



Work to Live

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designer



Nature's Way

Utilising biophilic design to help a project bloom

INSPIRING
PROJECT
CREATIVITY

NATURE'S WAY

Biophilic design is becoming more and more embedded within interiors, as an appreciation of wellness and the tangible benefits of integrating nature become ever clearer

The Observatory at Warden London

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Wardian London, a residential-led development situated adjacent to Canary Wharf comprising two towers of 55 and 50-storeys, has launched The Observatory, a botanically-inspired sky bar and lounge for residents located on the 53rd floor.

One of the highest bars in London, The Observatory has floor-to-ceiling windows on three sides to flood the space with natural light and showcase panoramic views of the iconic London landscape. Featuring stylish and comfortable lounge and dining spaces, as well as a wrap-around balcony and fully equipped bar and kitchen, the resident-only hideout has been designed as a space to relax, work, eat and drink within an 'outside-in' ethos which underpins the development.

Developed by EcoWorld Ballymore and designed by Glenn Howells Architects, Wardian overlooks South Quay in London's Docklands. The Observatory at Wardian is inspired by exotic botanicals, integrating indoor and outdoor living, featuring tropical flowers, plants and trees from around the world, with an enclosed glass plant house entrance at its core.

Wardian contains 767 homes including suites, one- and two-bedroom apartments and penthouses. The towers house a grand lobby, 25-metre open air swimming pool, state-of-the-art gym and wellness facilities, with restaurant and retail outlets due to open this year.

Garnering inspiration from the Wardian glass case, used to transport tea plants across the globe, the scheme includes more than a hundred different species of exotic plants from across the world. With its own indoor and outdoor landscaping service tailored to fit residents' lifestyles, there are also seasonal plant packages and comprehensive garden maintenance available to to maximise the floral variety of each apartment. It also brings the exceptionally uncommon Wollemi pine as well as a collection of over 100 species of other succulents, rare plants, trees and flowers to public spaces across the development.

Wardian London / wardianlondon.com



When environmental charity ClientEarth relocated to a 10,405 sq ft office in London's Drayton Park, sustainability had to be at the core of the brief handed to office design specialists Peldon Rose. Sasha Jenner, Project Designer, Peldon Rose, said: "The standout objective was for the project to be as sustainable as possible, so that has been applied to every aspect of the design. As well as reusing existing furniture to avoid making unnecessary new purchases and saving on landfill, we selected recycled, reclaimed or reworked items.

"To ensure that employees feel connected to the charity's mission, artwork exhibiting the positive impact its work has is displayed throughout the office. We worked hard to bring the outside in through a sustainable design and as a result, staff are able to feel connected with nature."

The project took on a rustic feel and natural materials were utilised in conjunction with a biophilic design to deliver an environment that showcases the very best nature has to offer. The FCS certified, recycled plywood pallet boards used as panelling throughout the office create an eye-catching entrance that is then continued as you walk through the space.

The low VCO level paint selected by Peldon Rose and A+ rated environmentally efficient flooring meets the green seal standards. Additionally, by opting for motion activated LED lighting and energy efficient equipment, the space actively reduces energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

In the open plan woodland area near the entrance of the office, planting provides a natural canopy connecting staff with nature whilst undertaking their daily work. The 'bunker' provides a place for staff to gather thoughts and ideas, while the passageway through the reception and garden café are flooded with natural light.

The greenery and planting inside increases occupant connectivity to the natural surroundings while the courtyard area allows teams to spend more time outdoors which is proven to boost mood and productivity. The space features bee houses and bird feeders, encouraging teams to enjoy nature and wildlife.

Peldon Rose / peldonrose.com



A Scandi-inspired open plan garden room with Daval Mayfair furniture is part of a bespoke project by Daval and oak building specialists Paragon Oak. The two West Yorkshire companies collaborated to create a kitchen living space within an oak-framed building for a manor house property, instantly adding an extra dimension to the living and entertaining spaces available for family members and guests in the client's rural property.

The Mayfair kitchen in Talpa, a contemporary matt finish in taupe, complements the natural oak hues of the timber. Simon Bodsworth, Managing Director at Daval said: "We all really enjoyed working with Paragon Oak to install a made-to-measure kitchen to enhance indoor outdoor living for the client. We are very proud to partner with other experts in our vibrant local design community so that we can pool our knowledge and develop new concepts together. With an upsurge in investing in the home and garden predicted for 2022, the luxury kitchen market is willing and able to support property owners and developers who are keen to optimise their surroundings as home comforts continue to be of prime importance."

James Bodsworth, Design Director at Daval, added: "As sustainability is fast becoming a must-have element in all interior projects, we are proud that all our raw materials are sourced from reputable suppliers and that we have a closed-loop production system which minimises carbon emissions and waste products."

Daval / daval-furniture.co.uk





The scheme's extensive planting scheme included hanging glass globe terrariums



Felt-walled single-working booths from Buzzispace



The Terrace is demarcated along the building's circulation void by high-back booth seats from Icons of Denmark



For its second project for an Australian financial services group, workspace specialist Align was briefed to design 13,745 sq ft of new working, meeting, presentation and break-out space across 1.5 storeys at their client's City of London offices in order to meet a period of sustained growth and house three divisions of the company, totalling around 150-170 people.

The scope of work mostly covered the building's 8th floor, where general workspaces are located, along with a staff kitchen/pantry, a large presentation and townhall space (which can also be used for other purposes, eg yoga classes), five meeting rooms and a large breakout area with an indoor-outdoor feel ('The Terrace').

The client brief requested the use of glass to maximise natural light and the scheme features fire-rated glass for dividing walls wherever possible. As the more traditional working zones for the teams also require privacy and security for FCA compliance, privacy manifestations are used for some of the glazed partitions. Further light was created via white-painted ceilings, deliberately exposed, allowing for a generous 3m ceiling height – almost a metre more than the average office interior – whilst at the same time ensuring a less corporate feel.

From an energy perspective, the large elements of glazing pull in as much natural daylight as possible, with cellular spaces confined to inner core areas and the lighting scheme is entirely LED-driven, with suspended up and down-lighting to limit glare to work surfaces. Floor finishes, meanwhile, feature a high degree of recycled content, as do the slatted timber acoustic panels in the presentation space, made from off-cuts of Australian red cedar.

Workspace furniture includes sit-stand desks from Hayworth, along with a mixture of desks and seating by Naughtone, Orangebox and Brunner. Whilst the scheme created a suite of varied workplace environments for an agile workforce, each work zone also encompassed small meeting spaces and work areas, screened with combinations of furniture elements, hanging planting and open Abstracta frameworks, to create more intimate neighbourhoods within larger zones, along with jump-in jump-out phone booths to provide local quiet spaces.

A commitment to creating a biophilic environment meant an extensive planting strategy for the space too, creating a natural connection via externally-planted roof terraces, which also improve internal air quality and help mitigate the breakout of sound into the building's shared atrium space.

The feel of The Terrace area was to be homely, cosy and intimate. The manifestation on the folding glass wall linking it to the presentation space is a pointillist take on a field of bluebells, in a further biophilic-inspired element. Furniture here includes a row of bleachers, a form of mobile storage with the appearance of wooden trunks, whilst loose furniture includes striking red and blue hexagonal stools with white tables and green and ocean-blue chairs with angled backs.

"The Terrace is a communal space with major biophilic impetus and the planting strategy for it has had a very positive reception from staff," said Nigel Tresise, Align's Director and Co-founder. "Align worked together with Plant Plan to achieve this. Other planting includes a series of eight hanging terraria set within glass globes, which are visible from other parts of the office through the glass walls. There is also an indoor garden alongside two phone booths, a meeting table and chairs and shelves where awards the company has won are displayed, along with inverted sky plants by Boskke, used both within The Terrace and on the 9th floor."

Align / aligngb.com





Dolce Vita Tejo retail centre, Lisbon, Portugal

Retail Therapy

Jorge Beroiz, Principle at CallisonRTKL, explains how the practice integrates biophilic design principles into many of its retail space projects...

Our design decisions are based on a comprehensive study of the local climate and cultural values, which then inform our approach and material selection, using locally sourced natural materials where possible.

When it comes to using biophilia in our designs, it is far from a new concept. However, the realisation and application of its purpose – that interior spaces can promote health, productivity and well-being by bringing the outdoors inside – is still being explored and, since the pandemic, has become front of mind. Efforts to inject a little green into the built environment take many shapes and forms, whether those be in residential, hospitality, retail or office spaces.

Taking retail as an example, we know that shopping is a highly emotional experience, and the look and feel of a store has a tangible impact on shoppers. In order to design a stand-out shopping destination where people want to stay for long periods, such as a shopping mall, biophilia can bring a natural comfort. Designing spaces to include water features, trees and semi-open spaces with multiple view corridors can create an environment that delivers the kind of psychologically soothing and calming effects of nature that have been proven to draw shoppers into stores, lengthen dwell time and boost sales.

"Data from *The Economics of Biophilia* bear out the multitude of benefits that biophilic design can provide in the retail space; for instance, shoppers' perception of the value and quality of goods increases proportionately to the level of greenery and vegetation within a space. As such, they are more likely to accept higher prices. And don't forget – people like natural light as much as plants do. Stores with a high level of daylighting can realise significant profit margin boosts of 15-20%.



360 shopping mall, Kuwait

One of our favourite ways to integrate nature indoors is through 'the living wall,' a vertical garden that serves as a natural air purifier, removing VOCs and other harmful toxins while exhaling oxygen into the space as a by-product of photosynthesis. The vertical configuration allows for a higher volume of plantings within a smaller space. Take our 360 Mall's living wall in Kuwait that is composed of over 101 different species of plants, with each square metre of the wall hosting 33 individual plants. Living walls help to keep things cool through a process known as evapotranspiration. Studies show that green walls can reduce heat gain by up to 10°C, resulting in significant energy savings, reduced cooling costs and decreased electricity costs (up to 20%). Similarly, the living wall provides an extra layer of insulation, which helps to retain heat in colder temperatures.

One of the lesser-known benefits of living green walls is that they can reduce noise levels in buildings, similar to the way in which plants have been used worldwide to reduce noise along roads and highways. Vegetation naturally blocks high frequency sounds while the wall's supporting structure and mass help diminish low frequency sounds; together, each element reflects, refracts and absorbs acoustic energy.

This sense of biophilic design to keep shoppers happier and healthier with a sense of calm, also works the same way in our homes and in our workplaces.

While good for people, biophilia helps with the planet too, with usage of natural materials creating less emissions. At CRTKL we are designing climate positive and sustainable buildings that also provide memorable experiences, by amplifying the connection to nature and including elements that mimic the local landscape and we expect to see more of this over the next few years as buildings become more sustainable.

CallisonRTKL / callisonrtkl.com