





# 28 successful years in the GRP business

Based in Stockport Cheshire, Europlanters are the leading British manufacturer of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) planters and we are proud to announce 28 successful years in business.

Established in 1990 Europlanters has grown from strength to strength and our achievements of the last 28 years in the industry have been publicised worldwide.

Over the years we have worked especially hard to deliver consistently high quality products, constantly improving the factory to provide an even better, faster service to all our customers.

My passion for fibreglass began from making canoes as a child at Uppingham School. I started Europlanters as a sole trader in 1990 and even through continued global economic uncertainty, the team has grown into a company that now employs over 30 local people.

We are continually expanding our 20,000+ square feet production areas, offices and warehousing buildings. As part of our continued growth plan we have installed a new 24 square metre industrial spray booth with a baking facility to make the finish harder and more durable. In 2014 we manufactured our own fibreglass building in order to expand the existing office space and house additional sales and admin personnel.

The manufacturing workforce has also grown in line with the site; with additional management personnel, fulltime production staff and office staff supplementing the original team - some have been with the company for many years.

We collaborate with garden designers, landscapers, architects and gardening enthusiasts to create a variety of landscape schemes. We have had some challenging and exciting projects over the years and have thoroughly enjoyed working with all our clients to ensure their visions come to realisation, in line with budgets and time scales. In our Folio we can proudly reflect on some of the projects we have accomplished recently and thank those who have supported and driven the company forward into the future.

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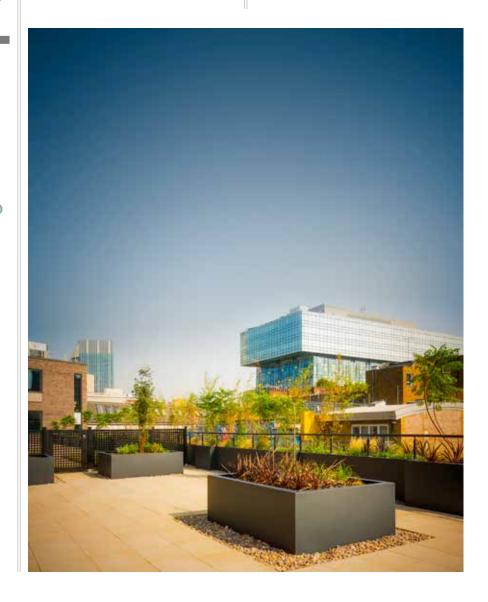
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# Merchant Square

#### Europlanters supply and install London's First Floating Pocket Park.

here are many beautiful parks in London, but this is the first and only one that floats.

Designed by Tony Woods director of Garden Club London, this exciting new park in Merchant Square Grand Union Canal, Paddington Basin has planning permission for 5 years.

Comprised of three separate islands, two of which are connected by a walkway, the park transforms an urban area into a stunning green space - a place for people to relax, unwind and enjoy.

The third and separate 12 by 3.3 metre pontoon is for wildlife use only, built to infuse nature into the area by encouraging wild fowl and other ground nesting birds to roost. This was accomplished with specific planting and adding a duck ramp to the side of the

pontoon. During the build of the park cormorants, swans, coots, wagtails, pike and a family of ducks with 11 ducklings all became very interested in the new project.

Complementing the award winning Fan Bridge and the Water Maze Fountain of Merchant Square - the 730 square metres of park brings another great feature to Paddington Basin. With capacity for 100 visitors at any one time, residents can enjoy free wifi, coffee and snacks from barges offering café style facilities.

The platform of the pontoon was constructed over a two week period using interlocking modules made from recycled plastic to make the base of the floating park. Under the guidance of a marine engineer, divers then added further modules in those areas that were to hold more weight, the pontoon was then anchored down to ensure it stayed in place.

The Europlanters team came on board at the end of March 2017 to start fitting almost 200 metres of fibre glass fenders to the pontoon.

This was not without its

This was

perhaps the

installation

and it didn't

challenges...

most demanding

we've ever done

come without its

challenges as the pontoon was continually moving and listing because of the uneven weight distribution at the start of the project. The planters were then installed and soil was used to level out

the platform. It was exceptionally difficult fitting the empty planters to an uneven surface at the start, but the beauty of fibre glass is that it's flexible when required.

It was all hands on deck when the soil arrived. There were two deliveries; the first was for 48 tonnes and

the second, 47 tonnes. These arrived via bags on a canal barge with a Hiab crane. Each bag was strategically placed on the pontoon to ensure the platform remained as level as possible during

> the unloading stage.

To continue to level out the pontoon after the weight of soil was distributed, a added more underneath the relevant areas.

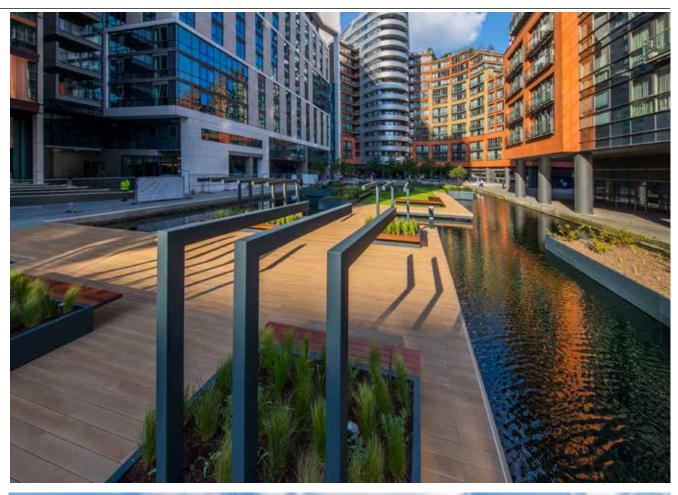
team of 5 divers plastic modules

'Health and Safety was very different to our usual site work' said John Wilkes Director of Europlanters 'On this project we needed to wear life jackets over our hi-viz vests and bump hats instead of our usual hard hats. All tools needed to be attached with lanyards to ensure that they didn't fall to the bottom of the canal'.











Europlanters installed 100 planters in RAL 7026 creating 214 square metres of planting space for trees and soft planting and fitted 58 metres of Sapele hardwood seats to create communal seating areas, all having stainless steel brackets and legs to support them. 18 sail supports were also fitted into some of the planters to create shaded areas for people to sit.

'During the installation we needed to ensure the environment was protected' said John, 'so a 110V vacuum cleaner was used to prevent any dust or fibres going into the canal whilst fitting'.

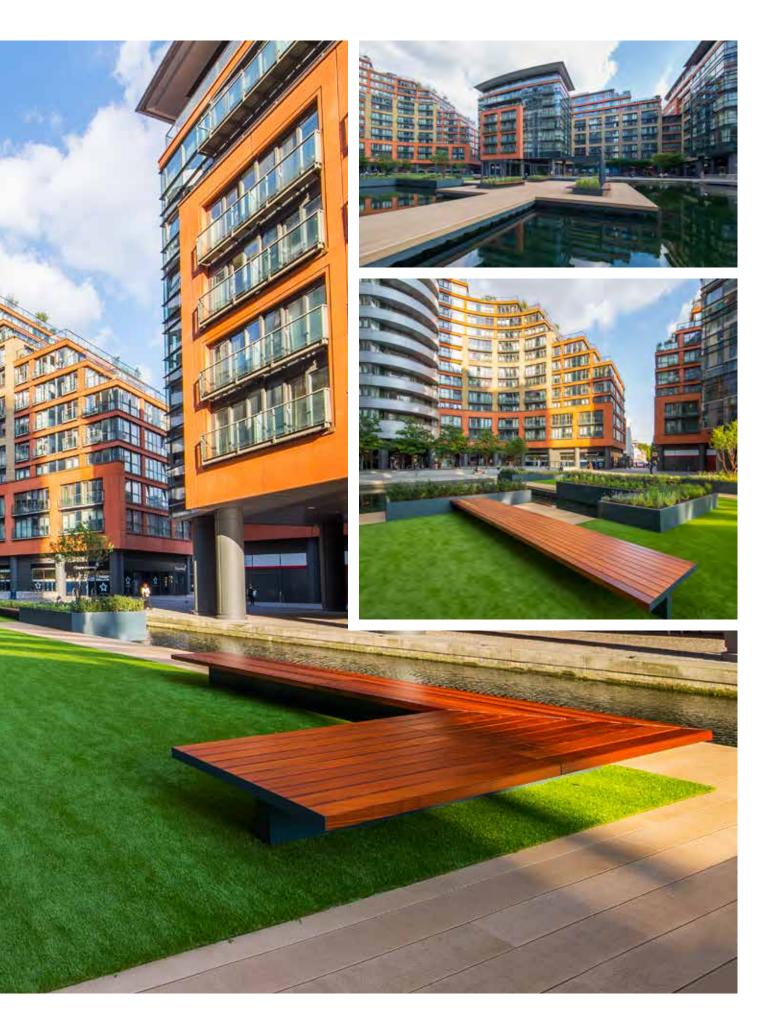
Multi-stemmed Tibetan Cherry trees were anchored down into the planters with guy wires and were surrounded by soft planting such as mixed grasses, lavender and alliums. The park also has a large of artificial lawned area.

'This was perhaps the most demanding installation we've ever done and it didn't come without its challenges, but it was by far one of the most exciting projects we have been involved with' said Julie Wilkes Director of Europlanters.

The park is available to hire, some of the more recent events have included workout and fitness campaigns, candle light yoga, gin tasting and listening to acoustic artists.

The park was opened in May 2017 as part of the Chelsea fringe. 🗇









Does your rooftop need to lose weight?

Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) planters are ideal for roof tops with limited weight capacity as, even though extremely durable, they are exceptionally lightweight for their size.

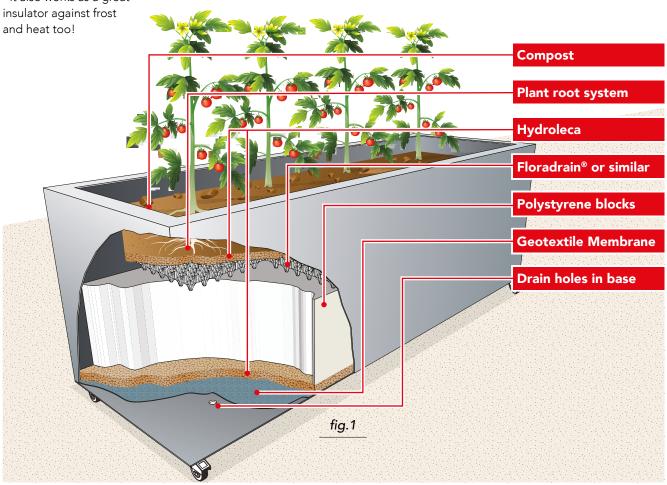
Obviously it is not just the weight of the planters that needs to be taken into consideration when planning a scheme, but their contents too.

Below (fig. 1) shows a simple cost effective way, using polystyrene, to reduce the weight in your planter - it also works as a great

However, it is important to ensure that a small amount of drainage medium is placed at the bottom of the planter before placing any polystyrene, this stops the polystyrene from sealing any drainage holes in the base of the planter.

#### How many litres will a planter hold?

Calculate the volume of your trough in cubic metres by multiplying the Length x the Width x the Height i.e. if your trough is 1500mm long by 500mm wide by 500mm High, the calculation would be  $1.5 \times 0.50 \times 0.50$ = 0.375 then multiply by 1000 and this will give you the amount of litres your trough will hold, in this example it would by 375 litres.



## How much do GRP planters weigh?

All our GRP planters are made by hand therefore, sometimes the same size can vary slightly in weight, however, we do make planters with different materials depending on their size. As a general rule for planters in our standard range:

Planters that are up to 0.7m³ weigh approximately 5kg per m²

Planters that are 0.8 - 0.9 m³ weigh approximately 7kg per m²

Planters that are 1m³ and larger weigh approximately 8kg per m²

## What percentage of planting materials should be used?

Although it will very much depend on the type and size of plants that you are planting, we recommend using the chart below as a reference for the percentage of planting materials.

If trees or large shrubs are being planted then you may wish to consider using less polystyrene.

Where the diagram states 'other' this refers to Root Refreshers, Mona tanks or an irrigation system.

We also highly recommend drainage holes being put into planters that are being used outside.

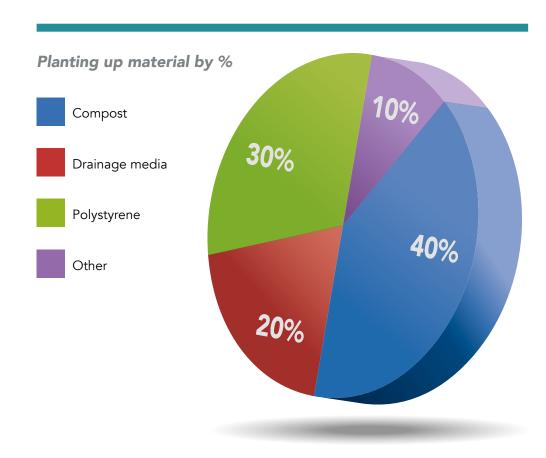
#### What is the weight of compost?

There are many different types of compost on the market, they are sold by the volume and not by weight, this is because the bulk density of compost depends on many factors, such as composition and how wet it is.

As a broadly accurate guide, wet compost weighs approximately 1.5Kg per litre.

Europlanters specialise in large planters for roof terraces or roof garden projects. For support with your designs please contact a member of our design and build teams. 

©





# Hanover Square

**Europlanters work closely with main contractors** on communal roof terrace.

Europlanters were the contractor of choice on a new development project at the corner of Hanover Square and Oxford Street London, that connects two properties previously separated by an internal courtyard.

McLaren Construction were appointed by Aviva Life & Pensions to completely demolish the existing office and retail buildings at 287 Oxford Street and 11-12 Hanover Square in Westminster and to construct the new eight storey building, producing a much larger space comprising of retail space and commercial offices.

The new development, built over 8 floors including the basement, was designed by Campbell Architects.

On the sixth floor, where the building steps away from Oxford Street, the space was developed into a large roof terrace with views across the city skyline and overlooking the hustle and bustle of the shoppers below. A second smaller terrace sitting on



the seventh floor looks out over the larger green roof

Europlanters were involved in the design and manufacture of the large terrace, working with McLaren and Campbell to create a secluded garden area for clients using the office space. The design included Corten clad GRP planters with Sapele timber floating seats and tables. LED lighting was added to create a relaxing ambiance and Sapele timber screening to frame the view of the city skyline.

The project comprised of 21 metres of seating made from Sapele timber. An 'L' shaped planter 11.4 metres long/1500mm wide/1100mm high across the back, with a further 9.2 metres of planter the same dimensions down the right hand side. A large planting bed in the centre of the roof terrace was created

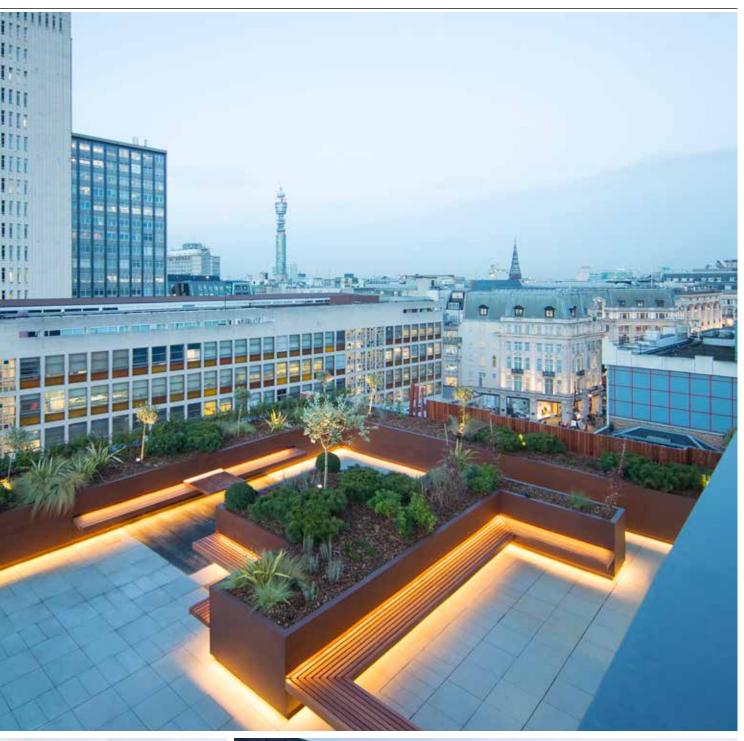
with floating seating arranged to create three private spaces. The planter which is 3.2 metres long/5.7 metres wide/ 1100mm high was made from GRP panelling to create one very large planter. 7 metres of Sapele timber screening at 550mm high was then used as a windbreak and to frame the skyline. LED lighting was also fitted to the planters and seating to light up the garden, creating a relaxing atmosphere away from the sounds of the city below.

Kingston Landscape Group planted up the containers using a wide selection of shrubs and trees to complement the surroundings and create a framed view of the skyline.

A video of this project is on www.europlanters.com for more information contact sales@europlanters.com ↔













# onstruction



The physical properties of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) allow it to be easily tooled and manufactured, with no limits on size, shape or finish, giving designers creative freedom to run wild with their imagination. Large projects can be made out of GRP simply by thickening the planter walls to ensure strength.

Kilo for kilo GRP is stronger than steel yet, unlike stainless steel, it is resistant to salt air, chemicals (including most acids) and UV light. In extreme temperatures, GRP does not change or affect plants roots, shielding them from frost and heat from the sun, making GRP planters a more economical and lightweight alternative to steel.

Longevity is another GRP benefit, Europlanters guarantee their GRP products for 10 years, although they are confident GRP will last much longer than this.

GRP is corrosion resistant, water tight, strong, robust and reduces a product's weight, it requires less maintenance - making it a highly attractive option compared to more traditional materials like timber or metal. No rust, no painting, no wood rot! GRP is simply maintained with a soft cloth and warm water.

GRP can easily be drilled, unlike steel which can be very difficult or timber which can split or crack.

The beauty of GRP planters is that they can be made in any colour, texture and finish - including effects such as brick, wood and metal. GRP is also compatible with many other materials and can be used in conjunction with them on a variety of ideas.

Due to its lightweight properties and flexibility, GRP is regularly used on a wide variety of roof gardens and terraces. Large planting beds can be created by fixing smaller sections of planters together, enabling them to be easily transported and to fit into lifts or up staircases, thus avoiding the additional costs of cranes, hoists etc. These individual planters are then simply bolted together to construct larger planting beds. As GRP is lightweight, it adds very little extra weight on to a roof - unlike steel or timber.

Should GRP ever become damaged it is much easier and more cost effective to repair than steel, aluminium or timber, which can also corrode, rust or rot. In a gel coat finish, scratches can be easily removed with a buffing paste, and if a sprayed finish is specified, Europlanters can offer small containers of touch up paint. 🗇





## LeSoCo

## Award winning large roof terrace for staff and students to enjoy.

Richard Hopkinson Architects, working in collaboration with Platform 5 Architects, achieved a prestigious award for this £40m project.

Designed for LeSoCo College, the scheme included a neighbouring 44 home development in the Cut, Southwark Lewisham.

LeSoCo gives students the feel of a modern workplace, setting them up for progressing into work, or to university.

#### Houses support college development

The first phase was the housing development. Balfour Beatty built 29 homes and 15 affordable units, arranged in a mixture of studios, apartments and townhouses in two separate blocks on either side of a new pedestrian route, named New Marlborough Street, that runs through the city block. These were subsequently sold to support the college's redevelopment.

Phase two of the design consisted of a six-storey

education building, built containing a flexible

teaching space, a reception and café connected to the college's existing facilities.

#### Stunning views

Within the scheme is a rooftop terrace which offers stunning vistas over London.

The seating area on this terrace is set behind a glass screen, providing shelter with an exterior space for socializing.

To ensure that there is a green space Europlanters manufactured 24 metres of floating seat planters for trees and shrubs, another 11 meters of planters with seating on the top and a bespoke triangle shaped seat, so that people visiting the roof top can sit and enjoy the city skyline.

The planters were produced in RAL 7021 Matt to compliment the exterior of the building with Sapele hardwood used for the seating.

Europlanters worked closely with landscapers from TCL

Group who planted up small shrubs and trees before

adding the seating to the planters.

It's the first time we have created a guardrail on planters - and we have tested it way beyond the necessary limits...

## Planters aid safety of students.

On the terrace of level two, to ensure safety for people using the area, 60 metres of planters were made with

strong metal balustrades, powder coated to the same RAL colour as the planters, to create a barrier at the edge of the roof terrace.

'Adding balustrades has been a new, exciting challenge for us', said John Wilkes Director of Europlanters, 'it's the first time that we have created a guardrail on planters - and we have tested it way beyond the necessary limits to ensure that it's fit for purpose'.

To add to the green space, two large sedum trays were created in GRP which were then bolted together and planted up by the TCL Group.

LeSoCo opened its doors to young people and adults in





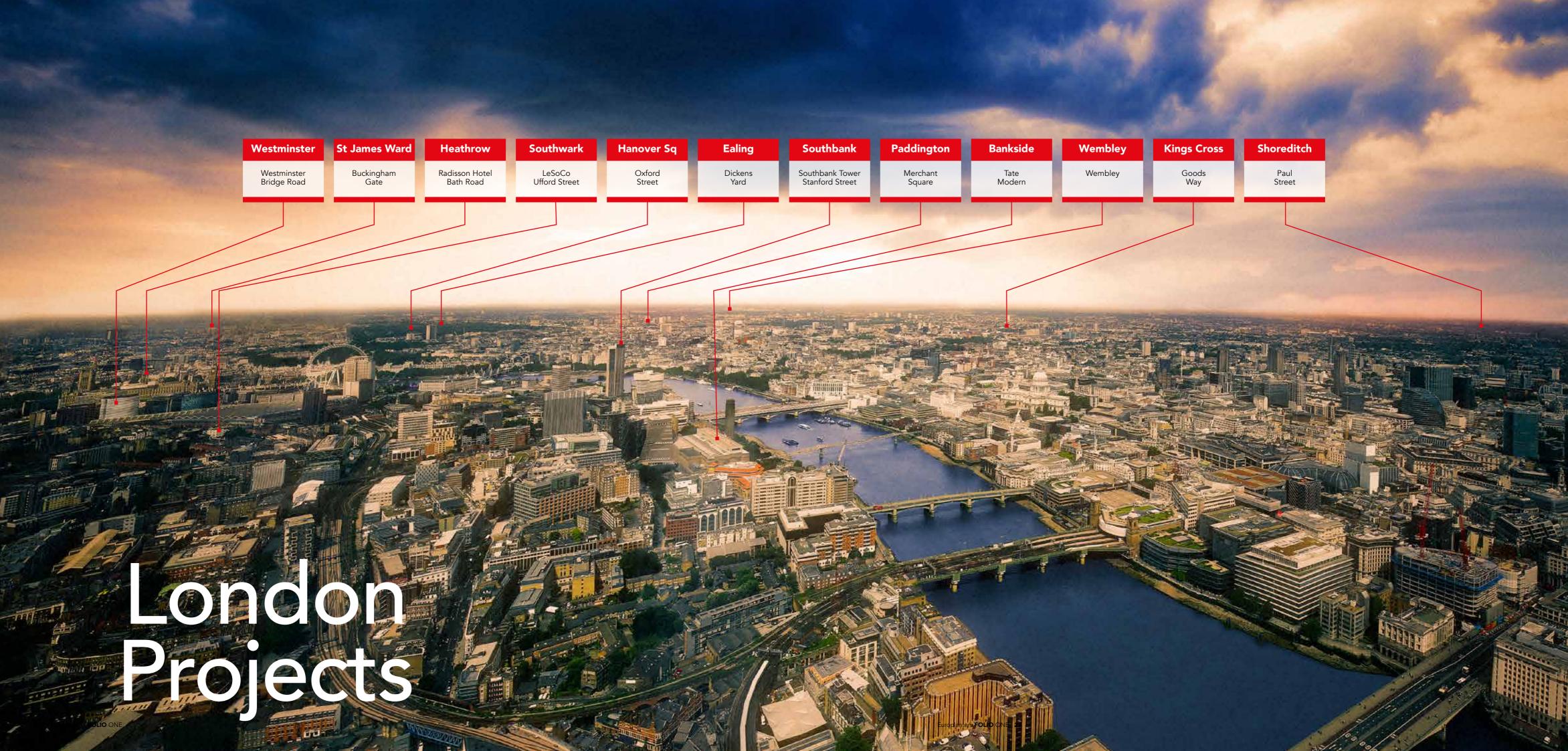




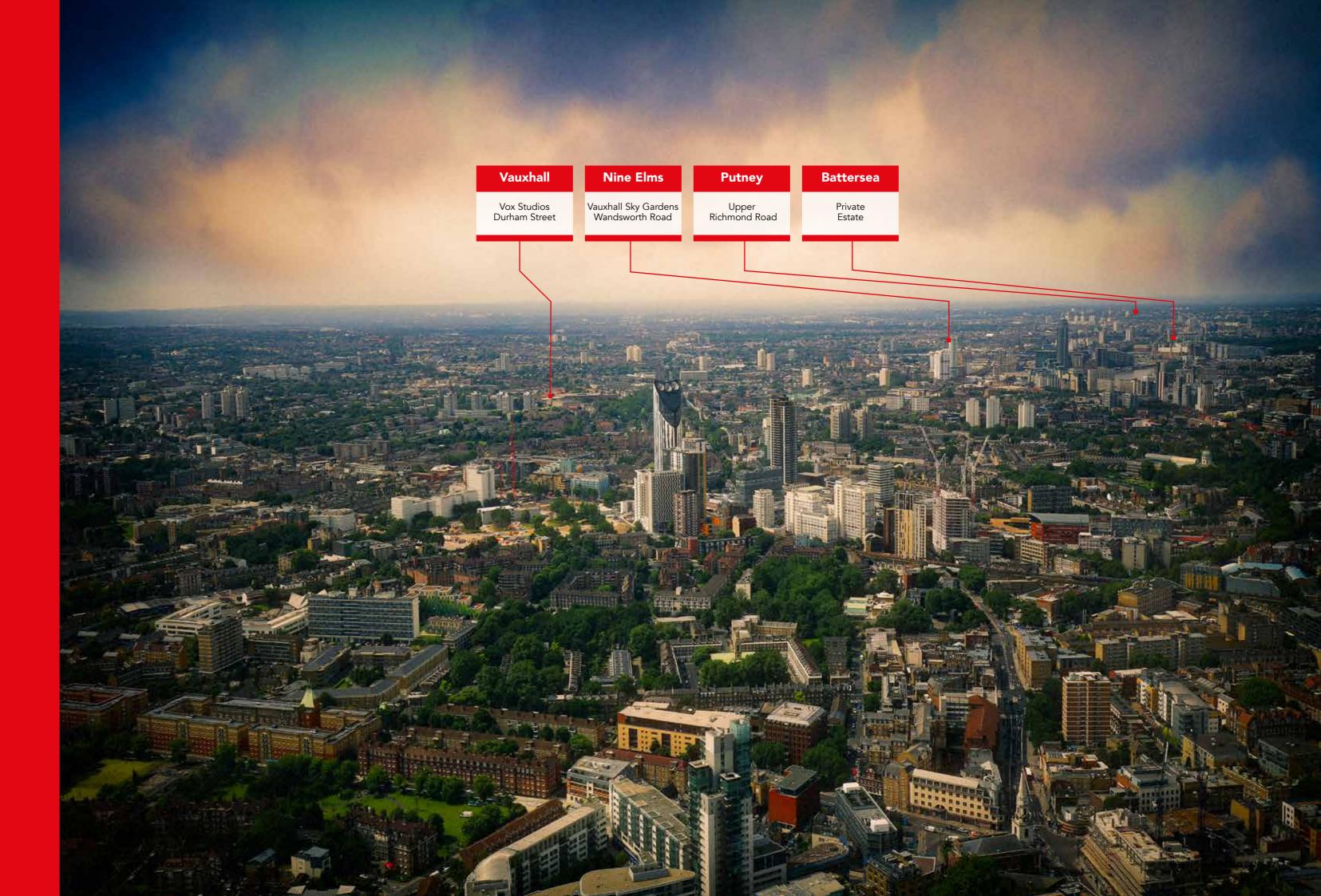








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# London

#### Project images from maps.

































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# MODERN www.europlanters.com Europlanters

# The story of the mould



Moulds are the lifeblood of Europlanters business. Created by skilled workers - mostly by hand, they are an exact representation of the object to be made. Without them making multiple exact copies of a product would be nigh on impossible.



## The story of the mould...



1 Cutting timber for a prototype

2 Ensuring the final shape of the prototype is accurate. This stage is critical as any flaws in the prototype will be transferred to the mould and, eventually, the final product

**3** Barrels of resins, and gel coats. Ensuring the correct quantities are used is critical in creating a finished product.

4 Cutting sheets of glassfibre for the master mould.

> Inspecting and finishing the interior of a two part mould.

6 Preparing the surface of a finished product for spraying with colour.

Inspecting a technically difficult to produce piece made from several moulds.

8 Spraying a final colour finish on a large planter.

Moulds are created by working with designers from an initial concept right the way through to a finished product.

When designing a new product there are several things to consider such as the shape and rim detail.

All GRP Planters have to start with a mould and in general they are a two-part mould to accommodate the shape and return lip. Some of our more intricate models require a three-part

Once the design has been finalised, a prototype is made using metal, foam, or timber, this 'master' is then sprayed and prepared to make the mould.

This mould is formed from GRP around the prototype which once fully cured needs to be removed from the master, polished and coated in a release system to create a high gloss non-stick surface that will be reflected in the final product.

If a matt or satin finish is required the product is then sprayed with a tough polyurethane or acrylic paint.

Once our mould is ready to use, the product can begin to be made. Gel coat is applied, often using a

pigment or shade which is closest to the final colour if the product is being sprayed as a final finish. This ensures that the colour of the product runs all the way through.

Layers of resin soaked fibre glass matting are then added to the mould and this is repeated several times depending on the size of the final product.

More layers give additional thickness and strength, with the basic principle being the larger the product the more layers are required.

All air must then be removed between layers to avoid weak spots or blemishes. Once air has been removed the fibre glass and resin are left inside the mould to cure. Depending on the size and conditions this may take several hours.

Once cured the product is released from the mould and trimmed to give a neat edge all round.

If the product is going to remain as a gel coat finish, it is then buffed to a high gloss. If it needs to be sprayed, the surface is abraded to ensure the paint adheres.

All products are sprayed in an enclosed booth then baked for an hour at 45° C.

The mould is then carefully archived in our mould storage facility to be used for your future creations.  $\bigcirc$ 



# Westminster Bridge Road

Skyscraper development based on Eames turned stool.

n Westminster Bridge Road is a new Skyscraper development in London SE1, designed by AHMM, (Allford Hall Monaghan Morris).

The architect's drawings were based on a famous piece of furniture, the Eames Turned Stool giving the building a quirky exterior.

On the roof

sized planters

were used to

make a run

students...

of seating for

terrace, 35 giant

Built on the former site of York House, there is now a stunning 19 storey, 62.8 metre high tower, comprising of 1,100 student housing units, including 4,000 sa m of office

space, with 65,000 sq m of college/education space, and a 748 sq m health suite encompassing a gym, swimming pool and landscaped gardens with space for 648 bicycles and a café.

Urbanest teamed up with education provider Alpha Plus Group who established and operates DLD College

London, which has the capacity for up to 700 pupils, offering state of the art educational facilities and providing specialist teaching in science, IT, art, music and drama.

#### **Five Star Facilities**

There are a variety of new and innovative room types for the student accommodation coupled with tailor made communal study areas and a common room that will have views

> across the city from the top floor, whilst offering 5 star facilities.

Working closely with Total Protection and Balfour Beaty. Europlanters were privileged to be involved with the

planters and street furniture for the landscaping on the 3rd floor terrace and at the front entrance of the building.

#### Over 40 Metres of street furniture

Huge GRP planting beds, some 2000 L/1500 W/690mm H and bespoke triangular planters 2000 L

/1507 L /2504 L and 690mm H were designed with over 40 metres of floating seating attached using 148 stainless steel brackets and 180 metres of Sapele timber.

These 35 giant sized GRP planters were used to make the run of seating for students to sit on the roof terrace and a following four supersize planters 2000 L / 1507 W / 1100mm H were used to make standalone planters at the front of the building, all finished in a matt RAL 7021 to compliment the buildings steel work

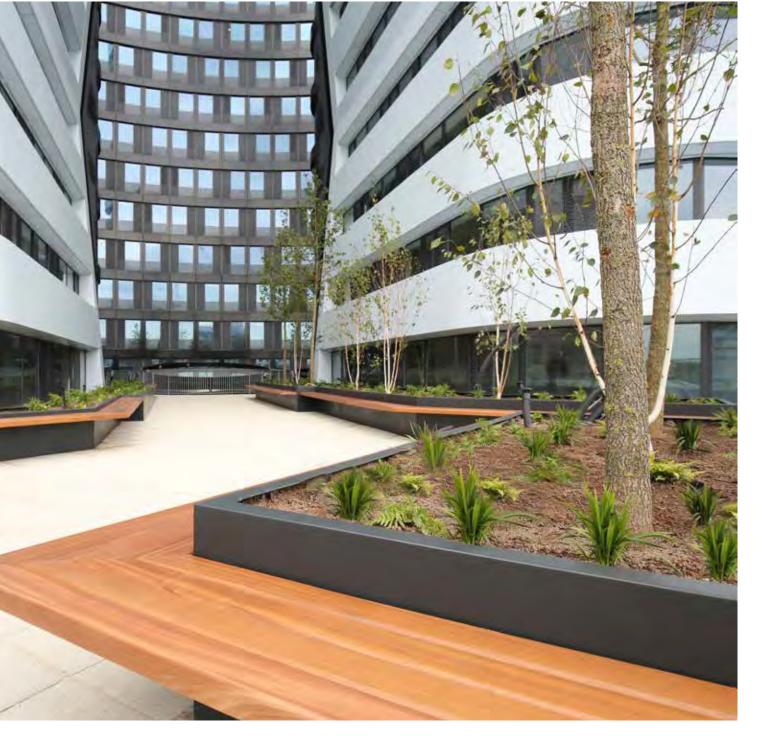
Approximately 21 tonnes of Hydroleca was used and over 65 tonnes of compost to plant up all the planters with large trees and under planting of seasonal plants.

'This was a great opportunity for us to show off some of our new street furniture range on such a prestigious project', said John Wilkes, Director of Europlanters 'Westminster Bridge Road has stunning views of the Palace of Westminster and the London Eye for the students to enjoy.'









# The interview.





#### **Tony Woods**

Garden Club London

Designer of the first floating pocket park in London

#### Who or what inspired you to become a Garden Designer?

I have always loved being outdoors and surrounded by nature as I grew up in the Lake District. I left school at 16 to go and train at horticultural college and I worked as a gardener and on nurseries before naturally progressing onto garden design and project management in my previous roles based in London and particularly after establishing GCL in 2012.

#### Would you say you have a particular style in your designs, if so what is your style?

I do not think that as a studio we have a set style however we always try and focus on clean lines and as much sustainable planting as possible. I always try and push the other designers and architects in the business to explore their own ideas but ultimately I take charge of concepts to ensure they meet the clients brief and look amazing!

#### What encouraged you to tender for the Merchant Square project?

It was the opportunity to take urban garden design to the next level and it was exciting and scary. I knew it was an amazing opportunity to produce something truly great that also gave our team the opportunity to develop their skills and experience on a memorable project.

#### What were the biggest challenges of this project?

Managing a budget on a project that is first of its kind without compromising on design and quality of finish is a big challenge on any project but this was probably the toughest. Then the impact of running such a large and variable project alongside our other commissions. It's been a huge challenge for the whole team however it has also given a lot of our team the opportunities to progress their career and learn new skills. Europlanters have been a close part of the team as one of the largest sub contractors.



#### Why did you choose the various types of plants in your design?

I chose the planting palette to compliment some of the existing landscaping on the surrounding site however the main considerations have been tolerance to the strong winds and varying light on the site. There is a balance of evergreen shrubs and herbaceous perennials throughout the planters and these have been chosen to provide interest all year round. It was also important to the client that we enhanced the biodiversity of the site and we have included some native wild-flowers and generally a very nectar rich range of plants.

#### Did the design change from the original design? If so how? And why?

We gave the client a number of options at layout stage. The layout has changed a little over the design consultation period but ultimately we have a design that is very strongly based along the original concept that the client chose as their preferred option. The technical aspects of the design were developed over a number of months to find the best solution to both the horticultural and structural integrity of the floating pocket park.

#### How did you choose suppliers for the project?

We like to choose suppliers and contractors that we have used before and have a good working relationship with however this is not always possible in a commercially sensitive environment. As a company we carry out quite in depth competence and quality checks on all of our suppliers and contractors. We have a very strong health and safety ethic and it is really important to me as the MD that all our staff and contractors take an active part in keeping each other and the project safe. Working with Europlanters has given us the flexibility and skills to overcome some particularly complex design issues and it has been great to work with a company as committed to the project as ourselves.

#### If you had a dream project to design, what would it be?

That's quite a tricky one. You could give me the biggest budget and the most exciting brief but the client is really what makes or breaks a project. Flexibility, freedom to express good design and a good timeline for delivering the project ideally with a sense of humour are always going to be wining projects for me.

## Dickens Yard

The project also

involved building

bespoke planters

around a smoke

ventilation

unit...

Former council owned car park now part of a billion pound investment project.

ickens Yard, a former council owned car park is now part of a one million sq. ft., billion pound investment in Ealing.

It brings commercial space, parking and almost 700 apartments in buildings with upper floors incorporating beautifully landscaped terraces and balconies.

Set in the heart of London's greenest borough within a thriving town centre, the apartments are positioned to capitalise on Ealing's

excellent transport links, including the new Crossrail service.

Europlanters have been involved with this project since 2016 and have manufactured and installed

> planters on the buildings balconies and each of the penthouse roof gardens, which have open views across the city skyline.

'We have enjoyed being part of Phase One of this project and are

looking forward to seeing the second phase planted up too.' commented John Wilkes, Director of Europlanters.

The design includes large planters to create raised planting beds and 'hidden storage' seats with Sapele timber lids on gas rams to aid lifting.

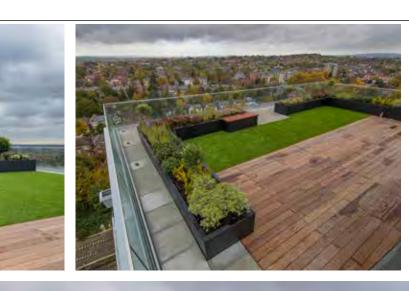
The project also involved designing and building bespoke planters around an automatic smoke ventilation unit. Built in sections for easy transport and lifting, this was then bolted together on site by the Europlanters team.

All planters were made in matt black to complement the metal work on the buildings and beautifully planted up by the Kingston Landscape Group to create spacious gardens with views across the city. 🗇



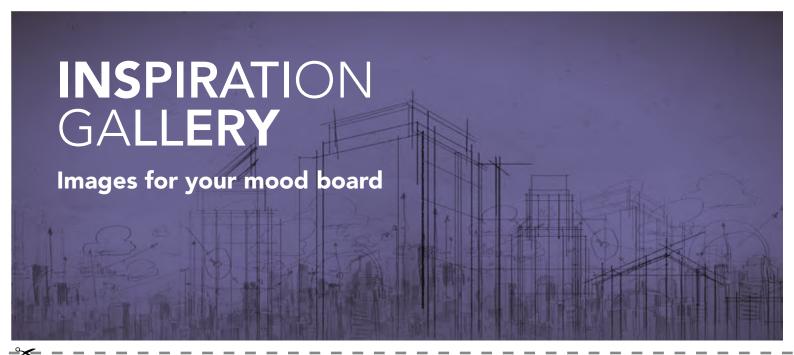










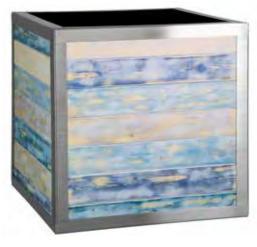




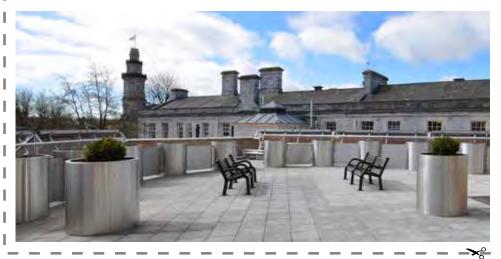


















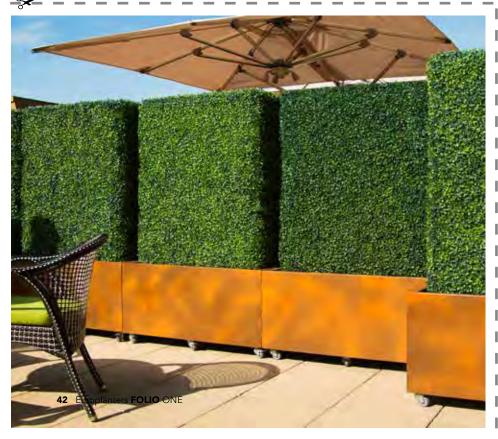






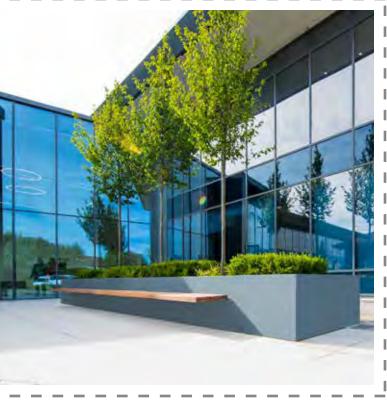






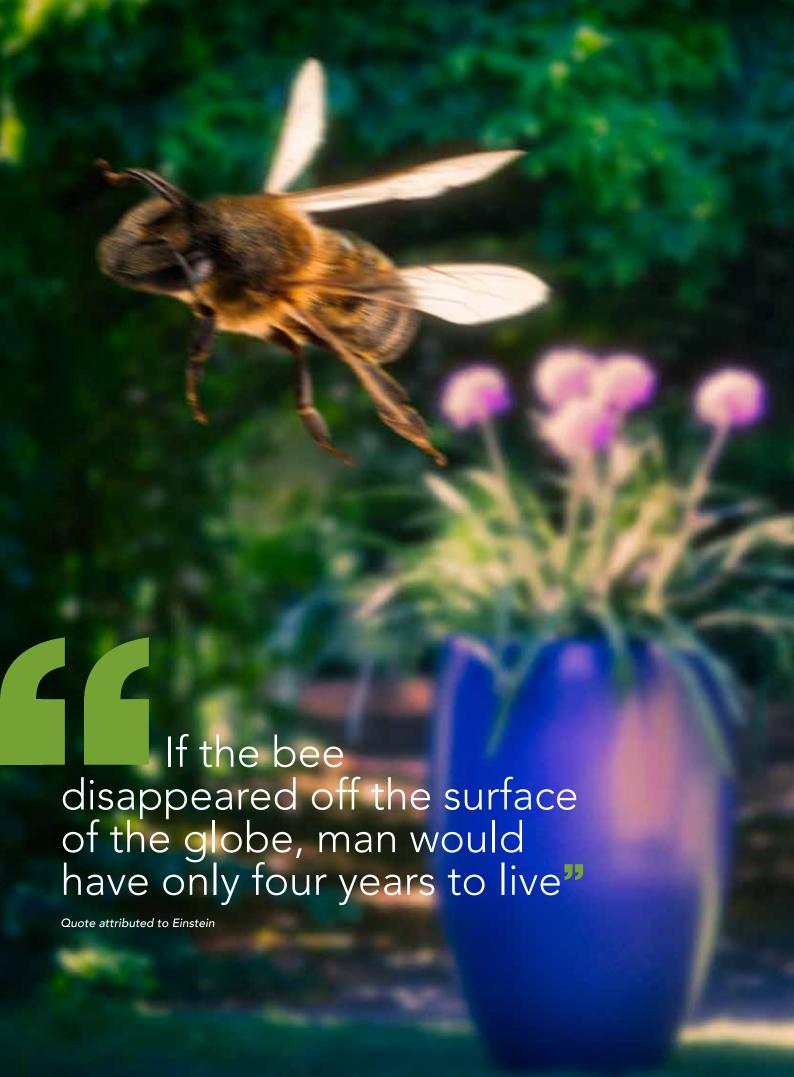












# Man needs bees to survive...

#### So why are bees important?

Bees have been busy producing honey and saving the planet for the last 10-20 million years.

Around 250,000 species of flowering plants, many of these crucial to our food supply, depend on bees for pollination; for example, 70 of the top 100 human food crops rely on bees for pollination - as does clover and other fodder that we use to feed our live stock - which produce the meat we eat and the milk we drink.

#### Britain's bees are in trouble

As areas of Britain become more urban and industrialised, low maintenance gardens are becoming more prevalent and farmers now grow single crops in large fields.

There are fewer places with the variety of hedgerows and wild flower meadows that used to exist for bees to feed on and shelter in.

Something that Britain had once in abundance in the 1930's is now largely missing. Because of this, amongst other reasons, more than 20 UK bee species are now extinct - and others are on the decline and under threat.

Another reason for the disappearance of bees is due to the pesticides that we are

using in gardens and on crops. Scientists believe bees are dying because of our unilateral use of these pesticides.

What can we do to save our bees?

Grow a variety of flowering plants to create vital nectar and food for bees, flora such as alliums, primrose, thyme, honeysuckle, foxglove, buddleia, heather and lavender. Plants also provide shelter for the bees too - and if you haven't got much space, a planter or window box would work just as well.

Bug guns and insect killers are harmful to bees too, so avoid using pesticides to keep our bees alive. And remember, just because a product is labelled safe for organic use doesn't mean it won't harm bees!

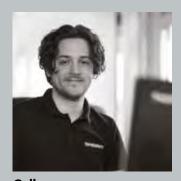
A better gardening strategy is prevention rather than cure. Invite beneficial insects into your garden with your planting, rotate "crops", plant companion plants – and keep your garden tidy!

If you see a bee on the ground it may be exhausted, so they probably need a sugar rush to help them get back in the air. Mix two tablespoons of white granulated sugar and one tablespoon of water together and put in an egg cup for them to drink from.

# THESE PEOPLE ARE PART OF A TEAM



John Managing Director and product designer



Callum Design & Build co-ordinator and estimator



Production Manager



Admin



Julie Sales and Marketing



Delivery driver



Pattern maker



**Rick** Sprayer

# YOUR PROJECT COME TO LIFE



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**Jane** 

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Oliver

Joiner



Cherrie

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Krzysztof

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