

JENNIFER MITCHELL

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**I am a South African citizen married to a British citizen,
planning to immigrate to the United Kingdom in June / July 2011.**

GARDEN DESIGNER

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I would like to become a successful garden designer, living and working in the United Kingdom. I plan to gain experience in the horticulture industry by working for a garden design company, landscaper, plant nursery or garden center.

I have always been interested in urban greening, which I focused on when I was studying for my **Bachelor of Architectural Studies Degree (BAS) at the University of the Witwatersrand**, which I received in 2007. One of my designs, a conceptual high-rise tower that used vertical planting to achieve passive climate control, earned me a trip to Shanghai when I was **selected to participate in the student poster competition for the Holcim Forum for Sustainable Construction**, April 2007. Poster available on request.

While in the UK from July 2008 to November 2008, I visited significant horticultural / garden projects, such as **Kew Gardens, the Eden Project, Hampton Court Gardens and the London Wetlands Centre, which inspired me to pursue a career in garden design.**

One of the main reasons I started studying garden design is because I became more interested in the "greening" aspect, than the "building" aspect. In 2009 I completed a **Correspondence Course in Garden Design** through The School of Garden Design (Principal: Lindsay Gray), **achieving a final mark of 94%**. Certificate and Final Assessment available on request. I am currently studying for my Royal Horticultural Society Level 2 Principles of Horticulture certificate.

In April 2010 my husband and I **started our own business, TWIST-LEAF Gardens and Metalwork cc**, in South Africa. Currently, I specialise in garden designs for small and unusual spaces. This includes small gardens, patios, balconies or indoor spaces. I mostly design gardens via E-Landscaping. My aim is to create original designs that not only please the client, but also support biodiversity. My interest in urban greening focuses on three key aspects **1) encouraging biodiversity 2) new ways of growing plants in unconventional spaces 3) the uses of plants for improving the environment.**

My **favourite books** include

'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' and 'The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul' by Douglas Adams
'Midworld' by Alan Dean Foster (a science fiction novel that describes the value of a symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature)
and too many plant and garden design books to mention here.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architectural Studies Degree
2004 – 2007
University of the Witwatersrand

Correspondence Course in Garden Design
2009
The School of Garden Design (Principal: Lindsay Gray)

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

SketchUp 7	Intermediate/Expert
PhotoShop CS2	Intermediate/Expert
OpenOffice Writer (and Microsoft Word)	Intermediate/Expert
Drafting by Hand	Intermediate

WORK EXPERIENCES

TWIST-LEAF Gardens and Metalwork cc **Self-Employed Garden Designer**
April 2010 - Present
Company profile available on request.

- Designing gardens (esp. postal planning).
- Producing rendered plans, planting diagrams and 3D views of my garden designs (SketchUp).
- Rendered planting into 3D views (SketchUp, PhotoShop).
- Producing plant lists and instructions (OpenOffice Writer).
- Site surveying.
- Site appraisal.
- General running of the business, including capturing of income and expenses.
- Advertising the business in various ways including designing adverts for magazines, designing business cards, advertising on the internet and designing displays for market stalls.
- Metalwork design: adapting design concepts into line drawings that can be reproduced in steel.

Marian College **Archery and Chess Coach**
2009 – Present
Referee available on request.

- Coaching primary school and high school archery.
- Coaching primary school chess.

ERA Architects cc **Draftsperson**
April 2007 – April 2008
Reference available on request.

- Preparing client presentation drawings, including 3D computer models (SketchUp; PhotoShop).
- Preparing working drawings of new and existing structures.
- Sourcing and ordering building materials.
- Liaising with clients, sub contractors and consultants (including the Engineer).
- Site supervision.

Albonico Sack Mzumara **Draftsperson**
Architects and Urban Designers cc
June 2005 – July 2005
Reference available on request.

- Preparing a 3D model (SketchUp) of existing buildings to be converted to a mixed use development.
 - Modelling the design development of the above project (SketchUp).
 - Preparing client presentation graphics of the above project (SketchUp).
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INTERESTS

Garden Design, Botany and Horticulture
Travelling around the UK
Science Fiction

REFERENCES

Referees available on request.