

Palette Solid Surface & Fabrication Pty Ltd

**Richard Wang – Owner
Director of the company**

Palette Solid Surface & Fabrication are based in Moorebank, they primarily manufacture high end bathroom and kitchen components using “Corian” which is a blend of natural pigments, minerals and polymers creating an Acrylic Resin. Some of the applications and jobs they have completed where it has been used and had students assisting is the new Star City Casino fountain – Stuart Weitzman Shoes - Operating suites at St Vincent’s Hospital – King St Wharf apartments and the Macquarie Bank to name a few.

We are still quite new the Work Placement Program, we hosted 2 students as a favour to a teacher friend of mine in 2018 and enjoyed the experience. After speaking with Harley we agreed to host students on a weekly basis for 2019. So far it is going great. We have had some exceptional students come through the doors. The program gives me a chance to develop my staff’s communication and management skills by buddying up a student with a staff member. It is also a chance for me to ensure our safety protocols are being taught properly during the induction.



Students Zafir, Peter and Omar of Cecil Hills High showing how they glue and set shaped pieces of Corian for a new Espresso Bar in Darling Harbour

I am proud of my industry and what we do as an organisation. I want to share my passion for my job and hopefully inspire others to follow dreams theirs as well. It is a great opportunity for the students to try an area of the construction industry before making a fulltime commitment – by getting an apprenticeship. We get to share some of our knowledge with hopefully the next generation of tradesmen, and encourage the students with a **can do** as opposed to can’t do attitude even though they are only with us for 5 days. With so many electronic distractions we are losing that human connection to talk, and work side by side on a project, to assist each other with problems that come up along the way, and to teach and learn from each other. Learning these skills, those transferable skills, the life skills are just as important as learning the trade based skills for the students. The diversity of my job keeps me going, I never know what the next phone call will be a request for – we have had a chance to design and construct some amazing pieces for our clients.

The passion I have for the work I do extends to the client and our staff so everyone is excited and stimulated for the next challenge I present to them. I think the variety of work keeps all the staff happy and engaged and motivated to do their best.

I grew up in China had a normal upbringing when I left school, I became a Printing Machine Engineer which was great but I was not happy or fulfilled. I moved to Australia in 1990 and in 1998 brought the company. I am self-taught and have many great qualified staff who assist me with meeting our customers' requests. We employ 12 staff including 2 apprentices now. We have had 6 apprentices complete their training with us and 4 have stayed with us here at Palette. My senior supervisor has been with me for the past 12 years.

When I moved to Australia I wanted a career where I could be creative and do good things, and provide for my family. I was not sure what that was but when I saw the level of creativity available the kitchen & joinery business I knew this was the career for me.

Trust – we have trust in the young people who come to Palette to do the job and we give them the chance to show us what they are capable of.

Richard and his team are always looking to grow their staff and employ keen young people to join the team at Palette if you are looking at a career in the joinery industry or part time work this could be the Structured Work Placement for you.



Some more of the students work – with the jig used in the background

In 2019 Southwest Connect will facilitate 5500 work placements for local students in year 11 and year 12 across 13 course options

Work placement is a one week placement in business to enhance students' skills they have learned in the classroom.

Year 11 and year 12 students studying a Vocational Educational & Training Course for the HSC must complete a mandatory component of 70 hours of industry based learning.

If you can host a student for a Work placement or would like more If you information please contact our Employer Liaison Consultant

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