

Shaping the world we live and work in

By **JOSIE PURCELL**

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NEXT time you walk through the area you live, stop and take a good look at what you see. Chances are the places you live in were designed by a landscape architect.

I met managing director David Buurma and landscape architect Ivor Matthew of Mor Design Ltd, Falmouth, to find out what it takes to shape the world around us.

Ivor told me: "This profession covers a broad range of subjects relating to external spaces, whether it is urban or rural."

The role encompasses the design, planning, management and creation of areas such as woodlands, public buildings, public parks, regeneration projects, roads, motorways and housing estates.

One day you could be visualising a new cityscape, taking a site survey, writing reports, or project-managing a job.

An interest in geography and an eye for design is a good starting point when considering this career path.

Ivor added: "I have always been passionate about plants and had considered horticulture as a career."

"Landscape architecture gave me the opportunity to mix my design skills with my love of the environment."

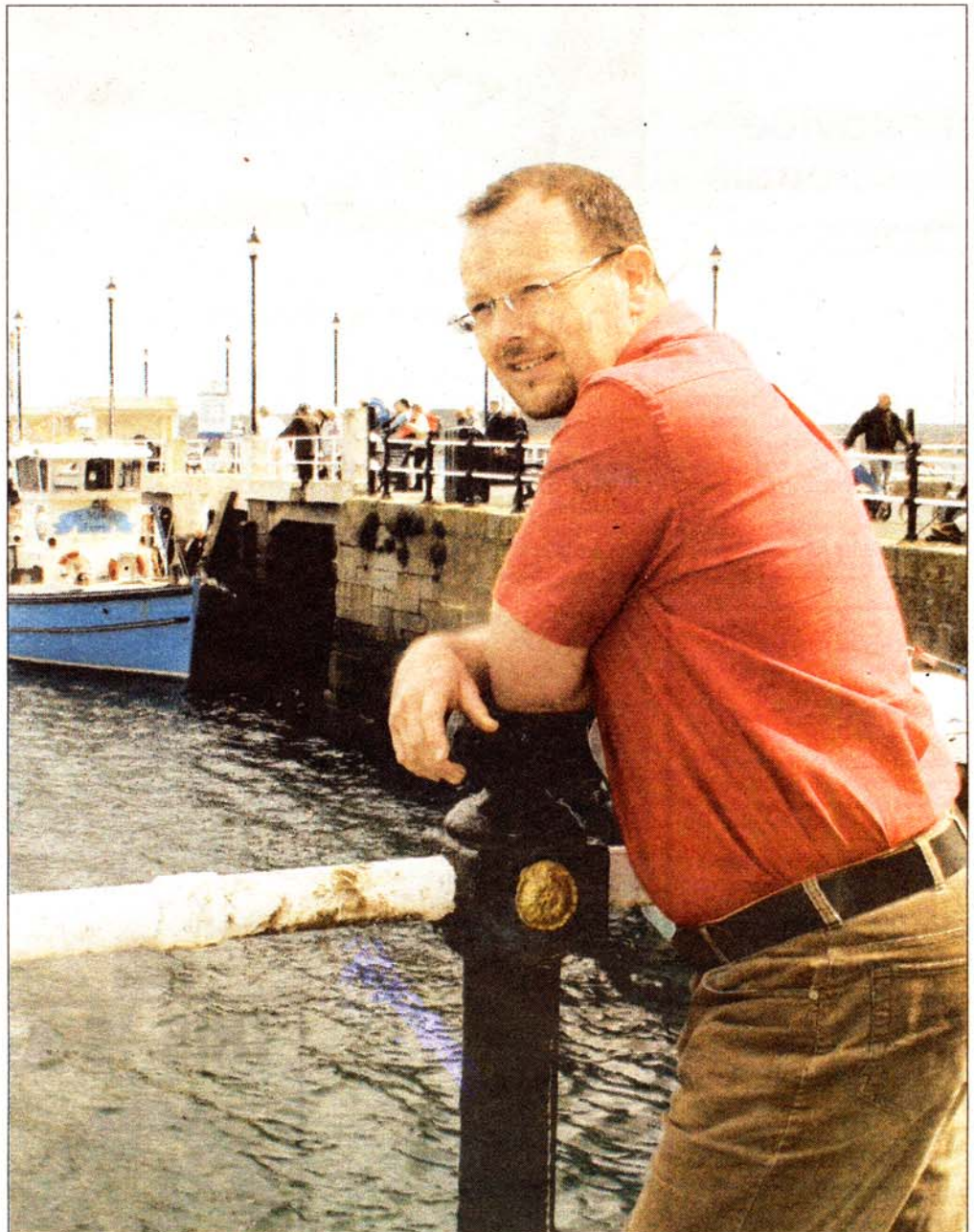
To find employment in this sector you will need to study for a degree in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Institute (LI).

Alternatively, you can take an accredited postgraduate course if you have a non-accredited degree in a subject such as architecture, horticulture or botany. Once you have graduated you will be eligible for associate membership of the LI and can work towards chartered membership.

To become chartered you will need to take the Pathway to Chartership training programme. You provide online submissions relating to your experiences, and you will be mentored by a fully-qualified member of the LI during this process, with a final oral examination. After seven years as a chartered landscape architect you could become a Fellow.

Employment can be found in a variety of sectors, including local authorities, corporations, government agencies, the construction industry or voluntary organisations.

Almost half of landscape



■ Ivor Matthew, landscape architect with MOR Design Ltd, at the Prince of Wales Pier, Falmouth – an area of the town the firm would like improve, with your help.

Picture: Josie Purcell.

architects work in private practice and this is what David did when he moved from Australia to Cornwall.

He said: "You need to be passionate about your surroundings and have a desire to innovate in the built environment." A landscape architect must have vision and an interest in social, cultural, economic and environmental issues, combined

with a feel for design.

Mor Design Ltd have worked on projects from Lemon Quay, Truro, to public art installations. They are holding a meeting, with Future Forums, on May 8, from 6 to 7pm, at the Prince of Wales Pier, Falmouth, to discuss how the area may be transformed into a vibrant communal space.

Go along to share your ideas – you could help to shape the

places around you.

Visit landscapeinstitute.org for more details on careers and where to study.

For information about the services provided by Mor Design Ltd, visit mor-design.co.uk or call 01326 211988.

If you love your community and want to influence the society in which you live, this could be the career for you.