

# Outlook



ASHLEY WARRINGTON IS A NEW ZEALAND LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, WHO HAS LIVED IN LONDON SINCE MAY 2006. THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF HIS JOB IN LONDON IS, HE SAYS, TO CHANGE THE WAY HIS CLIENTS VIEW THEIR GARDENS AS PLACES TO GO SOLELY WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING INTO SEEING THEIR DOMESTIC LANDSCAPES AS AN EXTENSION OF THEIR HOMES - GARDENS ARE THERE TO BE USED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, WARRINGTON RECKONS.

## ***What is your perfect day?***

My perfect day consists of relaxing outdoors, preferably by the sea, with good friends or family.

## ***How do you begin each morning?***

I like to get up early so I have time to brew a pot of coffee and read the paper before I go to the office and start my working day.

## ***What is your most hated chore?***

Cleaning the bathroom.

## ***What do you regard as the greatest indulgence?***

The curry house (Indian restaurant) opposite my house. Far too tempting.

## ***What do you most despise doing?***

Small talk.

## ***Where is your favourite place?***

The Coromandel is my favourite spot, but Stoke Newington (London), where I currently live, now comes a close second.

## ***Who do you most admire?***

Nelson Mandela; I think he is true inspiration.

## ***What do you most despise?***

Parking in London. A chore and too expensive.

## ***Where would you like to live?***

London for now, then I see myself returning to New Zealand and living on or near the west coast around Auckland.

## ***What do you most like to read?***

I love a wide range of design magazines and books about the obvious – gardens – to furniture and architecture. I love reading anything that can inspire me and push the boundaries of my own design. For general relaxation I enjoy Sebastian Faulks. The way he describes human emotion and relationships is incredible.

## ***Your favourite musician?***

This is a toughie. It all depends on my mood. Lately I have been listening to a lot of Nina Simone, Black Seeds, and the Kings of Leon.

## ***Where is the one place you most want to go?***

Japan fascinates me. The mix of eastern and western cultures is intriguing. I would love to learn more about Japanese gardens. Their approach to design seems a lot more holistic than in the west.

## ***What do you do when you are highly stressed?***

If I can, I like to get out of the bustle of London and get to the country side and breathe in the fresh air. If I can't get out of London, I just relax with my girlfriend.

## ***What's your favourite type of plant and why?***

Tropical plants are by far my favourite. There is such a huge variety of colour and texture, plus they tend to look good all year round.

## ***What is the plant you most loathe and why?***

Generally I would have to say roses, however, since I now live in the United Kingdom I have to use them, and slowly I have developed an understanding that there is a place for them in the garden. I used to loathe them as they represent the cottage garden that has never appealed to me.

## ***What do you most miss about landscaping in New Zealand?***

Firstly, it has to be the weather. And then I really miss the range of plants I could use when I worked in Auckland. The temperate climate of Auckland obviously allows for a far greater plant palette than I am able to use here in the United Kingdom.

## ***What do you enjoy about your job in the United Kingdom?***

As a designer I enjoyed the initial challenge of coming to terms with the change in scale of properties, and how to make the most of limited spaces. Now that I have designed a few landscapes here, I also like the range of materials that are available and affordable.

## ***The biggest challenge of your job in the United Kingdom?***

By far the biggest challenge is the limitation of access to gardens and how that effects what is feasible in a design. Nearly every property only has access through the house.

## ***Your most relaxing past time?***

A long weekend in Hahel with a group of close friends is incredibly relaxing.