showhouse

Career view: Rami Atallah of Chalegrove Properties

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This week, we have an exclusive interview with Rami Atallah, who works for Chalegrove Properties and is responsible for overseeing the sales and construction programme for Landmark Pinnacle, London's tallest residential tower.

Please tell us a little about yourself and your role.

My role at Chalegrove Properties (CPL) is always challenging, which is part of what makes it so interesting. As project coordinator my role is to coordinate all various aspects of the development and make sure that the different parts are moving in a way that aligns them to the overall best performance of the project and best delivery of value to our clients and the homeowners.

What jobs and projects led you to your current position?

I began working in construction abroad immediately after schooling and started on industrial projects, working on some very interesting things like one of the largest dairy plants in the Middle East. Then I worked on more residential projects with the same company, which was from a construction-only point of view. My role expanded over time and led me to this position with CPL today.

Is there something in particular that drew you to the construction industry?

Something I find very interesting about the construction industry is that we work on projects that are physical and can be seen every day by people for the most part. It was always interesting for me to be able to say that I was part of something that is tangible and I can point to and say, "I was part of that". In the end, it's all about pride in your work, which is great because the team at CPL holds that value in high regard. Of course this is not to say that it doesn't exist in other industries, but it is the reason I was drawn to this industry!

With Landmark Pinnacle, what are the unique factors in working on a high-rise development?

There are so many unique factors to this development that make it both so interesting and also so challenging! One of the most interesting challenges that is faced on any high-rise job is the logistics of moving people and goods throughout the building – especially at peak times, such as lunchtime. One example is that we organise staggered lunch breaks and put in bathrooms at different levels in the building to keep logistics flowing smoothly.

How many people work on a development of this size and what array of skills are needed?

There are definitely over a thousand people who would be involved on making this project a reality, this is really a very large effort and skills will vary from carpentry and steelwork to construction design and across the spectrum to financial modelling and analytics.

Do you get to see first-hand what many of the workforce are doing, and are there any you particularly admire?

It is difficult to say that there is any one aspect or task which is more admirable than another. At CPL the culture is much more about appreciating the quality and efficiency of the work rather than what the specific task entails. This is a team effort and it is extremely important to always remember that! It is about how well you do your job that matters and the joint success of the team relies on everyone doing their part to the best quality to ensure we deliver the best product and best value to our clients and homeowners.

On a personal level, what have been the biggest challenges and highlights of Landmark Pinnacle?

Personally, I am relatively new to London. having only been here for three years now. In an industry like ours, experience is measured in decades rather than years. The team at CPL are great though, they have got a great system for transferring organisational knowledge and helping the less-experienced members of the team to learn and draw on the experience and knowledge of the more experienced members of the team.

What can be done to get more young people – and a more diverse group of them – attracted to a construction career?

I am no specialist on this! But in my opinion: with young people it is all about role models. Just like how at CPL we value doing a good job over doing this job or that job, when you see every member of the team take pride in their work, and in the fact that they are part of the reason we are able to develop cities into a better place to live for everyone else and for future generations, you've got to feel like you have achieved something for the community and that you are not just executing a task or doing a job.

It is this culture that I think we ought to be showing youngsters more of: it isn't just a job, it is about improving the world around us and delivering homes that will create better neighbourhoods and an improvement to the future of the city in which we operate. That's what gives me my motivation and I would like to believe it would help give others theirs.