

Executive Profile

Tim Burch

Project leader,
Bowa Builders
Inc.



The basics

Background: Burch, 44, a third-generation builder, has been in the home-remodeling industry for a quarter century. For two years, as lead project manager of “Extreme Make-over: Home Edition,” he oversaw 4,000 people who built houses within a week. Earlier this year, Burch left the reality show for real life, joining Bowa.

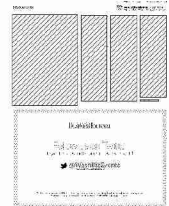
Education: Bachelor’s in design, James Madison University, project management certificate, DeVry Keller Graduate School of Business Management

First job: I started working on my father’s projects when I was 13.

Family: Wife Melanie; daughters Helene, 9, and Chloe 16; son Stratton 13; lives in Warrenton.

Business strategy

Best thing about “Extreme Makeover”: I experienced and saw anything you can imagine.



I put cars in houses, three-story slides in houses. When we would reveal the home to the families and seeing their faces.

Worst thing about “Extreme Makeover”: We were literally building the houses in five days. I did it 22 times. We were building a 12,000-square-foot dormitory for girls in Baltimore and had a hurricane, an earthquake. The roof blew off, all kinds of things happened. But we still have to stick to our time frame. The potential for things to go wrong is always there.

Next big goal: To really push out to the Fauquier area.

What are you like to work for? Very easygoing. But when I work, I work really hard. I’m not an in-your-face type of leader. I lead by example.

What do you always ask during job interviews? What do you do for the community where you live? It’s a good reflection on their characters.

Judgment calls

Most memorable project: A little child had a terminal disease in Utah. He really likes to play soccer, so we built an

indoor soccer field in his basement for the show. Seeing him come down that day and playing was just...

Biggest missed opportunity: I was offered to be the talent on shows and turned it down.

How do you recover from failure? Don’t lose your cool. Regardless of what was going on inside my head or if my heart was beating a million times a minute, there is always a way.

What would you change about your job? Educating clients on the construction process before we start. A lot of people have ideas of projects they want to do, but there are so many things that have to happen between that initial idea to when it’s done.

True confessions

Guilty pleasure: Extreme sports, mountaineering. I took a lot of risks when I was younger. I was climbing all over the U.S. and Alaska, 20,000 feet.

Funniest thing to happen on the set: Every job, I would have somebody fall into the concrete slabs that we poured and have a body print on the concrete.

Literally, every single job.

If you had \$1 million, you would: Do volunteer work. I’m on four boards. The Fishing School is near to my heart.

The favorite part of your house: The original part. My flooring is hard pine, built when literally the whole tree would be your floor. It’s 20 feet of spanned flooring, straight through with no breaks.

The one renovation you would do: My kids want a gigantic interactive sports play area, so probably that. A gymnasium-size area with climbing walls, tracks, basketball courts.

Personality in high school: The class clown.

Favorite book: “1861: The Civil War Awakening,” by Adam Goodheart. Anything to do with American history.

What would you do if not this? Be a superintendent at a national park.

What do most people not know about you? I play drums and played in a rock band up until three years ago.

Interview by Tong Zhang