

I met Ghadi on my first day of work at Urban back in February 2019. I remember the day well when Mark gave me the grand tour of the old GM Tower office and introduced me to everyone present that day. Come to Ghadi, he jumped out of his seat to introduce himself to me first, before I could, and immediately I was blown away by his genuine, warm, and approachable nature. Without a doubt, everyone has had the same experience, because this IS the person that Ghadi was. Over the years, Ghads not became a good work colleague, but a great personal friend. During my uni days, I would often spend my free time and even my holidays, loitering around the office and chatting to Ghads and the boys. This is something that many of you know I still do to this day. I used to shift my uni timetable to make sure that my breaks would line up with the boy's lunchbreak at Head Office. We would frequent the Burwood Hotel or the sushi shop up the road, ending our lunch with a coffee from the café on ground floor, at GM Tower.

It was clear that Ghadi was extraordinarily proud of Bexley. Considering that the project was his first tenure as Project Manager, but he would often remind me of how proud he was of the team he worked with. Being the first building in Australia to receive LDI, it was truly a proud, and historic moment for URBAN as a company, but it was also an outstanding personal achievement for everyone involved. Not a bad effort for a project team all aged in their twenties.

At Bexley, our morning routine would normally consist of a visit to the coffee shop at around 8:30. I thoroughly enjoyed the brief walk to the café which would consist of a briefing of what mischief or shenanigans we got up to the day before or have trivial discussions of any random subject. However, we tend to enjoy discussions about our faith. Often, these discussions would turn into a day long ordeal where we would pick up the conversation whenever we got a spare minute before returning to work. Between Suman, Ghadi and I, we would often argue over who pays for our regular order of Ghadi's weak almond cappuccino, Suman's oat cappuccino and my double shot espresso, to which Ghadi would use the cheap trick of saying its mine or Suman's birthday to stop us from paying. Not to my surprise, Ghadi being the intellect he is, knew the effectiveness of his trick, as I used to wonder if the cafe staff are the most gullible people in the world or have a chronic case of forgetfulness, as I used to received 2-3 happy birthday wishes a week.

Around the mid-point of Bexley's construction, I had the idea to write quotes of things I hear around the job site or at meetings I found particularly funny. I named this white board, "Urban Out of Context". The white board lived on the wall in front of Ghadi's office and he immediately caught on to my intentions. Ghads very quickly, became one of the biggest contributors to the Urban out of context board. Eventually everyone caught on, and reading and contributing to the white board became a popular past time of ALL the boys. The white board was also graced by the odd visit from Mark Elias or Charlie Elachi, who was the construction manager at the time. Each quote had a story to tell, and it was a way we all remembered and reminisced every stage of the project. Often, while sitting quietly at my desk, I would sometimes hear Ghadi's iconic laugh from across the office and find him standing in front of the white board and reading the quotes. A particular favourite quote of Ghadi was Mark Elias infamous "when are we getting OC" line.

Months after Bexley 's completion, Ghads would often recount on the project as the "fiery crucible...where we were forged"; and he was absolutely correct. Bexley had its challenges and struggles, and together as a team we endured much stress, anxiety with long and tiring days ending with sleepless nights. These hardships have consolidated and refined our knowledge, our abilities and our skills and have advanced not only our careers, but our personal growth as well. However, I see our experience in a slightly different way. Much like the imagery of the crucible Ghadi mentioned, the crucible of Bexley has imparted the pure essence of friendship and brotherhood that binds all of us together, today.

Ghadi was not only my good friend, but he was my mentor, my role model, and my brother. Even though he is not with us today, he will always be with us in spirit and in our hearts. I find assurance that my brother is now resting with the Lord, whom we both serve, and I look forward to the day when we meet again, so we can resume our trivial discussions, tell him about the mischief, and shenanigans I've been getting up to in my life...but to also tell him how much I have dearly missed him while he's been away. Being part of the family, that is URBAN, a place that many of us, including Ghadi, have come to find it our home away from home; Ghadi was not only a valuable employee to the company, and the boss to a few of us, he was a friend to many, but he is, and always will be, a brother to us all.

Michael Ha

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