

3 questions for....

Leen Amersfoort – stand builder

1. How long are you working for The Inside and in which function?

I started working for The Inside in 1998. I worked for 12 years at another big stand building company nearby but I wasn't happy there anymore. The company became too big and impersonal. So I started looking for something else and I found a little ad in the local newspaper: 'Wanted: stand builder'. I applied and was hired to work at the field service. But Michael Hermans [CEO and founder] soon realized I was much better in producing the stands at the work space. And that's where I've always been in charge. I put the whole work shop together and still look at it as 'my work space'. About 5 years ago though I noticed that, due to the growth of the organization, it became a bit too much for me to run the whole place. Fortunately I could hand it over to Michel Jansen [production manager]. But up until this day I check the supplies, pass on the orders and perform the maintenance of the machines. En from day one I clean and refill the coffee machines!

In 1998, there were six people working at The Inside: Michael and Jojanneke Hermans, two people who built the stands on site and a colleague and I who produced the stands in the work space.

2. In the past years, you witnessed The Inside grown into the company which it is today. What changed and what stayed the same?

Of course The Inside has grown a lot in the last years: from 6 persons in 1998 to 65 persons today. Nowadays there are working about 15 people in the work space! In the old days you did everything yourself and you knew exactly what was happening. Today you're missing more than half of the stuff that is going on. But that's only logic when a company is growing. And that's exactly what I've been working for all this years. When I started working here I promised myself to make sure this company would become a strong and blooming company. And I'm very proud of myself and of the whole company that it succeeded!

When a company grows, both the atmosphere and the work changes. At The Inside the atmosphere became a bit more relaxed. Before, when we were working with less people, there was always a bit of panic when someone became ill. Because that meant that all the others had to work even harder to fill the gap. Now, when someone is out of the running, the problem isn't as big as before. And with the use of freelancers we became even more flexible.



3. Which particular moment do you still remember?

It isn't a specific moment but when I think back at the past 18 years the first thing that comes to mind is working together with Michael. This cooperation between us worked very well and was very relaxed. Michael visited the work shop at least a few times a day to see how everything was going. And when we had the time, we went fishing together!

Michael is always been a good support to me. We even held a kind of competition in the beginning about who came in the first and left the last. There were more than a few times we had to say to each other (at midnight) to go home! Only to grab a sandwich and return to The Inside as soon as possible. Those are precious memories to me!