

# Simone Bliss

INTERVIEW: Tanja Gallenmüller

Simone Bliss is the founder of Melbourne-based SBLA studio. After having her first child, she began to question the traditional rules of the workplace. Through SBLA she is testing an alternative model of practice. The team works flexibly, maintaining time for personal projects, teaching and raising families. They work together as peers in the core design team or as project collaborators. She also teaches at the University of Melbourne.

## 1 CAREER STARTING POINT?

In 2002, I began working at Taylor Cullity Lethlean part-time as their office manager. In 2004, I commenced my Bachelor of Design degree at RMIT University.

## 2 INFLUENCED BY

Perry Lethlean, Catherin Bull, Roberto Burle Marx (also the influence of my portrait) and Kathryn Gustafson; Isamu Noguchi, Patrick Dougherty and Pina Bausch; The Australian Bush and the craftsmanship of my Grandfather.

## 3 WHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

I believe we are fortunate to be involved in a profession that is malleable. We have the opportunity to influence environmental and social outcomes through public space. I love that the design hand is hidden and the project values are subtle and open to interpretation.

## 4 DESIGN PRINCIPLES?

Listen, learn and always respond to the site.

## 5 WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL FOCUS?

Playfulness for all ages and sensory landscapes.

## 6 FORMULA FOR SUCCESS?

A personal and open approach to projects, clients and collaboration.

## 7 WHERE WILL YOU BE IN 15 YEARS?

Working with many more creatives and scientists whilst exploring the world with my family.

## 8 OBSTACLES FOR THE PROFESSION?

Pinterest.



# Damian Schultz



Damian Schultz is a Director at TCL's (Taylor Cullity Leathlean) Adelaide studio. He has been with the firm since 1997, in both its Melbourne and Adelaide offices, and has managed numerous projects that have received both national and international design awards. Damian has high-level technical skills and particular experience in designing activated shared streets, infrastructure and transport corridors, water sensitive urban design...

## 1 CAREER STARTING POINT?

I was fortunate enough to start at TCL as a student in 1997 and I've never left!

## 2 INFLUENCED BY

The beautiful detailing of architecture and industrial design, environmental graphic design and illustration.

## 3 WHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Landscape evolves with time and it is rewarding to watch it mature. It enriches people's lives and contributes to improving the environmental performance of cities and their liveability.

## 4 DESIGN PRINCIPLES?

I believe in a strong foundation of site, climate and cultural influences, supplemented by narratives that are woven into built-form.

## 5 WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL FOCUS?

Projects that involve integrated environmental systems engineering with water and micro-climate initiatives, as well as projects that have a strong educational and cultural narrative.

## 6 A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS?

Good communication!

## 7 WHERE WILL YOU BE IN 15 YEARS?

I hope to still be an advocate for good design, responding to the challenges that concern the sustainability of the planet and people's wellbeing.

## 8 OBSTACLES FOR THE PROFESSION?

Addressing climate change in a meaningful way.