

1.If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

If given the chance, my dream job would be in the field of interior design. I have always been fascinated with how top-notch designers are able to come up with professional-looking works of art. I enjoy visualizing what the interior of a house would look like, but there are a lot of aspects of the design that need to be taken into consideration. I always like to start with a concept, what the theme will be, and the appropriate color palette that would go with it. From the wall paint colors, I would come up with different ideas for the furnishings, that include the types of furniture, from beds, sofas, and even dining tables and chairs. The list goes on, but the bottom line is to have a product that is both top quality and pleasing to the eyes. Interior designing exercises one's mind to think out of the box and really be creative, that is why this is very appealing to me.

2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

Yes, I encountered a lot of stressful situations in the previous jobs I held in the past. One situation is when I used to work in a local bank. I was assigned as a teller for 8 years and every day was a challenge because of the different people I got to interact with and address their concerns in a timely manner. The queue was always long, and sometimes clients would get impatient, as they also have other business to do. The situation was even more compounded when the system suddenly went offline. Being a seasoned teller, I kept my cool and patiently explained to the clients in a very calm manner what was happening at that moment. I also made it apparent that I empathized with their situation. I gave everyone a number and requested them to take a set while waiting for the system to go online. When the system was back up, I requested everyone to line up again according to their number and continued my job.

3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

In my previous position, the task I find most challenging is actually not a task but learning the tool used for the tasks. I am not a techie person, and in my previous job being financial in nature, I needed to learn how to use Excel spreadsheets for analyzing data and reporting purposes. This involved a lot of formulas, v-lookup and if functions, pivot tables, and more. The start was really slow with me having a hard time understanding. But I am grateful that my mentors were patient with me. So, when I learned the tool, I gave back by doing my job right and doing it well. It was my way of showing I appreciate what they taught me. On the other hand, the task I enjoyed most was the weekly conference call with my bosses and business partner representatives from different countries. It was a welcome breeze to hear their voices on the phone, rather than just communicating through email.

4. How would your previous managers/coworkers describe you?

My previous managers/coworkers describe me as dependable and inquisitive. I may be a funny and lively person, but I do take every job seriously. I believe that producing quality work contributes a lot to a conducive working environment. I have a very curious mind, so I don't stop at accomplishing my tasks. When I had free time, I would always analyze the different processes and think of ways to streamline them. I had been in my previous job for 7 years and when I left, my colleague in the US kept telling me that there would be somebody to take over my role, but it would never be the same without me. I felt proud of how I conducted myself because judging from the feedback I received, it takes time and a lot of hard work to prove oneself and I believe I did something right to earn their respect.

5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

There are two personal accomplishments that I am most proud of. One is when I put up my cafe business. I was into baking cakes and would sell them to my friends and relatives. When I came back here from Manila, I needed to think of something to generate income. So, I thought of having an outlet where customers can see my display of different cakes. That's when I thought of renting a commercial space. The rent was a bit steep, so I offered hot dishes like pasta, burgers, and rice meals. The experience has taught me to uphold quality, value time, how to deal with employees, and accept good or bad feedback from customers. The other one is when I started feeding and rescuing stray cats. I am a firm believer in life and that everyone, including animals, has the right to live. Being able to give them a new lease on life gives me a purpose in life and a sense of fulfillment.