

Hello to all you Sandcastle Homes fans. I am Jo Dunham and I am proud to be the first employee of Sandcastle Homes. I started with Sandcastle Homes 20 years ago. I was asked me to tell you a little bit about how things have changed in my time here. Wow! Where do I begin?

When I started at Sandcastle Homes, their contractor, Pete, was working on 909 and 911 Heights Blvd. I'm not sure if the people who walk by know the history of these 2 homes. We built some of the very first townhomes in the Houston Heights area and not everyone was excited to see this type of construction. In my 20 years of building for Sandcastle Homes, people's attitude towards townhome construction has changed and they are commonly accepted and continue to be a fast selling and widely shopped home style. Proudly, one of those first customers moved away from Houston, later transferred back and bought another home from us in the Heights area.

Before the year 2000, trades and contractors would come by the office to pick up lists, plans or general orders because most of them did not own a fax machine. I would reach out to trades on my Nextel to tell them they had "paperwork" to pick up. Sandcastle Homes did not have an office, so I would leave lists and plans for trades and contractors on site or they picked them up at my home when they dropped off invoices. In 2001 we remodeled 5115 Inker to be our first office (pictured below) and later in 2003 we built our office where we remain today.

Twenty years ago, I would not have believed you if you said the fax machine would become obsolete and be replaced by something called a scanner. I will never forget how resistant I was to using email. I thought Mike and Mike were crazy when they suggested I used email. For years, the only people who emailed me was Mike or Mike but today I email with most of my trades.

At the beginning of my career, no work was done without paper. Whether it was instructions I wrote out by hand or those horrible smelling blueprints, without paper nothing happened. Now at Sandcastle Homes, "paperwork" is a bad word as we have proudly moved to going paperless on as many things as possible.

There have been many more advances in the past 20 years from our wonderful website, business portals with certain companies, and great programs like Dropbox that keep everything accessible. How in the world did we do anything without a camera phone?!

I can tell you that what has not changed in 20 years is our attention to detail and our quality construction. When Mike and Mike hired me, I was in charge of Quality Assurance for a large home builder. They brought me onboard to build homes from the ground up having the same insistence on quality, step by step to completion. We pride ourselves in building a high-quality home at an affordable price and have done so for 25 years!

Congratulation Sandcastle Homes on 25 years! It takes everyone who works and Sandcastle Homes to deliver our quality homes and I could not ask for a better team!