

# ceri ALMROTT, CV

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## Objectives

I aim to become a designer who creates meaningful, genuinely needed products which help people with their everyday lives. I wish to create products and systems which have a positive impact not only on society as a whole but also on the world in which they were created.

## Education

### MSc Design [grade target: distinction]

Currently I am undertaking my studies for my second degree at Teesside University. I was fortunate enough to join the University this year as it was voted *University of the Year* by T.H.E. (Times Higher Education). Following on from the work I produced for my undergraduate degree I have used this year to polish my skills before seeking employment. I have looked in depth at my design method as well as improving my understanding of issues relating to sustainability in design and product marketing. I believe that I am in a very strong position for a graduate in understanding the positioning of design within an organisation and how to make design fit a company's business plan. I successfully reached the Regional final for the Audi Design Foundations Sustain our Nation completion where I received favourable comments from the judges but was ultimately beaten to the National final by the team who went on to win the competition outright.

### Product Design (with Sandwich Year) BSc Hons [2:1]

- 1 Year working in industry
- One of a small number of students chosen to represent the University of Sussex at NewDesigners 2009
- Completion of a number of business management courses which taught human relation skills, personnel management skills, business management and business accounting
- Completion of a range of engineering courses focusing on mechanical and electrical engineering which covered the major laws of both disciplines as well as cost engineering, computer programming and developed material selection.
- Completion of a number of core design courses which focus on problem solving and user orientation. These courses taught focus on objective, specification and brief to fulfil a customer's individual needs and wishes.

## Experience

### Year In Industry (6 Aug 2007 - 29 Aug 2008)

#### Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Limited (Horsham, West Sussex)

This job had a wide range of roles which developed my design skills and my interpersonal skills. I worked within a support team of the Site Engineering Department managing a maintenance database which was used to plan and maintain critical equipment.

As well as this I undertook a varied range of graphic and spatial design projects. I also undertook a number of industrial design projects for the engineering department as well as projects for the Production and Research business Units. During my time at Novartis I designed a device in stainless steel for selecting the correct beakers for chemical experiments, a PTFE levelling spatula and a device for retrofitting a camera to a microscope test rig, I also designed a self adjusting sensor mount for the warehouse. The successful completion of these design tasks allowed me the opportunity to collaborate with designers within the inhalation device part of the company for my final year undergraduate project.

During this period I also managed the running of the engineering stores and put in to place a number of projects to improve the operation of the facility focusing on maintaining stock levels and improving the location of stock to reduce item recovery times. I was heavily involved in purchasing on a day to day level and on a non stock level. I negotiated savings on a wide range of products and met with outside company representatives.

The department also allowed me to undertake a number of project management roles, at one point I had a total budget of £75,000 for my projects. I believe that this was an impressive feat for a student who had only worked for the company for a few months.

### Sales Assistant (August 2006 - July 2007)

#### Field & Trek Brighton

Whilst working at Field and Trek I gained extensive knowledge of the stores product ranges as well as the technologies behind them. I consider myself a good salesman and enjoy the outdoors so found that working as a sales assistant in store allowed me to draw on my own personal interests and gain an understanding of a product market that was not covered in my degree studies. I enjoyed working with the customers and always strived to find the best product for their needs.

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## Sales Assistant (later in a supervisory role) (January 2005 – August 2006)

### Blacks, Horsham/Brighton

When I worked for the Outdoor Group many of the tasks I performed were similar to the ones I carried out at Field and Trek. Working within a larger company meant that I had more opportunity to negotiate with other branches of the organisation as well as external suppliers. Whilst at the Outdoor group I organised product transfers to and from the store I was working in, the warehouse and other stores, supervised the ordering of products from the warehouse and suppliers as well as dealing with product returns and repairs with head office and manufacturers. During this time I was based in two stores but worked at 5 different stores in total.

## Playscheme Leader (casual contract 2003 – 2006)

### Horsham

Working summers and Easters at a playscheme for children aged between five and eleven years on an estate within Horsham run by the District Council. Whilst working at the playscheme I learnt to deal with the children's needs and problems and how to manage groups of individuals of varying ages and interests with many different desires. I held a role with a large amount of freedom and responsibility and enjoyed the everyday challenges of the job.

## Skills

- The ability to work with a range of computer software packages most notably Computer Aided Design software most notably Solid works but I am also proficient in AutoCAD as well as ProEngineer and 3DS Max. I am also proficient in the use of photo imaging software such as Adobe Photoshop.
- I am fully comfortable with nearly the whole Adobe Suite, utilising Photoshop and InDesign on an almost daily basis. I can also use Illustrator, Dreamweaver and Premiere to a good degree.
- I am able to sketch and render ideas on paper in a variety of mediums and can use such tools as visual hierarchy and perspective. I can also create scaled renderings and engineering drawings
- I have an understanding of the principles of TRIZ and a good understanding of mechanics, electronics and materials.
- I have developed the skills needed to work in a project management role including the negotiating of materials, components and services, the ability to produce and manage a project plan which includes the management of resources and labour.
- I have also managed people in both an office and retail environment

## Hobbies & Interests

- I enjoy the outdoors and try to get outside as much as possible. I enjoy mountaineering, kayaking and pot holing amongst other activities. I am currently participating in Mountain Leader Training with the BMC.
- I was a Scout Leader with an Explorer Unit and Scout Group for four years.
- At University I was on the board of the Brighton branch of Engineers Without Borders; a development charity working to get sustainable technology in to developing countries. I helped plan events, manage meetings and fundraise for the society.
- I am also interested in archery, kayaking and rugby.
- I have a keen interest in materials and new technology and enjoy experimenting with what can be done with them and where they can be utilised in the future.

## References

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