# **Sophie Ellison**

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**FEB—MAY 2015** 

# Advanced Landscape Design Course, Denver, USA

I spent 4 months in an intensive landscape design course at the Grow Haus in Denver. With a permacultural perspective, we worked through all the stages of landscape deisgn from the client interviews, conceptual, detailed design and implementation. I worked to design Bhutanese refugee housing and a surrounding sustainable community.



**SEP 2014** 

# Artisano Plasters, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Working to plaster a straw bale house, designed by Brian Fuentes, I learnt the ins and outs of clay and lime plaster mixes. This was a short but extremely valuable piece of experience.

AUG 2013-2015

# Master's of Architecture, University of Colorado, Denver, USA

**JUNE 2013** 

### Paja Construction, Manzano, New Mexico, USA

Building the roof, trusses and walls for a straw bale house in the mountains of Monzano. The house will be passive solar, have two large cisterns to collect the rainwater, earth plasters and two vega porches on the north and west sides of the house. Total square footage: 2000.



**MAY 2013** 

#### Kevin McCabe, Devon, UK

Volunteering on the build of an enormous 3-storey cob house. Building includes cob columns, sloping green roof, spiral staircase, green house and a 12-sector spiraling design for the main building.

**MAY 2013** 

# Straw Bale Building Course, Canterbury, UK

A two-day workshop to build a straw bale room—including the history of straw bale building, building regulations, planning issues, head and sole ladder construction, resizing bales, trimming, openings, loading and compression, preparation for plastering and building of walls.



**MAR 2013** 

# Lyons Permaculture Design Certification Course, Colorado

An 82-hour intensive design project that uncovered ways to integrate a straw bale building (that I was currently designing) with it's site. Design elements included water -flow diagrams, circulation paths, zones of the entire site, sector maps, and the ultimate house design.

JAN-JUL 2013

### Ewers Architecture, Golden, Colorado

Designed a passive solar straw bale house on the Rocky Mountain slopes of Evergreen, Colorado. Using rammed-earth tyres for the retaining walls, straw bales around the North and Eastern faces of the house. A green house incorporated with full exposure to the Southern face. 2200 sq ft.



OCT—DEC 2012

#### Sourabh Phadke, Sundurupur, India

An earth and bamboo workshop in the leprosy colony of Sunderpur, India with students from Linz University, Austria. Working with the local community, we volunteered in the building of an earth and bamboo two-storey teacher's accommodation in the village.

#### **JUL-OCT 2012**

### Project Dehradun

A self-initiated community-driven project to design and build two classrooms for a school in Dehradun, India. Nanhi Dunya is an educational charity established in 1946 to educate children who can not afford the local schools. Designing a series of workhops with the children; engaging our senses, movements, and instincts, we enabled the design of two classrooms.



SEP 2009-2012

**Architectural Association** — Architecture BA Degree, London

SEP 2011—2012



# AA's 'Community Cluster'

Co-founded student-led forum for people interested in socially and environmentally responsible design. We ran a series of lectures, workshops and events to bring together the activities and research within the school, whilst reaching a wider audience through the AA's public program. The platform supports design/make projects (such as Project Dehradun), and also runs the AA's Article 25 Student Chapter. See: community.aaschool.ac.uk

SEP 2011-2012

# **Positive Dialogues**

A self-initiated project to create a community-driven approach to an existing large-scale redevlopment proposal in Soho, London. We held weekly workshops for one year

at a hand-made wooden market stall in Berwick Street Market. The stall was made entirely out of reclaimed floorboards. Our aim was to build up on local knowledge and re-think the process of design. Workshops included: re-drawing the Soho map, painting the senses, shadow storytelling and character painting. Initiating meetings with the community and the current developers, PMB Holdings. see: positivedialogues.aaschool.ac.uk



**SEP 2011** 





#### Koshirakura

A design and build workhop in Koshirakura, Japan to work together with the local community to create a a wood-fired oven with a timber roofing, serving and seating area. Learning from local joinery techniques, we built the entire roofing structure using different Japanese joints.

**AUG 2011** 

#### Tree of Light

A self initiated community-driven project, to create long-term recycling systems in Dahab, Sinai - the principle direction being to bring the children of the community to the forefront. In collaboration with National Park officials, local dive companies and local schools, dozens of beach and underwater cleanups were initiated, and still continue today. The Egyptian government has started to employ local beduins to clean-up the beaches daily and establish recycling bins all along the beaches of Sinai.



**JUL 2011** 





#### **Eco-Arc**

Voluneering in the build of a straw-bale house in the Negev desert, Israel, designed by Nava Beja, director of Eco-Arc. Organised through Woofing. Materials used: Clay, sand, straw, timber, stone and lime.

John Pawson Architects - Architectural Assistant, London **JAN - MAY 2009** Skills acquired: Vector Works, Sketch-Up, Model Making, Sketching **SEP 2008 -**Aedas Architects - Architectural Assistant, London **JAN 2009** Skills acquired: Autocad, Rhino Leeds University - Fine Art BA Certificate, England SEP 2007 - 2008 Specialising in Painting Premier, HR Administrator, London. **MAY - JUL 2007** Skills acquired: Microsoft Excel Nanhi Dunya school, teaching english, music and art for the educational charity in **JAN - MAR 2007** Dehradun, India Academia de Giglio, Fine Art Drawing Course, Florence, Italy **SEP - DEC 2006** 

SEP 2004 - 2006

Westminster School, London, UK

A-Level Resu	lts	A-S Results	
Maths	Α	History of Art	A
Fine Art	Α	Music	Α
Geography	Α		

SEP 1999 - 2004

Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace, London, UK

GCSE Results			
Music	A*	English Literature	A*
Art & Design	A*	English Language	A*
Maths	A*	Science (Double)	A*
Geography	A*	French	A*
0 1 7		Religious Studies	A*

SEP 1992 - 1999

Broomwood Hall School, London, UK

# Other Qualifications and Skills

**Music:** Associated Board; Grade 8 Piano, Trinity; Grade 8 Descant Recorder, Winner of the Young Musicians of the Year Award, London 2003

**Drama:** Guildhall Speech and Drama; Grade 2

Outdoor Activities: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Advanced Open Water Diving Qualification.

Software: Good knowledge of: Revit, Autocad, Rhino, VectorWorks, Photoshop, Illustrator, In-Design, Microsoft Office.