

# CHRISTA OTTO

COTTONTREE DEISGN

Address: 24 River road Woodmead x 4  
Mobile: 072 089 2311  
Email: christa.otto@cottontree.co  
ID 8005150091081  
South African Married Female

## BACKGROUND

### Tertiary Education

- BL (Hons) – University of Pretoria – 2008
- BSc LArch - University of Pretoria - 2003

### Leadership & Awards

- COTTONTREE Landscape Architects founding partner: 2013 – current
- ILASA award for Uthando playscape
- SAPOA: Flamingo mall part of team for Nevada
- Newtown Landscape Architects Associate: 2008 - 2012
- Urban Gardens: Young designer of the year UK Special recognition 2005
- Served on various student leadership bodies while at school and University residence.

### Industry involvement & memberships

- SACLAP (South African Council for the Landscape Architecture Profession) Professional Landscape Architect SACLAP 20224, member since 2004
- ILASA (Institute for Landscape Architects of SA) member since 2000 and CPD allocation: 2015 - current
- SALI (South African Landscapers Institute) Regional judge: 2016 - current
- IERM (Institute for Environmental and Recreational Management [www.ierm.org.za](http://www.ierm.org.za)) – speaker 2017
- Institute of Landscape Architects South Africa member 2004-present
- Urban Green File – contributing and specialist writer: 2012 to 2015
- Concrete Manufacturer's Association: Awards judge: 2008
- Royal Horticultural Society member: 2004-2005

### Short courses / Academic

- SAGIC invasive species training
- OHS Act workshop series
- Contract law workshop series
- Permeable paving programme
- Extended Public Works Programme NQF7



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

October 2013 - current

COTTONTREE  
LANDSCAPES

Johannesburg



### Founder & owner

- Landscape Architect consultancy focused on providing efficient landscape solutions tailored to the client's specific needs. Client list includes private and public companies, with recreational, commercial or residential design work.
- Projects included small airport, retail parks, school play areas and retail.

### Roles and responsibilities:

- All work stages as per SACLAP from concept to supervision and closeout
- Maintenance contracts and audits

### Projects included:

- **Uthando** playscape for Afrika Tikkun. We collaborated with Orlando to work with the kids and teachers in workshops and incorporate the values of AT into the educational playscape. \*this project won an ILASA commendation.
- **Flamingo mall:** 10 000m2 lifestyle shopping centre with evergreen planting and climbers along the facades. \*this project won a SAPOA award 2019
- **Cornubia mall:** 85 000m2 new mall in Durban for Investec properties, worked closely with the architects (BAI) to develop the landscape storyline and then appointed to do details and site supervision. Intensive indigenous planting of over a 1ha, around an iconic fig tree and seamlessly blending into the surrounds. All the planting is indigenous expect for a line of feature Royal palms to create a strong visual axis and bring the buildings to human scale.
- **Lakeside park and family restaurant:** park next to Flamingo dam with integrated play areas for toddlers and bigger kids. The park will have more than 200 new or transplanted trees
- **Café Beaunissimo:** old Dynamite café with a library and orchards nested in veggie gardens and lavender lanes.
- **Schools and play areas: Katlehong:** design and tender play areas and urban planting. Abram Hlope school, under construction.
- **Mthatha Airport:** revamping of the airport included the new car hires, parking areas and access roads.
- **Ibika clinic:** Sketch plans and planting plans for a new clinic in KZN
- **Opti baby school:** new school and 4 play areas and parking close to Eagle Canyon golf course. The landscape areas had to be completed on a very tight budget and time frame.
- **Gamagara 4 parks development:** Welgelegen, Dibeng, Olifantsfontein and Dietlounge park – sketch plans and Landscape development plans with Plant palettes and play equipment details. Open Space Management plan for two of the parks.
- **Sun1 hotel Southgate:** hotel revamp, new entrance and parking area as well as road servitude pathway and planting
- Various house gardens including Waterfall estate, Southdowns, Kimberley, Cornwall hill, and Eye of Africa estate.



**UNISA**  
Johannesburg

*January 2014 - 2016*

**External examiner and tutorial resources content writer:**

- Environmental sciences: subjects include landscape maintenance, garden design and Landscape installation and construction and Site planning.
- Science foundation: tutorial resources content writer for curriculum.

**Brook Patrick  
publications**  
Johannesburg

*June 2012 – February 2015*

**Feature stories - freelance journalist:**

- Extensive research on feature stories on industry related topics.
- Topics included Urban planning; Environmental and landscape work
- Publications include *Urban Green File*, *Building Africa*, *Journal for Facilities management* and *Water Sewage and Effluent*.



**Company background:** NLA is a large established firm in SA since 1994, with projects that range from environmental to design and urban work. Member of Green building council SA. Clients include Johannesburg City Parks; Johannesburg Property Company and Freedom Park Trust; Investec Properties and Johannesburg Development Agency.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

- Management of large projects including all 6 SACLAP stages (from Inception to Close out) and Fee proposal and administration/management of project.
- Part of urban design team, compiling design codes for future pockets.
- Audit and conducted inspections monthly and managed renewal of different contracts and scope of works.
- Supervise tender procedure; adjudication and appointment of landscape contractor; as well as issuing of Payment Certificates.
- Environmental work includes Basic assessments; Environmental management plans and Environmental impact assessment
- Tenders and database registrations

**Projects included:**

- **Ekurhuleni BRT:** part of the environmental team that handled the public participation process, manage the specialist studies.
- **BARA Central:** an urban upgrade in the heart of Soweto behind the Bara Transport Square for JPC including a large feature park; urban Open Square and landscaped streets with EMP (latest landscape budget R7.8million).
- **Greater Ellis Park Precinct:** Redevelopment and upgrade of all streets and nodes along and around the Ellis Park Stadium: this was completed under strict deadlines to be completed before the Confederation Cup 2009 (Johannesburg)
- **Dhlamini Regional Park:** Feature park for JCP (2010 funding) along Klipspruit wetland with facilities including feature play equipment as well as custom made steel structures; sport equipment; rehabilitation (Soweto).
- **Ridgeside Precincts Urban Design:** Development consisting of four different precincts (R118 million) for Tongaat Hughletts with parks; open spaces; forest; residential and mixed-use areas (Umhlanga).
- **Wilgeheuwel Extreme Park:** Flagship project for Johannesburg City Parks: 1ha Park with a water feature; play areas; planting and furniture that were implemented in 24 hours (Johannesburg).
- **Heckroodt Circle Meadowlands Township:** Urban design and master plan for commercial and mixed-use area (Soweto).
- **#1Sandton Drive Office:** Large 3 phase office block for Investec Properties. Involved in the initial phase and the post contract upgrade (Johannesburg).
- **Pecanwood Golf Estate:** Golf course and estate with future proposals; development and landscape rejuvenation programme (Hartepeespoort Dam).
- **Freedom Park Operational, Environmental and Maintenance Audits:** Phase 1 and Intermediate phase operational and environmental implications and improvement plan; and Phase 2 contract administration currently on site (Pretoria).
- **Mpumalanga Government Offices Complex:** Feature building complex with detailed landscape (Nelspruit).
- **Riverside Lifestyle Complex:** retail development with four phases along main road - design; cost estimates; tenders; adjudication and implementation (Nelspruit).
- **Mapetla Wetland Park:** Large park along spruit with Environmental implications; community facilities and play areas (Soweto).
- **Riverside Business Improvement District:** Improvement and development of Business district along main roads in town, including existing and future developments and project future operations (Nelspruit).
- **St John's College New Teaching Block:** Proposed new Teaching block at private school in Houghton with courtyard (Johannesburg).



**Landscape Town and Country Ltd.** *August 2004 – September 2005*  
United Kingdom  
**Company background:** LTC is an established firm in the new town Milton Keynes – a team of chartered landscape architects, with associated professionals including ecologists, planners, architects, graphic designers and project managers. Clients include English Partnerships; Lego-land Windsor and development corporations like Davis Langdon.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

- Design and working drawings of various projects
- Tender adverts and documentation
- Visual impact assessments: Assessed visual character using both desk study and field study; evaluated photos and proposed plans to understand proposal and the possible visual and character impact on the land, proposed mitigation measures and possible solutions to minimize impact.
- Calculated existing landscape character and established ecology in the area to be developed. Surveyed tree species and patterns in the forest.

**Projects included:**

- **Harlington Mill Visual Impact Assessment:** assessment for a development in the countryside with recommended mitigation measures and detailed report (North UK).
- **Milton Keynes Northern Expansion:** Development of four precincts toward the north of the new town for English Partnerships on site with existing forests; trails and water bodies (North UK).
- **Campbell Park Ecological Enhancement Programme:** existing park improvement plan to enhance ecological richness (Milton Keynes).
- **Lego-land, UK:** Theme park planning and detail design of expansions with creative team including planner; engineer and creative director Lego-land (Windsor).
- **Rehabilitation – Artificial Badger Sett:** As part of an environmental management plan the relocation of an existing badger sett had to be drawing up in close consultation with the badger specialist. (Milton Keynes).
- **St Peter's Pocket Park:** Mini Park on vacant land in a residential area of a 1950's industrial town as part of rejuvenation programme (Luton).
- **Timken Industrial Site Rehabilitation and Proposal:** Redundant industrial site to be developed into a housing and mixed-use precinct, including rehabilitation of damaged areas; visual screening and impact along boundaries and interface (North UK).

**Contract Assistant Landscape Architect** *January 2004 – July 2004*  
London

**Various:** short contracts in London and elsewhere included various assignments:

- Compile and draw up detail drawings.
- Planting palette research.
- Design and detail storage and interior of buildings.
- Detail design of house garden.

**Maarten Venter Landscape Architects** *August 2002 – October 2003*  
Pretoria

**Landscape Architect Assistant Internship:** Small established firm in Pretoria with Registered Landscape Architect. Projects included house gardens, office blocks and corporate areas. Internship and duties included the following:

- Design and drawing up of plan in digital format.
- Measure and compile plant list and bill of quantities with wholesaler rates.
- Ordering of plants from wholesaler
- Inspect and assist with implementation on site.

