the 4 gates cross. The word 'Mandvi' derives from the Sanskrit word *mandapa* meaning a **pillared hall**.

GATES OF VADODARA

History

Vadodara, a cultural capital of Indian state of Gujarat, was once a **walled city**. The old walled city has four gates on four sides for entering the city and the old city is settled inside those gates. Each gate has its own story with different architectural elements.

Story goes that all these gates closed in the night to open only early morning, so nobody could venture out of the fort and safety of residents was ensured. Present day-old walled city still has these gates. With times, the present day Vadodara city expanded rapidly around the periphery of this walled city.

▮▮ These gates not only enhance beauty but also add more historical and cultural value to Vadodara. ▮▮



Laheripura Gate

Laheripura Gate is on the **Western** side of the walled city. It is the main entry to the walled city. The Gaekwads who ruled Vadodara, renovated the gate in the Maratha-Rajput style in the 19th century. It has three arches with images of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Durga. The central arch has a **Chhatra** (Dome-Shaped Pavilions), and **Jharokha** (Vatayan) where shehnai artistes used to perform. The gate got its name from the coppersmiths residing in that area known as '**Laheris**'.



Gendi Gate

Gendi Gate, serves as the **Southern** gateway to the old city of Vadodara. The southern gate is an Islamic-style structure with four ribbed arches. Rhinos (called Gendas in Gujarati) were kept near this gate so it got the name, says the book 'Vadodara Ek Adhyayan' by archaeologist R. N. Mehta. Documents from Year 1804 and 1822 refer to Gendi gate as "**Baranpura no darwajo**" either because this gate led to Baranpura locality in the walled city.



Pani Gate

Pani Gate, serves as the **Eastern** gateway to the old city of Vadodara. It is said that there were Ajab and Raje lakes, which supplied water to the city, so the gate was named Pani (water) Gate. The Gate also has Wide Arches in Islamic Style and was restored few years back as some portion of the gate had collapsed. On its outer side, above the main arch, there is a metal structure like a nose. People call it '**Vadodara nu naak**' – a metaphor for the city's honour.



Champaner Gate

Champaner gate, serves as the **Northern** gateway to the old city of Vadodara. It was constructed after the Champaner fort was captured by Mahmud Begada. It was strategically important for the sultans to protect the capital of Gujarat Sultanate - Champaner - from any attack. Today, Champaner is the only **UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Site in Gujarat**

- Stuti Parikh

FEST ZEST

ON AN AVERAGE OF 100000 PEOPLE VISIT UNITED WAY OF VADODARA GARBA GROUND FOR NINE DAYS WHICH INCLUDES VISITORS AND REVELLERS.

Description of Gujarat festivals is incomplete without the mention of Navratri. Celebrations of Navratri in India are grand and everyone wants to be a part of them. The zeal and excitement of the festival is evident all over India way before the actual festival starts.

Navratri means nine nights and so the tenth day Goddess Durga, who is worshipped throughout the nine days, is immersed in holy water after pooja. Each and every day has its importance and meaning. People worship Goddess in and try to enhance their physical, mental and spiritual practice in these nine days. At nights Communities come together to dance in unison during Garba, a seemingly simple dance, where the crowd moves together in a synchronised circular movement. People stay awake the whole night during the nine days of Navratri and observe fasting for nine days. Youth and old all do Garba with same excitement. Also People do dandiya Raas with two colourful sticks, used as prop of Dandiya Raas, are usually made of bamboo also known as 'stick dance'.

The dates of the festival are decided according to the lunar calendar, but it is celebrated primarily in September-October. The celebration is carried on for ten days with huge pomp and show and the tenth day is known as Dussehra

There is a custom of wearing a different colour on each of the days of Navratri especially in Gujarat and Maharashtra. The idol of Goddess Durga is also decorated in different colour of clothes on all days.

Preparation and excitement start since month ago of festival and markets get flooded with people. Both men and women love to be seen dressed in their best traditional attire. The women wear traditional dresses such as colourful embroidered choli, ghagra and bandhani dupattas glittering with mirror work and heavy jewellery, while men look very attractive in their traditional colourful kedias. Vadodara holds untouchable Navratri records. On an average of 100000 people visit United Way of Vadodara Garba ground for nine days which includes visitors and revellers. People of Vadodara also do Garba in open community spaces. This festival is full of delectable food, dance competitions, enthusiastic participants and exceptionally well-dressed individuals and especially Vadodara is world known for the celebration of Navratri. Considerable amount of foreign people visits Vadodara every year to witness this Garba. This event also has a lot of popular musicians and singers from across India participating in it. In MetLife Stadium, New Jersey have witness total of 31000 people including revellers and visitors in 2015.

- Prit Sheth



ART OF TURNING ADVERSITY INTO ADVANTAGE!

Inspiring lines said by Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, who is known today as the last of Five Good Emperors truly defines how can one conquer not only in the battle grounds but also in every hook and inch of life.

In Marcus's words is the secret to an art known as turning obstacles upside down. How we can turn each adversity into advantage/opportunity for us. What impedes us, can empower us. We all are rightful heirs to the tradition, its our birth right;

Whatever we face, we have a choice: Will we be blocked by the adversities or will we advance through and over them.?

Every obstacle is unique to each of us but the responses they elicit are the same: Fear, Frustration, Confusion, Helplessness, Depression, Anger.

Its not just: How can I think this is not so bad?

No, it is how to will yourself to see that this must be good- an opportunity to gain a new foothold, move forward or go in a better direction.

Not to "be positive" but learn to be ceaselessly creative and opportunistic.

Not: This is not so bad.

But: I can make this good.

Obstacles are not only to be expected but embraced. Embraced?

Yes, because these obstacles are actually opportunities to test ourselves, to try new things, and ultimately, to triumph. The obstacle in the path, becomes the path. Never forget, what comes in the way becomes the way in the end.

Overcoming adversities is a discipline of three critical steps. It begins with how we look at our specific problems our approach or attitude towards the problem and then the energy and creativity with which we actively break them down and turn them into opportunities; finally, the cultivation and maintenance of an inner will that allows us to handle defeat and difficulty.

It's three interdependent, interconnected, and fluidly contingent disciplines: Perception, Action and the Will. It's a simple process (but again, never easy)



We can trace the use of this process by its practitioners throughout history, politics, life scenarios and literature. As we look at specific examples of each step from every angle, we can learn to inculcate this attitude and capture its ingenuity – and by doing so discover how to create new openings wherever a door is shut.

▴▴ **The Impediment to action advances action, what stands in the way becomes the way**
- *Marcus Aurelius* ▾▾

Problems are rarely as bad as we think - or rather, they are precisely as bad as we think.

NELSON MANDELA – the first black president of South Africa.

- Mandela served 27 years in prison.
- Never got discouraged by the adversities.
- Used that time to unite the people against the injustice, made plans to face the situation and turn the obstacles into opportunities.



J.K. ROWLING- first author to become a billionaire.

- Rowling conceived the idea of Harry Potter during a train ride in 1990.
- She finished writing it in seven years
- Inspiring about Rowlings' Story is - despite living in near poverty and being rejected 12 times - she persisted her dream to tell the world a story about the magical life of Harry Potter.



She channelled her pain to create an even better story

BARACK OBAMA-

One's action can turn the tables.

- Obama's presidential candidacy was imperilled by a scandal-race, religion, controversy emulsified into one.
- When most of the people won't, he decided to take action.
- Channelled attention and energy swirling around controversy to draw a national audience and speak directly to people.



That speech known today as "A More Perfect Union" speech-a transformative moment

LIZ MURRAY-

from Homeless to Harvard.

- Liz became homeless at the age of 15, a painful situation.
- Liz didn't let her circumstances dictate her future.
- She attended a local high school, graduated in just two years, was awarded a New York Times scholarship for needy students and accepted into Harvard University. She chose her own destiny and manifested it.



There is no special school that these individuals attended. Nothing they did or do is out of reach for us. Rather, they have unlocked something that is within each and every person. Managing perceptions, recognising when we can change things and directing our actions.

Tested in crucible of adversity and forged in the furnace of trail, they realised these latent powers- perception, action and the will.

First see clearly. Next, act correctly. Finally, endure and accept the world as it is. There's a saying in Latin: "Vires acquirit eundo –

we gather strength as we go!"

- Dhanshri Swami

GROUND & POUND

What is Yoga?

Yoga is a mind and body practice with a 5000 year history in ancient Indian philosophy. Various style of yoga combine physical postures, breathing techniques and meditation or relaxation.

Health Benefits of Yoga:

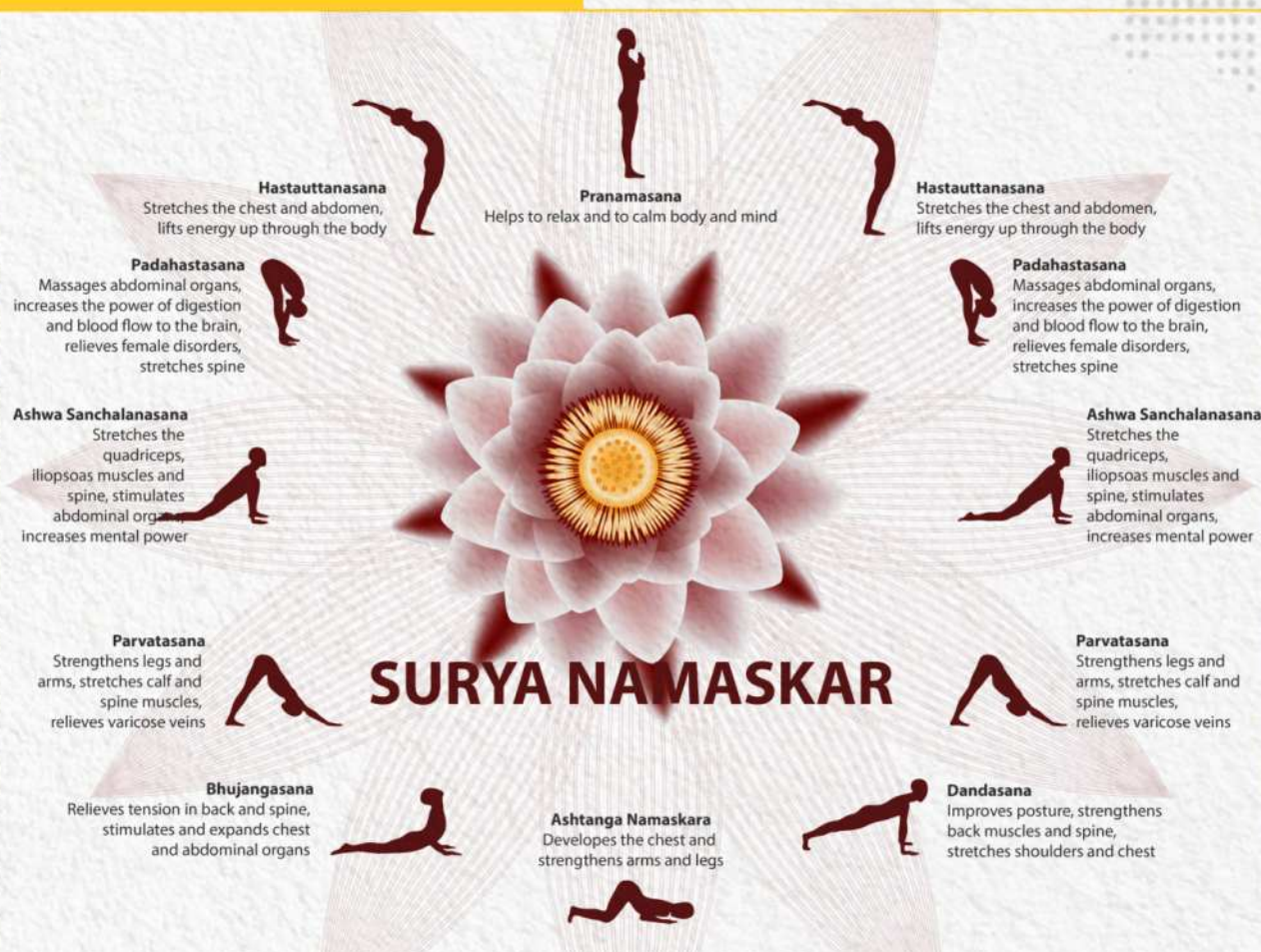
Increases Strength, agility and flexibility

Normalizing body weight by restoring hormonal balance in the body

Yoga enhances memory and cognitive functioning

Yoga naturally reduces pain

Increases respiratory efficiency (Pranayam)



Practice Pace :

SLOW PACE

Helps to make your body flexible

MEDIUM PACE

Useful for toning the muscles

FAST PACE

This acts as an excellent cardiovascular workout and aids in weight loss

Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation), is a Yoga practice incorporating a sequence of gracefully linked asanas. The nomenclature refers to the symbolism of Sun as the Soul and the source of all life.

Science : Different energies govern different parts of the body. For instance, the solar plexus that is located behind the navel is connected to the Sun. Regular practice of Surya Namaskar enhances the size of the solar plexus. This, in turn,

increases creativity, intuitive abilities, decision-making, confidence and leadership skills.

When : Surya Namaskar can be done at any time of the day. However, It is best to do it at sunrise. This is when the sun rays help revitalize the body and refresh the mind.

If practiced in afternoon, it energizes the body instantly whereas when done at dusk, it helps to unwind.

-Khushali Patel



UKADICHE MODAK

(Sweet Rice Dumplings with Coconut Filling)

These Modaks are offered to Lord Ganesh and made especially during the ten-day celebration of the Ganesha festival.

There are many ways to make a Modak, but of course my mom had to spoil us with these luscious, heavenly 'Ukadiche Modak'.

Course : Sweet
Cuisine : Indian
Servings : 8 Servings

Ingredients (1 cup = 255 ML)

For Stuffing:

- ½ cup jaggery / gud
- 1 cup coconut freshly grated
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder

For Modak dough:

- 1 cup water
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp ghee / clarified butter
- 1 cup rice flour fine

Instructions

For Stuffing:

- In a large heating pan (kadai) take ½ cup jaggery and 1 cup freshly grated coconut.
- Keeping the flame on medium, mix well till the jaggery melts and mixture is formed. Now, add ¼ tsp cardamom powder and mix well.
- Stuffing is ready, Keep aside to cool.

For Modak dough:

- In another heating pan (kadai) boil 1 cup water, ¼ tsp salt and 1 tsp ghee. Turn off the flame and add 1 cup fine rice flour. Mix the flour well with water. Do not worry if the dough is dry.
- Cover and allow to rest for 3-5 minutes. Now transfer the rice flour mixture into large mixing bowl.
- When the flour is still hot, knead with your hands. Sprinkle water if required to form a smooth and soft dough.
- Further, pinch a small lemon sized ball and flatten it. With the help of both thumbs start pressing the edges and create a dent in center.
- Slowly press from edges till it forms a cup. Start creating pleats with your index finger and thumb.
- Now scoop a tbsp of prepared coconut stuffing and into the cup. Close the top by pinching and making it pointed. Remove the excessive the dough from the tip.
- Place the Modak in steamer leaving gaps in between. Cover and steam for 10 mints. or till the shiny texture appears on them.
- The Modaks are ready. Serve hot with Ghee.

- Radhika Marathe

WHY WE FIGHT?

Why are we always waiting for someone else to say?
 Why can't we stand up and do it our own way?
 Why have we stepped out of our own souls and become
 as good as dead?
 Where has all the colour gone, all we see is blood red?
 Why do we see dark even in sheer sunlight?
 Why are we waiting for another war, another fight?
 Why is the blood being shed?
 Why are our brothers dead?
 Why do we always bow down?
 Why do we hate everyone around?
 When will our country's white-clad men see?
 Beyond money-garlands and other fantasies?
 When will the "Me's" shift to "We's"?
 Are the wars ever going to cease?
 Questions are many, but the answer is one,
 "Come Together" and the job is done!
 We understand just one language, humanity!
 And we no more are going to be a part of your insanity!
 So, Roll the tears away,
 Because we, the youth promise today,
 We'll make the path, we'll make the way!
 So, say it Now, say it Out Loud!
 YES WE CAN, YES WE CAN !!!!!

- Priyanka Walhe

FEELINGS

Every Stage of Life Is Filled up with FEELINGS.

Feeling of INNOCENT
 Feeling of FEAR
 Feeling of JOY
 Feeling of FREEDOM
 Feeling of ANGER
 Feeling of TRUST
 Feeling of SADNESS
 Feeling of HURT
 Feeling of DEPRESSION
 Feeling of MATURITY
 Feeling of LOVE
 Feeling of MUCH MORE AND MORE
 All in A SINGLE PERSON

THIS DIFFERENT FEELINGS BEING FACED

IS WHAT I CALL AS "Growing up"

- Bhavya Mistry

A BUDDHIST PARABLE ON HUMAN CONDITION (BLIND TURTLE)

A story is told in Buddhist scripture of blind turtle who dwells in the depths of a vast ocean, coming up for air only once every hundred years. On the surface of the same ocean floats of a golden yoke. "When this turtle which can come to the surface only once every hundred years comes to the surface, can he put his head into the floating yoke even one time?" asked the Buddha.

The disciple answered, "it's impossible! Even if it took hundreds of millions of years or even millions of millions of years for the turtle to be able to put its face in the hole, it would be very hard to do it."

Then the buddha said, "I know everyone thinks that its impossible! But are you sure? To be born into this world as a human is infinitely more difficult than a blind turtle putting his face into the hole of golden yoke!"

Then the buddha put some dirt into his hand, opened his hand, and said, "the beings who have a human body are like the dirt in my hand, a very small amount, but the beings who fail to obtain a human body are like the huge ground. A human body is the hardest to come by. You monks need to listen and think about that.

▀ **Moral:** - To be born as a human being is a rare blessing. We seldom realize the precious rarity of our human status that is full of unique freedoms and fortunes. ▀

- Bansuri Patel.

LIFE IN EXTRA LIFE



- Vrajesh Bhavsar

GROW YOUR FURNITURE

Build?

Nah! Grow your furniture.

British Gardener Gavin Munro doesn't **build furniture**- he grows it.

Because building your own furniture is too mainstream.

Remember the end of "The Giving Tree," when the tree has nothing left to give her favorite boy except her stump to sit on? Some people think that's a heartwarming end to a story of selfless love, while others read it and think, "I could make a tree into a way better seat than that." Gavin Munro is the second kind of person.

In 2006, Gavin Munro began work on a project that had been on his mind for a long, long time. He started growing a forest full of chairs. Back when he was a child wearing a neck brace to straighten his crooked spine, he thought, if a stiff frame could train the human body to grow in a certain way, then surely the same concept could work for growing trees. But it turned out that things weren't quite that simple.

In his first attempt at growing trees you can sit on, Munro

made the understandable mistake of starting from the bottom. He'd plant four trees in close proximity to each other, the idea being that these would be the legs, which he'd graft together to form the seat and back. But when the little saplings turned out to be too competitive to thrive so close to each other, he realized he needed to take a new approach. Now, he grows the chairs upside-down, and guides a single tree branch into the seat it's destined to be.

It's not just chairs growing in Munro's grove. He's also mastered the art of cultivating tables of all different sizes and shapes. So why just build our furniture, let's try to grow them!



- Dhanshri Swami

A GLIMPSE OF EXCELLENCE MEETING

Our Excellence meeting for the third quarter of 2018 was conducted at LOS on 13th November 2018. The presenters for this quarter were Amit Bhakta and Chris Weekly from David Weekly Homes and Sanjay Shembekar from Lone Oak Solutions. We had presentations that covered the progress made till date; performance metrics both at DWH and LOS and celebrating achievements and anniversaries of Team Members.

This time the theme was 'Up in The Air' where the committee did a remarkable work of creating just the exact feeling of flying in the aeroplane. The audience had a first class journey in LOS Airlines that landed us to Quarter 4 of 2018.

Special thanks to cabin crew – Clifton Varghese, Dhaval Ghadge, Meet Brahmhatt, Nidhi Bhatt, Palak Chitania, Rutu Panchal and Shachi Saraiya.



- Prit Sheth



Vishwa Shah / Vrajesh Bhavsar / Stuti Parikh / Pooja Kanada / Pooja Parekh
Dhanashri Swami / Mitesh Rathod / Radhika Marathe / Khushali Patel / Prit Sheth

