

DESTINED FOR DESIGN

Allison Grafton followed her passion and made the leap from investment banker to the luxury home business, and it's paying off

ALLISON GRAFTON, PRESIDENT, ROCKWOOD CUSTOM HOMES

FEB. 14, 1968 >

Born in Vancouver. Her father is a pharmacist and her mother an accountant. They go on to be entrepreneurs



1974

Grafton's parents build a house in Cranbrook, B.C., which sparks Grafton's interest for design. "I wanted to design a great bedroom and help my mom." Frequent visits to her grandmother's sprawling mansion in the historic Vancouver neighbourhood of Shaughnessy are also an early inspiration

1975

Grafton's first job is in her father's drug store at age seven stocking merchandise and cleaning. By 10 she is running the register



1986

Graduates from Kelowna Senior Secondary. Meets her now husband, Kevin, a year later and they have three children: Benjamin, Joel and Abby



1991

Graduates from UBC. After graduation, she is accepted into a program with Harvard University to study in Nairobi. After two and a half months there, she suffers a serious brain aneurysm and is a five-day drive from the nearest hospital. "It was a life-changing, near death experience. My ambition and ability to deal with challenges comes from having the trust and confidence that I will get through it."

1993

After recovering, Grafton works as an account manager for a pharmaceutical company and is transferred from Vancouver to Calgary

"Calgary is resilient and I am so grateful to operate in a city with like-minded people."



1998

Transitions into the oil and gas industry as an investment banker

2007

Beginning in 1994, Grafton and her husband have now built and renovated more than 12 houses, a side project she is passionate about

2009

Her dream turns into reality with the creation of Rockwood Custom Homes with partner Grainger Nimmo. "I had the passion and the financial expertise to do it really well and compete."

"My parents were such incredible mentors on entrepreneurship."

GRAFTON WITH > HER BUSINESS PARTNER GRAINGER NIMMO IN FRONT OF THE ASPEN HEIGHTS DEVELOPMENT



2010

Rockwood constructs its first home from the ground up. "I had my hands in every single aspect: from the architecture right through to the last hardware selection."

2013

Rockwood wins an *Alberta Venture's* Contractor of the Year award

2015

Grafton wins the RBC Momentum Award, one of her proudest achievements

GRAFTON > ACCEPTING HER RBC MOMENTUM AWARD IN TORONTO



"I am very active with skiing, and water skiing in the summer with my family. Alberta has given that to us."

2015

Branches out into luxury multi-family developments



2016

Opens Rockwood Okanagan