



## **Navigating Professional Success in Design: Resonates' Marissa Wallder discusses her career journeys**

Senior Associate Marissa Wallder talks about her career at Resonate, along with the challenges she has had to overcome.

Marissa describes her journey, "I was always good at drawing. And so I knew with that skill there were a number of ways I could take it in. The three main ones were fashion, graphics and interiors. And I felt like fashion or graphics didn't feel quite right, whereas interiors for me just felt right. I always felt a powerful sense inside, when you go into a space and how it makes you feel. And the responsibility of designing that feeling for people was something that I thought would be amazing. Plus I was good at DIY: I knew how to use a drill, so the practical side also appealed. I've been in the industry for 25 years now, I'm a mother and also a grandmother. I mention that as I had my daughter in the middle of university, between the second and third years. I completed my final year in two years rather than one and, I got a first class degree. There was this feeling of wanting to finish my degree with a bang: I've got a child, I've got to get a job out of this; this degree needs to actually make me some money. To that end, I actually changed university from Brighton to London Guildhall because Brighton didn't have any CAD or AutoCAD classes and they weren't really teaching it at the time. My plan was if it came to it, I'd be happy doing technical drawing on CAD [as a first job]. Then I got my first job in Chelmsford, which was quite a way away from where I live in Kingston, so I moved. Since then, I've worked at about seven different places in different types of industries that are all within workplace design. I also focussed on workplace strategy for a couple of years, which is more on the consulting side. At Resonate, I just really love what I do and I just want to continue to learn.

Marissas' professional journey highlights that the path to a successful career is rarely linear but experience acquired along the way are all helpful in honing the skills necessary to be part of a successful design practice.