



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Spotlight on talent:

Emma Johnston

Senior Architect, Goom Landscapes

Emma Johnston is the first to admit she likes nothing more than being confronted with a challenge—the bigger the better!

The Goom Landscapes award winning Senior Landscape Architect is highly regarded for her problem solving skills, honed over a career which has seen her helping a broad spectrum of clients. From the vast grounds of a Cayman Islands resort to tight residential hill sites in Auckland, Emma thrives on finding innovative solutions, whatever the environment.

Emma worked overseas for a decade before returning to Auckland where she established her own design and construction company, so knows the detail of full delivery inside out. Returning to her hometown of Christchurch with her family, Emma joined Goom Landscapes as a Senior Landscape Architect in 2014 where she wanted to be part of a larger creative team again. Since then she has amassed an impressive array of awards, most recently two national Gold awards for Design and Build. But accolades are not the main motivator for Emma. What drives Emma is working closely with clients throughout the entire process. "I get enormous satisfaction from gaining an understanding of my clients exact aspirations for their outdoor space and then collaborating with them to bring this to life in a creative and functional way. I'm very hands on throughout, you'll often find me on site in my work boots overseeing construction of the project to ensure it is to the highest standard."

Pools, parks, courtyards, planting design, lifestyle blocks; all feature in Emma's impressive body of work. But it is the attention to detail which is a hallmark of her design, often including bespoke features.

Another big passion for Emma is the approach pioneered by Goom Landscapes of 'design to construction'. "Our process is transparent, and our clients remain aware of the costs throughout, so there are no surprises. It is so rewarding to complete the design and then with my team, make it a reality for my clients"



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A big challenge in any design project is to create a solution which assimilates and balances the needs and vision of the client with the expertise and creativity of the designer. For Emma, the key to this is taking time from the outset to get to know her clients, their lifestyle and what they dream of in their landscape. Every project is unique, as is every client.

A reverence for the outdoors and the environment is understandably a common focus in landscape architecture.

New products are always entering the market, many with a focus on sustainability. Emma has the technical expertise and knowledge to work across any medium but considers it vital to remain informed on new products and techniques in the industry. "I am continually looking for better methods and products which provide a superior result for my clients".

Emma thoroughly enjoys the process of meeting new clients and getting a sense of the potential of a site, but her biggest satisfaction is seeing the joy of her clients at the completion of the project. As one delighted client commented: "We really valued Emma's ability to listen and translate our vision into the stunning end result we enjoy today."



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