



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Spotlight on talent: Q&A with Jessica Staples

Senior Landscape Architect
Goom Landscapes

During her time at Goom, Jessica has received multiple awards for her designs including Landscape of the Year 2016/17, followed by a consistent run of Gold design honours every year since at the National Registered Master Landscaper Awards.

As a teen what started as a suggestion by her sister turned into a career in landscape architecture, seeing her leave home in Napier for Lincoln Uni. Before officially finishing her degree, she won a prestigious award from the International Federation of Landscape Architects which saw her representing Australasia in Korea over 2 weeks.

Upon her return, she drove straight to Queenstown to take up her first role as a Landscape Architect, where for 5 years she thrived working on resorts and high-end residential projects, getting an affinity for working with contours and resource consents. After becoming a registered LA, Hong Kong beckoned. What was intended as a 2 year stint became 8 as Jessica worked in multi-disciplinary architectural offices, travelling widely through China, India, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and South East Asia managing large scale residential and city planning projects. With one eye on travel and returning home, her final project involved working alongside teams for The Louvre and Guggenheim Museums in Abu Dhabi as the design lead for the public realm of the renowned Cultural District Precinct at Saadiyat Island in the Persian Gulf. Once back in NZ work opportunities were going to be either in Auckland or post-earthquake Christchurch. Jessica chose Christchurch – she says it was an easy choice.

What is it about Gooms that keeps you going strong after 7 years in the team?

I love developing site-specific creative ideas, but they don't mean much if no one knows how to build them, I'm all about getting designs on the ground. We have such a wealth of skill and knowledge in our team

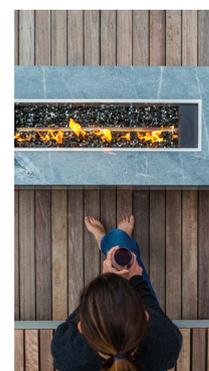


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that they always seem to be able to make my vision a reality. I'm lucky our team love a good challenge and that my clients enjoy taking that ride with us.

What do you focus on in your own garden?

My garden is postage stamp small so every part of it is precious – this means I like things to serve multiple functions. Pleached hedges to afford me layers of textures in a tight space. Feijoas screen and provide fruit. Rhubarb, chard, mizuna, artichokes and even cabbages give great foliage and I get to eat them too. I love a productive garden which also looks good.



Any other takeaway tips?

- Landscape – the sooner the better. Get a plan in place, early - people get excited about the built house and by the time they come to thinking about the landscape there's nothing left in the budget. Invest in a landscape plan early on so at least you're thinking about the full picture. You can always stage things and this way you won't lose out on future opportunities.
- Don't underestimate how much hardscape is involved in landscaping – it's as much about the hard as it is about the green. Getting the hardscape right is the first step as it sets up the structure for your softscape. Walls, paving, structures are much harder to remedy if you get them wrong.

Jessica is always thrilled to focus her exceptional creative talents and design wizardry on helping you realise your landscaping vision.

Call Jessica at Goom Landscapes to discuss your landscaping needs.

The champions of landscape design & build.

7 GOLD AWARDS - 2019



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