



(X,Y,Z) Architecture and Design took home the Best Architect award at the Malta Real Estate, Property Development & Architecture Awards

EFFICIENCY, RELIABILITY, TEAMWORK, AND FLEXIBILITY

By Kelly Anne Briffa

MBR caught up with Janice Fiorentino, one of the directors along with Daniel Micallef and Daniel Camilleri from (X,Y,Z) Architecture & Design after they picked up Malta's Best Architect award during the recent Malta Real Estate, Property Development & Architecture Awards 2021.

MBR: As one of the directors and architects of (X,Y,Z), can you tell us how critical is your role to engage in business strategy and how does it operate to be most effective given your size and scale?

JF: In our industry, size and scale determine the kind of projects you are able to take on. Our strategy over the years evolved given also the evolution and growth of the industry during the last 8 years. Efficiency means good professional service, which at the end must be countered with adequate and equivalent compensation. Clients looking for a detailed professional service appreciate this, since it's reflected in the end result.

MBR: How do you describe (X,Y,Z)'s culture and how critical is culture to the success of your organization?

JF: Our office culture is based on simple yet crucial ingredients – efficiency, reliability, teamwork, and flexibility. Office culture is derived from the characteristics of the

team members. We are lucky to have a great team of professionals, working in synch with each other on different aspects of projects, whilst as a company our policy has long been to offer a flexible and healthy environment for our team members. Our industry is stressful, demanding and involves a lot of players, with us as architects having a leading role in getting different people to work together. As we see it, our office culture helps us deal effectively with the challenges we face daily whilst carrying out our profession.

MBR: Will you discuss (X,Y,Z)'s commitment to diversity and how important is it for (X,Y,Z)'s workforce to mirror the diversity of the communities and industries it serves?

JF: As a company we have worked on a wide range of projects, with local and foreign clients; from intimate residential projects to large corporate offices for multi-national companies, to social housing, homeless

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shelters, and public open spaces. The team consists of open-minded individuals with different areas of specialisations and backgrounds, reflecting the local social fabric. Rather than mirroring, it's all about embracing and understanding the social fabric of our society which continuously develops.

MBR: You recently participated in Malta's largest Real Estate, Property Development & Architect Awards 2021, organised by Dynamic Events Ltd. Can you tell us your level of involvement, whether you managed to achieve any success and what significance do these awards bring to the architectural society, giving us a brief feedback on the gala ceremony?

JF: We were thrilled to be shortlisted for some awards by the organizers of such a prestigious award ceremony in our industry, and we were even more thrilled on the actual night when we were awarded with the 'Malta's Best Architect' Award. A big thank you goes to all the team and our clients, who entrusted with their projects and made it possible for us to reach such a milestone. The gala ceremony was also an occasion to catch up with a number of colleagues from different professions and trades, and the feedback received after was very encouraging. Such initiatives are a very important showcase for our industry.

MBR: (X,Y,Z) has a long and deep commitment to Malta. Are you optimistic about Malta's recovery and rebuilding following the FATF's Grey listing?

JF: Yes – optimistic since Malta has shown its social and economic resilience during the last eighteen months which were overshadowed by a global pandemic which has hit the planet hard. Our country has fared fairly well compared to others, and our industry was one of the key players in keeping the economy going. This was possible due to the trust and optimism of our nation, and also to the incentives which provided the right stimulus in a very difficult time. In recent weeks we have seen foreign investors re-affirm their trust in Malta, whilst we as architects have also encountered new clients of international companies seeking to relocate and expand their operation here – so yes, we are optimistic. **MBR**