

design insight

MEET THE DESIGN LEADERS WHO'VE BEEN SELECTED TO MENTOR THE STUDENTS IN THIS YEAR'S *HOUSE AND LEISURE* GREEN DESIGNERS AT WOOLWORTHS COMPETITION

From Prince Albert to Pretoria, the cream of the local design scene have agreed to mentor students from six tertiary design centres around the country. With a focus on the creation of innovative sustainable design, this year the 10 finalists will be challenged to take their prototypes one step further, from a dream to reality, by sourcing manufacturers who would be able to turn their designs into products and bring them to the Woolworths consumer.

Production: Megan Borchers, Michael Baretta, Photographs: Mark Cameron, Seppi Hochfellner, Chris Laurentz
Hair and make-up: Sylvie Hurford, Desiree de Goede/ Shine, Debra Hughes/ White Lotus

MELISSA KERKHOFF

OWNER OF LULA FABRICS
PORTFOLIO: **THROWS**
SURFACE DESIGN STUDENTS,
CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

Describe your work. I design screen-printed home textiles on natural fibres. Some are colourful and graphic and others are romantic, traditional and sophisticated. **How do you define style?** Your own taste and affinity for things, and how you put it together. **What do you have a passion for?** Nature, wide open spaces ... and the perfect male form! **The best advice you ever received?** My late grandfather, a great entrepreneur, used to say, 'Concentrate on your own four walls' ... don't worry about what others are doing. **What will be the next big trend in throws?** Anything handcrafted. Recycled offcut fabrics patchworked together into a mini quilt. **What are South Africa's design strengths?** Our rich heritage and recycling – look at township art and Heath Nash's fabulous lighting.

SALLY ARNOLD

OWNER OF KAROOSTAR INTERIORS
PORTFOLIO: **RUGS**
INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS, DESIGN
TIME SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN

Describe your work. I design handcrafted, bespoke products for private and corporate interiors, using silky mohair and comforting wool in beautiful colours and textures. **What do you have a passion for?** My family, natural beauty, dance. **Why are you involved in this competition?** I like helping to create design that's good for the soul, the environment and the purse. **Who is your own mentor?** There've been several but, when in doubt, Lisa and Felix, my design-savvy kids. **What will be the next big trend in rugs?** Reversible mohair, pure or combined with vegetable fibres, and organic, colour-fast dyes. **What are the challenges of planet-friendly design?** To use more recycled materials and produce fewer gadgets and packaging. **What first made you aware of sustainable design?** Growing up on a Karoo sheep farm, where we made most of what we needed. This was followed by living in urban Europe and seeing how much waste was generated. I now live in the Karoo again, in Prince Albert. ▶



WOOLWORTHS
the difference



**LISE BUTLER (RIGHT) AND
AMANDA HAUPT (LEFT)**

**OWNERS OF DESIGN TEAM
PORTFOLIO: SCATTER CUSHIONS
TEXTILE DESIGN STUDENTS,
TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

Describe your work. Unpretentious, locally inspired textiles with a global appeal (Lise). **Your lifestyle in three words?** Challenging, exciting, rewarding (Amanda). **Why are you involved in this competition?** We gained invaluable knowledge ourselves through industry-related projects while studying and believe it's appropriate now to offer inspiration and guidance from a professional point of view (Amanda). **Who is your own mentor?** Trial and error (Lise). **What are the challenges of planet-friendly design?** The often higher cost of environmentally sound products (Amanda). **What would you like to teach the students?** The art of balancing creativity and commercial viability (Lise). **What are your favourite green materials to design with?** We love all natural fibres (Amanda). **What made you first aware of designing with sustainability in mind?** Local decor and lifestyle magazines have played an enormous role in educating a wide audience (including us) about innovation within sustainable design (Lise).

RICHARD HART

**OWNER OF DISTURBANCE
PORTFOLIO: NOTEBOOKS
GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS,
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

What do you have a passion for? The ocean, art, beauty, music, adventure, my girls ... not necessarily in that order. **What will be the next big trend in notebooks?** I have no idea. Prescribing what should be undermines a designer's potential for doing something original. **What are the challenges of planet-friendly design?** It's difficult to trace a product back to its raw materials, but that's the responsibility we need to take. **How does the environment influence your outlook on design?** It's made me critical of overindulgent design – anything created to satisfy its designer's whims is usually a disaster. **What is South Africa's design strength?** I think there's a joy and an expressiveness in South African design that is unique. We just need to learn to believe in our own sense of style. **Who is doing the most for sustainable design?** Web designers. The web is pretty sustainable in terms of the environment. **Is there something you can't live without?** The possibility that tomorrow will be different. ▶





KATE CARLYLE

OWNER OF MUSTARDSEED & MOONSHINE
 PORTFOLIO: VASES
 VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN STUDENTS,
 STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

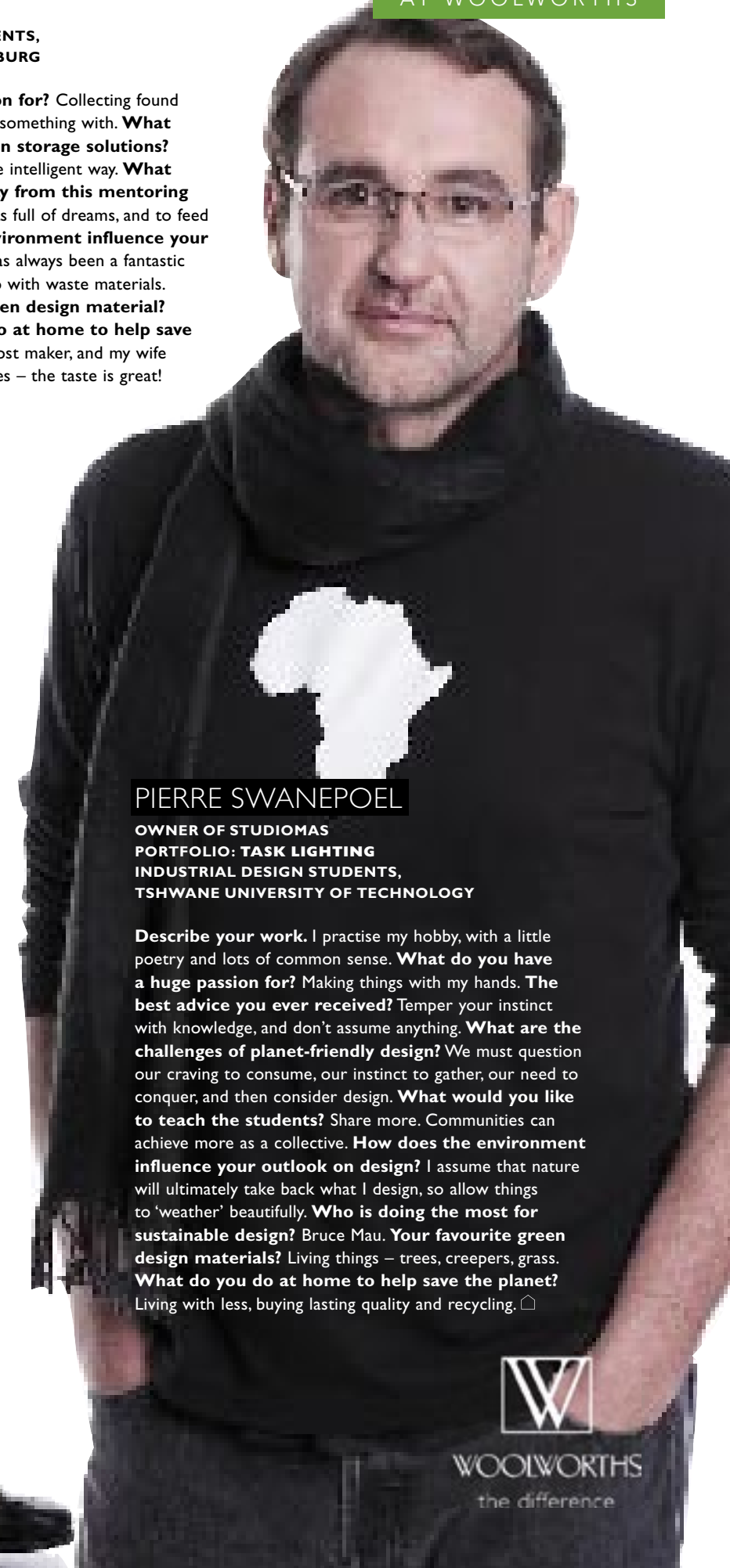
Describe your work. Botanically inspired ceramics that are functional, whimsical and collectable. **Why are you involved in this competition?** Because I'm excited to work with young, innovative, lateral thinkers who believe they can change the world ... and will do so. **The best advice you ever received?** Never take no for an answer; understand there's always a solution. **How does the environment influence your outlook on design?** How can you not be inspired by perfect design in nature? **What are your favourite green design materials?** Clay and fibre. **What do you do at home to help save the planet?** We take our newspapers to a friend's farm – she uses them to plant vegetable patches. We buy washing powder in bulk: the containers make great buckets and nests for chickens! And we bath by candlelight and moonlight. **How will design change in the future?** There'll be a movement away from mass-production, and a greater appreciation of limited-edition, beautifully handmade creations.



PHILIPPE BOUSQUET

JEWELLERY DESIGNER
 PORTFOLIO: STORAGE
 INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENTS,
 UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

What do you have a passion for? Collecting found objects, and anything I can do something with. **What will be the next big trend in storage solutions?** Back to cardboard – in a more intelligent way. **What would you like to take away from this mentoring experience?** To meet students full of dreams, and to feed mine too. **How does the environment influence your outlook on design?** Africa has always been a fantastic school for learning what to do with waste materials. **What is your favourite green design material?** Scrap metal. **What do you do at home to help save the planet?** We have a compost maker, and my wife grows our herbs and vegetables – the taste is great!



PIERRE SWANEPOEL

OWNER OF STUDIOMAS
 PORTFOLIO: TASK LIGHTING
 INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENTS,
 TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Describe your work. I practise my hobby, with a little poetry and lots of common sense. **What do you have a huge passion for?** Making things with my hands. **The best advice you ever received?** Temper your instinct with knowledge, and don't assume anything. **What are the challenges of planet-friendly design?** We must question our craving to consume, our instinct to gather, our need to conquer, and then consider design. **What would you like to teach the students?** Share more. Communities can achieve more as a collective. **How does the environment influence your outlook on design?** I assume that nature will ultimately take back what I design, so allow things to 'weather' beautifully. **Who is doing the most for sustainable design?** Bruce Mau. **Your favourite green design materials?** Living things – trees, creepers, grass. **What do you do at home to help save the planet?** Living with less, buying lasting quality and recycling. ☐



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 the difference