

From D1.14 (Chemistry lab) to Ministry of Green Ltd

Rebecca Mills, sustainability strategist and consultant, is the owner and director of Ministry of Green Limited (MOG). Rebecca's environmental consciousness started at a very early age, so her choice to study environmental science followed naturally. After graduation Rebecca did environmental impact assessments in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Working as a Principal of Sustainable Design and Construction for the Environment Agency and additional study of spatial design brought her to the current role in which she integrated science and design with business.



My interest in science and its usefulness in better understanding the world around us started at a very early age. My mother tells me that she frequently found me sitting under the dining room table, quietly and happily watching the comings, goings and social interactions of those around me.

Shortly after my 9th birthday Bob Geldof's 'Live Aid' had turned the attention of the world to the famine in Ethiopia. During the same month two explosions had also ripped through the hull of the 'Rainbow Warrior' nuclear free ship. I wanted to learn about global politics, nuclear testing, and, I didn't want to sleep in my warm comfortable bed when other kids in the world were hungry and cold. Apparently, I lasted about a week, sleeping without blankets on the green linoleum washhouse floor, before I thought better of it.

About a decade later I found myself enjoying studying Science at the University of Waikato. As far as science is concerned, I have always enjoyed all things micro, the small stuff. It was microbiology, biochemistry and chemistry for me. D1.14 Chem lab was my home as I laboured over my research thesis. After graduating in

1999 with my first class Masters in Environmental Science, I quickly became involved in undertaking environmental impact assessments in New Zealand and latterly in the United Kingdom.

It was a combination of both luck and hard work that led to my employment as Principal of Sustainable Design and Construction for the Environment Agency. A position that allowed me to work on some of the largest regeneration projects in Europe. In order to persuade lead architects' and developers to integrate sustainable design into their plans I chose to study spatial design at London's Central Saint Martins. I now see sustainable design as a problem-solving process allowing

us to look for synergies and ways to limit our impact whilst simply do more with less.

I find it intriguing that many scientists I meet are wonderfully creative individuals; an astounding number are brilliant musicians and artists. I also like to harness both analytical and creative thinking in the work I do with Ministry of Green Ltd, seeking integrated solutions for the creation of sustainable cities, developments, businesses, and homes.

I believe that scientists can be brilliant in business too. It takes level-headed thinking and determination to start out in business; two attributes that all of the scientists I know have in bucket loads.

Ministry of Green Limited — MOG is an expert, knowledgeable, and leading edge sustainability consultancy. MOG crafts solutions for sustainable cities, developments, businesses and homes.

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