

# 'Sustainable self-expression' at Swordfern

 By [Ruth Cooper](#)

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Swordfern, a quirky little beauty salon run by quirky beauties, situated on the infamous Harrington Street, is already, at only a little over a year old, making a name for itself as a one-stop shop for hair and beauty treatments for those a little more alternative.

As their shop motto states 'We are a little different. If you are like us, you are a little different too'. Not only different in that edgy cookie monster coloured hairstyle way (although the team do boast a veritable kaleidoscope of rainbow coloured quiffs between them) but also in their eco-conscious and green practices. All products, from their skin-care range to their hair dyes, are organic and utilise the least amount of nasty chemicals possible.

"We think nature and hair should be treated the same: with respect and care. We promise to go the extra mile to ensure we are as kind to the Earth and our clients as possible." Swordfern



## New hair, do care

This respectful and caring ethos runs through the whole team, from Christelle the owner and scissor shearing magician (Edward Scissor Hands would be put to shame) to the bubble-gum pink-haired apprentice; I felt supremely well taken care of and attended to. Granted, it was an usually quiet afternoon for the salon, so for most of my time there I had full attention of all the seven staff members on duty. Offers of rooibos lemongrass tea to song requests abounded.

I had booked for a facial and highlight update, so was first ushered into their therapy room for a Rescue Hydrate Vitamin Facial given by beautician Cari. It was an hour-long facial, which exclusively used the [DermaFix](#) skin range, which is basically the local and much more affordable equivalent of Dermalogica. Cleanse, exfoliation (using an acid-based product rather than the more abrasive scrub variety), mask, massage and moisturise, as well as hand and foot massage, are included - all contributing to soft-and-dewy skin days after. Thumbs up all round for the beauty side of the salon.



## Damn, that's so ultra-fine

Next it was a discussion with colour specialist wiz Karen. We decided on a half head of ultra-fine honey-and-ash-coloured highlights to blend in with my natural mousy brown roots, allowing for a more natural outgrowth, because, as she rightly stated: "Who wants to be a slave to their colour?" Only [Organic Colour Systems](#) products are used: "A unique colouring system that uses the maximum of certified organic ingredients and the minimum of chemicals." So, no evil ammonia to turn your hair into straw scenario. A pet peeve of mine are highlights that look like highlights; however these were some of the most natural looking I have ever received - ultra-fine is ultra-fine!

Next it was up to the energetic Christelle to show off her superior snipping skills. Split ends eradicated and soft layers and deep side sweep created, it was a hairstyle to be proud of. I held it so the few feet from chair to door before that cursed Cape Town wind had its way with it.



Knowledgeable and passionate staff, quirky earthy décor, top-of-the-range organic products, a myriad hair and beauty treatments on offer - from hot-stone massages to manis and great music to boot (no Toni Braxton played here), all make this trendy little city salon a must visit for all your beauty needs.

*Swordfern is currently running two specials: book two DermaFix Skin Brightening facials and only pay for one or book five micro-needling sessions and receive your sixth free. To view all Swordfern's beauty and hair treatments, or to book an appointment, go to [swordfern.co.za](https://swordfern.co.za)*

## ABOUT RUTH COOPER

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