

# Chris Tobias

## Professional Background

As the Founder and Lead Strategist at Forward, Chris has a passion for innovation and leadership. Originally heralding from Chicago, he's been active since 2003 around issues of sustainable development. His goal is to lead transformative change through the creation of innovative, forward-focused strategies, both in his professional and personal life.

Areas of expertise include design, communications, business development, project management, and systems thinking. He has spoken publicly on green building, permaculture, and green tourism, contributed to numerous publications and websites, as well as being a published author.

Current client work includes the editorial management of Celsias, a group of websites dedicated to social change and environmental issues, as well as ongoing project work for NZICA, Organic Explorer, and BRANZ amongst others. He is also a columnist for the award-winning Idealog magazine.

Outside of work, Chris mentors Nexus, the student sustainability group based at Auckland University. Nexus is responsible for hosting prominent thought leaders like Hunter Lovins, Michael Braungart, and Bill McKibben.



For more information visit:  
[www.forward.net.nz](http://www.forward.net.nz)  
[www.christobias.com](http://www.christobias.com)

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## Brief Curriculum Vitae

•**Career/Client Work:** Celsias, NZICA, Organic Explorer, Sustainable Business Network, Green Globe, Auckland City Council, BRANZ, and New Zealand's only CSR focused consultancy.



*Building on site with lightweight bamboo roof structure.*

•**Educational Background:** BFA Design, Harrington College of Design (USA) Certificate Permaculture Design, PINZ (NZ)

•**Skillset:** internet technology, applied earth building, living systems thinking, permaculture, product stewardship, green design, energy conservation, sustainable living, climate change and adaptation

•**Publications:** Blog editorial on Celsias and Forward Thinking, columnist for the award-winning Idealog magazine, contributor to Good Magazine, previous contributor to Tourism News, NZ Business Magazine, and published author of *Satellite Life*

•**Volunteer History:** Nexus, New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Trade Aid, ANewNZ, E-Waste Day, Greenfleet, SBN, Rotary International, Chicago Center for Green Technology, Foresight Design Initiative, and the City of Chicago

•**Cultural Experience:** US Citizen, New Zealand Resident with interest in travel and international issues; experience in 25+ countries