

## This year, resolve to build something better

Written by Julie Desmond  
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Looking back on this day twelve months ago, what was different? What aspects of your life (career, family, home, finances, fitness level, spiritual depth, musical ability... you name it) are better now because of something specific you did during 2013? What's worse?

Fast forward to the end of 2014. What do you hope will be different? The best way to ensure that your personal remodel is satisfactory is to oversee the construction yourself. Don't wait for your ship to come in; if you want something better, build it. This year, resolve to be your own architect.

Things you can build: A house, a car, a sculpture, a family, friendships, career, bank account, roads, bridges, walls, teams, muscle mass, fatty deposits, spiritual understanding, websites, blogs, a following, a brand, a name for yourself...

During 2014, what will you build into your life to make the world around you a better place? What are the pieces you'll put together to create a foundation? How will you reinforce the framework so the end result will be strong and long lasting?

What are the finishing touches that will say to the world, "Here is something truly valuable? Look! I did this! This matters!"

Building something of quality can be challenging work. Every little pig who ever slapped a few sticks together knows what happens when a wolf shows up at the door. Better to take the time to plan for your own success. If you are thinking of building a better career for yourself, take time to think about what that journey needs to cover. What positions do you need to tackle or what education do you need to get where you want to go in your career? There are no shortcuts. Lay a strong foundation.

Reinforcement of your efforts can come from all corners. Ask friends and professionals for advice, whether or not you think you need it. If you are building a better career, look for ways to capitalize on new skills acquired and to achieve reasonable recognition for accomplishments. Keep layering on improved skills and relevant experience, even when you feel like you might be good enough.

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The difference between good architecture and great is in the details. How will you polish, hone, brush up and spitshine this thing you're building so it will be valuable and admirable long term? For example, if your better career involves increased income or responsibility, how will you use that to help others? What can you give back? What will you have to show for yourself when you've reached what you set out to accomplish?

Through careful planning and design, use of proper materials and consultation with experts who can help, you can build something better during 2014. What are you building?

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