



Green Roofs and Walls

11/06/2019

Let's make London greener, healthier and wilder

London will be declared a national park city this year. With over 8mn trees, 1.5mn sq.m of green roofs, 24% of land covered by domestic gardens, and public green space valued in excess of £91bn this declaration comes as no surprise.

Greening benefits all Londoners

We still have a way to go in terms of greening the city. There is room for nature, but green space is all too often still considered as an after-thought to building design. We need to acknowledge the far-reaching benefits of green spaces for our physical and mental well-being. The GLA estimates that for every £1 invested in parks Londoners reap £27 in value.

Greening is a primary focus, not a secondary consideration

The new Urban Greening Factor tool helps developers evaluate and quantify the amount and quality of greening that a development provides against target scores for different types of development. This policy should increase greening by providing a simple mechanism to describe appropriate levels of green infrastructure in new developments.

Create green spaces that delight and surprise

Green roofs and walls should be visible, visually pleasing and enjoyed by the community. To create a green wall or roof which remains living and healthy for as much of the year consider solar panels to create shaded areas on rooftops, or blue roofs to channel excess water into nearby green rooves and walls.

Green roofs and walls can be simple

Living walls can be very unforgiving systems, plants often die, and this is usually owing to irrigation systems. Designing a self-managing irrigation system mitigates the risk of irrigation being turned off. For those seeking a low-fuss green wall; ground planted climbers avoids the need to complex irrigation, or hire a living wall that can be clipped on and removed as desired. The simplest means of creating a green space is to avoid removing existing nature. Allow moss and small plants to grow on the surfaces of your building to create a small, self-sustaining green space.

Speakers:

Samantha Davenport, GLA
Gary Grant, Green Infrastructure Consultancy
Chris Churchman, Churchman Thornhill Finch

Site Visit Guides:

Jack Skillen, London Bridge BID
Russell Hearsom, Biotechure
Joanna Rodgers, Barbican Resident

Attendees: 26