

Brazil to Mt Wellington

Eduardo Fernandes represents four generations of joinery know-how

When you meet Eduardo it's instantly clear you're talking to someone who lives and breathes joinery. His energy is contagious and his stories stretch back to childhood in Brazil – long before he imagined running a thriving Auckland workshop.

Eduardo moved to New Zealand in 2008, lured by his brother's promise: "You can make good money in the building industry here." While not a qualified builder, he brought something equally valuable - a joinery pedigree spanning four generations. Both parents came from joinery families, so sawdust was practically in his DNA.

Some of Eduardo's earliest memories are from his grandfather's workshop. "I used to spend hours there after school and on weekends," he recalls. "We weren't allowed to touch the machines but when no one was around, one of my brothers would spin the bandsaw flywheel with his feet to get the blade moving - and I'd have a go at cutting something. We'd never turn the power on - getting caught would've been the end of us!"

It was a mischievous start, but it stuck - all four brothers became joiners. Eduardo's proud he can still show all ten fingers intact, not something all his relatives can claim.

After eight years in NZ building, Eduardo returned to his first love and founded Evolution Building Solutions Ltd in Mt Wellington. The business has grown steadily and now has a team of 12, including 5 qualified joiners. Space is tight, but the workshop is clean, organised and built around producing quality work.

Evolution specialise in high-end architectural joinery. "A good joiner can make anything out of



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wood. I learned the old-school ways, but I love bringing in new technology too.

Innovation is reflected in his line-up of modern classical machinery: a Felder K540S panel saw, D963 thicknesser, Format-4 planer and more recently, a Felder FW 950 classic wide belt sander.

The FW 950 classic has a 950mm working width with a combination sanding unit for calibration and fine sanding. "I've fallen in love with this machine," Eduardo admits. "I didn't even want to buy a sander but now I wouldn't be without it. We use it for veneer sanding, solid timber jobs, prepping MDF before painting - even calibrating veneer thickness. The belt adjusts to 0.1mm, and the oscillation feature gives a great finish and makes the belts last much longer than I thought they would."



Despite his affection for the Felder sander, Eduardo's favourite machine is his K540S panel saw. "The sliding table glides so smoothly I can move it with my fingertip, and the accuracy is precise. For the kind of work we do, accuracy is everything. I know every cut will be perfectly sized and square."

With four generations of joinery expertise and modern machinery, Evolution Building Solutions is proving that tradition and innovation can work hand in hand - creating a business built to thrive for years to come.

