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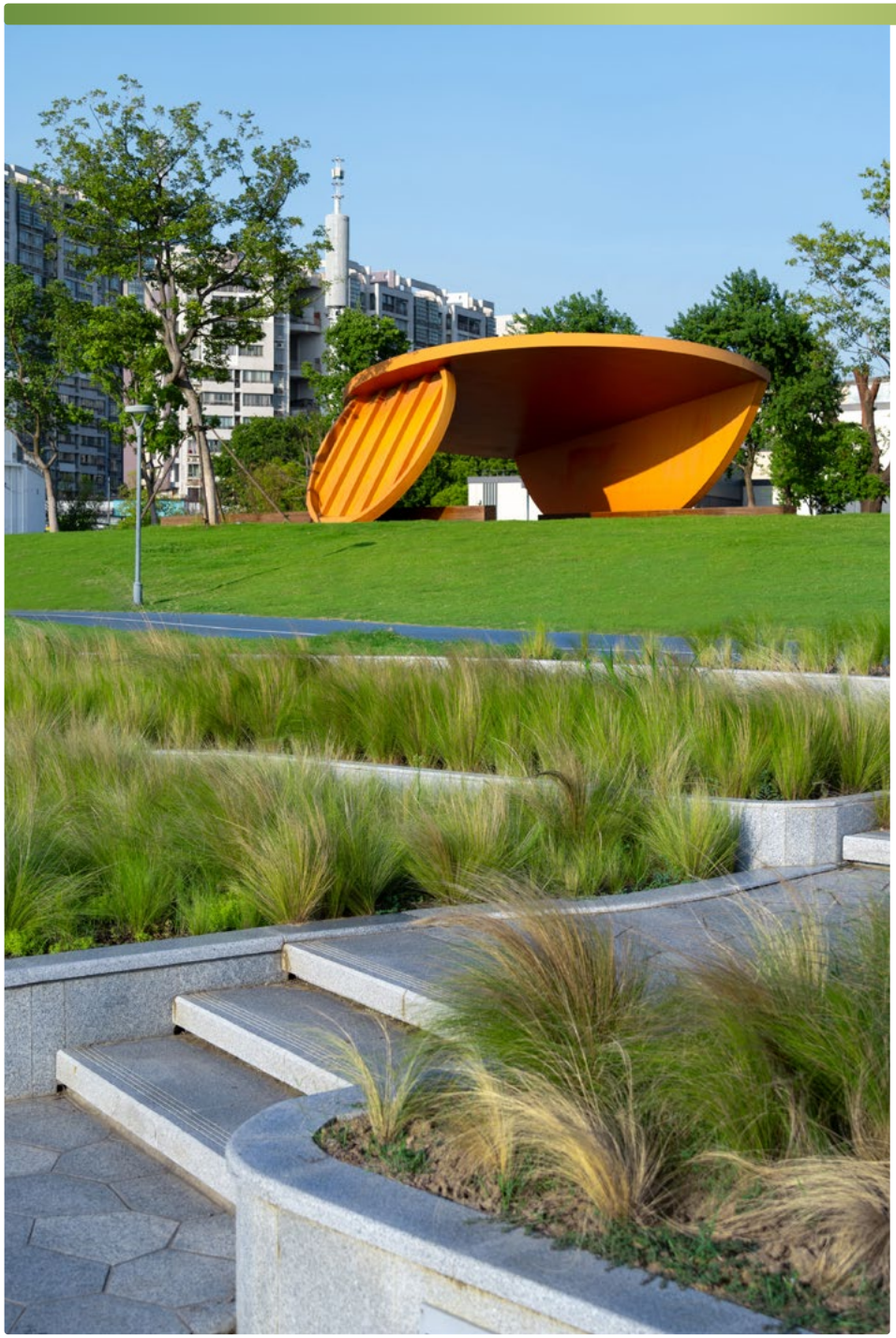

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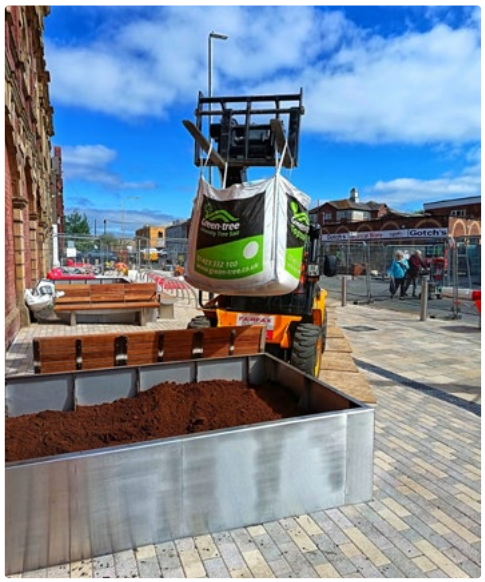

Xicheng Canal Landscape Opposite Parks

Two landscapes in quiet opposition along Xicheng Canal – one shaped by nature, the other by culture

Sustainable Solutions

Origin Green-Tech supports Goole Town Centre Regeneration

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CARLSTAR & TYRE-LINE

UK O.E. & AFTERMARKET GROUNDCARE TYRES FOR EVERY APPLICATION

Chosen by O.E.M's & end users the world over, Carlstar's (formerly Carlisle) groundcare tyre range encompasses sizes, fitments and specifications to suit almost every make, model and application of groundcare machine on the market. From pedestrian mowers and hand powered equipment, to golf equipment, bank and threshing mowers, zero turn mowers, stadium maintenance equipment & compact tractors, Carlstar have fitments and patterns to suit all scenarios and Tyre-Line are proud to have been importing and distributing their products for over 30 years.

With an ever-expanding product range, and with sizes starting at just 4" rim size, Carlstar's specialist groundcare range of tyres boasts well known pattern names including Turf Saver, Turf Trac R/S, Turf CTR, AT101, Super Lug, Ultra Trac, Sawtooth Turf Pro and Fast Trax to name but a few.

Their Multi Trac C/S & Turf Master tyres have one of the largest O.E. fitment bases of any specialist turf tyre on the market and it's easy to see why. With its modern, deep tread and square shoulder design, the Carlstar Multi Trac C/S & Turf Master range of tyres are the perfect choice for machinery being used for both residential and commercial users requiring the highest performance and dependability from their equipment. Made from durable rubber compound, the Multi Trac C/S & Turf Master range offers exceptional wear and puncture resistance whilst the deep tread and optimized profile give enhanced stability and traction, making them the ideal O.E. & Aftermarket replacement tyre.

Golf buggies are well catered for by Carlstar, with specialist patterns including Links, Industrial Trax, Fairway Pro and the popular Tour Max. With its low profile, smooth riding pattern design, the Tour Max offers max durability and ride comfort on both smooth fairways and hard, paved paths.

For compact tractors, as well as the Multi Trac C/S & Turf Pro range of turf pattern tyres, Carlstar also offer the Versa Turf range tyres. Designed with a deep, but turf friendly, directional tread pattern, the Versa Turf range gives the traction of an R1 Ag tyre but with the protection of an R3 Turf tyre giving users the best of both worlds.

For the complete range of Carlstar tyres and accessories, contact UK importer & distributor Tyre-Line Aftermarket on 01458 250350 or email aftermarket@tyreline.com

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Tour Max

Designed primarily for golf cars and closed community vehicles. The tread pattern, rubber compound and tire construction provide durability as well as ride comfort.

Versa Turf

This radial tire offers improved flotation, reducing turf disturbance during turns while maximizing traction in all soil and turf conditions

More info: carlstartires.eu

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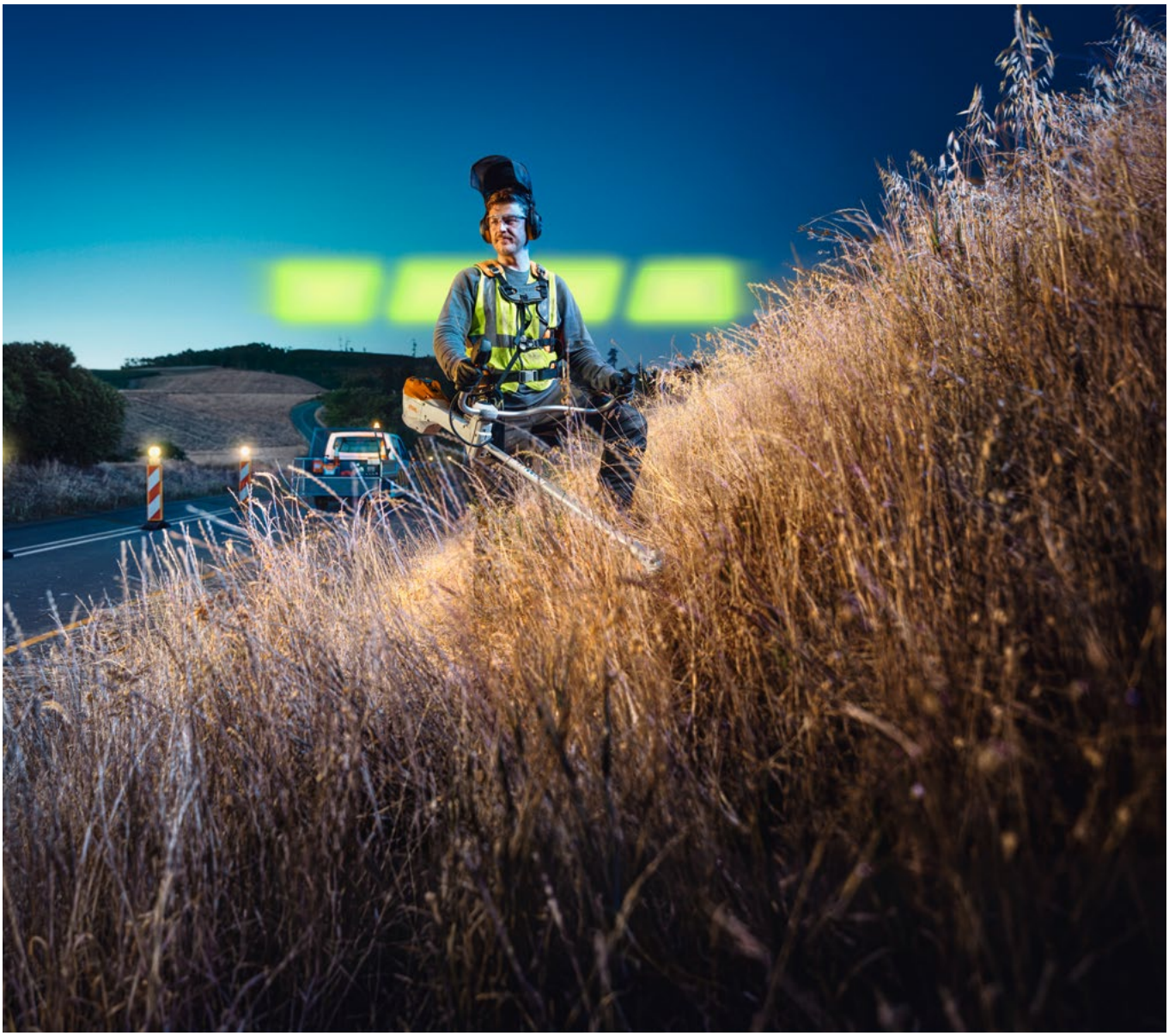


With a high power output of 2.0 kW, equivalent to the petrol FS 411 C-EM, the new STIHL FSA 400 is the most powerful battery-powered clearing saw available in the market. Thanks to its impressive performance, the FSA 400 is the first STIHL AP System tool to be compatible with shredder and circular saw blades, allowing professionals to clear tough areas of dense and woody growth with ease.

Like all AP System tools, the FSA 400 has been built to withstand tough working conditions. The sturdy battery housing with stainless steel air filter ensures optimum battery and motor protection, while the 28mm aluminium drive shaft and gearbox are identical to those found on the professional petrol range. Both the FSA 400 and all AP System batteries are IPX4 certified, meaning you can continue working whatever the weather.

The newly designed handlebar features a 10-point harness connection point, allowing for perfect balance and operator comfort. Thanks to the sophisticated anti-vibration system, the FSA 400 can be used for extended periods of time with no reduction in manoeuvrability or cutting accuracy.

The simple controls with LED display allow the operator to cycle between three maximum RPM settings. The FSA 400 also detects automatically whether a metal blade or line mowing head is in use, adjusting the

RPM accordingly to further maximise performance and energy efficiency.

The impressive power of the FSA 400 results in unrivalled versatility when it comes to cutting attachment options. Shredder blades are popular for clearing large areas of brambles, utilising an up-and-down motion to cut and shred green material. Circular saw blades can be used to fell small trees and bushes, making the FSA 400 a more comfortable alternative to a chainsaw in some instances. When used with the AutoCut 46-2 mowing head, the large 520mm cutting diameter allows mowing tasks to be completed quickly, improving efficiency by allowing more time for other tasks.

The FSA 400 is ready for integration with the STIHL Connected fleet management system. The Smart Connector 2A plugs directly into the control module of the tool and sends useful information, such as working time and operating speeds, to the operator's phone via Bluetooth.

For more information on the STIHL FSA 400 clearing saw, visit www.stihl.co.uk

BOBCAT EARNS SECOND RED DOT AWARD WITH ROGUEX3

RECOGNISED FOR BREAKTHROUGH MACHINE ARCHITECTURE

Bobcat has earned a Red Dot Award: Design Concept for RogueX3, a fully electric, autonomous and modular concept loader that reimagines how future construction, industrial and agricultural equipment could be designed. The award is the second for the RogueX concept platform, following the RogueX2 award in 2024. The recognition highlights Bobcat's continued exploration of adaptable machine architectures aimed at addressing workforce challenges, sustainability goals and increasingly connected jobsites.

"Receiving this Red Dot Award recognizes Bobcat's continued commitment to exploring the future of equipment through the RogueX platform," said Jim Breuer, director of global product identity at Bobcat. "RogueX3 demonstrates what is possible when industrial design and engineering come together—transforming autonomy, electrification and modular architecture into a tangible vision for tomorrow's jobsites. This recognition reinforces the power of design to give form to emerging technologies, helping customers envision the future potential of equipment."

Award-Winning Innovation for Future Jobsites

Central to RogueX3's award-winning design is its patent-pending, rear-mounted linear actuator tilt system. The configuration replaces traditional front hydraulic cylinders, reducing the number of mechanical components by more than 50% compared to a typical compact loader. By reducing hydraulic complexity, the design explores ways future compact equipment could be easier to maintain, more energy efficient and better suited for increasingly automated jobsites.

The design also incorporates a chassis-integrated battery and electric drivetrain for zero-emission operation. By integrating the battery into the chassis, the design lowers the machine's center of gravity while creating a more streamlined, efficient architecture.

Its modular platform further challenges the conventional approach to equipment design. RogueX3 supports tracked or wheeled mobility, cabbed or cabless operation, multiple lift-arm geometries and configurable power systems, allowing one platform to adapt to different terrains, industries and future jobsite needs.

RogueX3 uses technology capable of real-time kinematic positioning, GPS navigation, sensors and cameras to support autonomous functionality. It can also be operated via Bobcat MaxControl, a remote operation system designed to control equipment from outside the cab, using an iPhone or any device running the iOS operating system.

Future technology advancements using AI-enabled lighting systems explore how equipment could communicate machine activity, such as status and intent, to people on the jobsite.

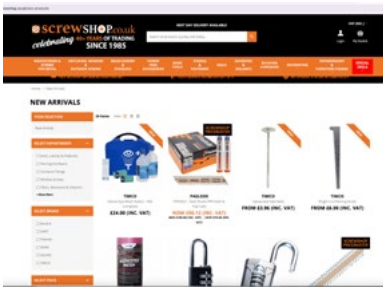
Developed through collaboration between Bobcat's Global Design Studio, Global Innovation and engineering teams, RogueX3 serves as a research platform for testing technologies and design approaches that could help shape future generations of Bobcat equipment. Introduced at CES 2026, RogueX3 remains in the research and development stage and is not commercially available. The concept reflects Bobcat's ongoing exploration of how equipment can evolve to meet the changing needs of customers.

"As customer needs evolve and jobsites become more connected, we believe equipment must become more adaptable. RogueX3 explores how a single machine platform could respond to those changing demands," said Joel Honeyman, vice president of global innovation, product insights and dealer enablement at Bobcat. "The modular platform is designed to adapt to different jobs, terrains and power systems—something construction equipment hasn't done before. The result is a simpler, more efficient architecture built around the changing needs of construction crews."

The Red Dot Design Award is among the world's most respected design competitions, recognizing excellence in product design and design concepts. Attracting thousands of entries annually, the competition honours innovations that advance functionality, usability and design excellence. Its Design Concept category includes entries ranging from early concepts and prototypes to market-ready products.

For information about the 2026 Red Dot Awards, visit www.red-dot.org

ITS NOT JUST FASTENERS AND SCREWS



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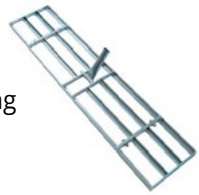

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KUBOTA KEEPS GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL RUNNING, WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

A total of 19 RTV's from Kubota are playing their part in keeping the city safe, clean and operational following a sizeable investment by Glasgow City Council in October 2025. Delivered by dealers Hamilton Ross, the RTV X1110's are equipped with rear-mounted gritters for crucial winter operations on pavements and cycleways and join Kubota ZD zero-turn mowers and mini excavators on the fleet providing year-round reliability on maintenance tasks throughout the city centre.

Close to 1700 machines currently support over 600 staff working across parks, streets, schools and public spaces where performance and reliability isn't optional - it's essential. With over 40 years of mechanical experience, Plant Workshop Manager Jack Aikman knows more than most whether a machine is up to the test. "There aren't many makes of equipment I haven't worked on and when it comes to build quality, Kubota is right up there" comments Jack.

"As soon as we put the RTV's on the ramp you could just tell they were built to last which, given the strenuous demands placed on the vehicles, is crucial."

Jack worked closely with the team at Hamilton Ross Group, particularly Thomas Connor, to deliver a solution to replace an aging fleet of machines used for gritting. "What we've got is a comfortable vehicle, that's smooth and easy to drive, with a good payload and compatible, high-capacity gritter to get maximum time in the field before the need to head back to base to refill." He adds, "We also specified the RTV's with a front-mounted plough so we really are equipped to deal with all weather conditions."

Not limited to tasks over the winter months, the versatility of the Kubota range enables the team to use the RTV's across the full year. "These will become a real workhorse, whether that's for spraying, towing other pieces of equipment or simply loading and moving soil, manure or other materials around the city."

The 19 RTV's have since been joined by two Kubota ZD zero-turn mowers for cutting the city's parks. "Compared to years gone by, the grass we're having to cut is often longer and denser meaning you need something durable here to get through the task at hand. The Kubota decks seem to take everything in their stride." Two Kubota excavators were also purchased for the crematoriums and cemeteries, where they will work in tandem with the RTV's for material moving.

"In this line of work, things get broken - indicators get caught, windows break - it's just the nature of the beast." This is where Jack and the team rely on the back up support from Thomas and the whole Hamilton Ross support team. "The back-up we receive is as good as it gets." He adds, "Running such a large operation, we simply can't afford to have equipment off the road. Any parts we need are either in stock or available in a matter of days and it truly feels like getting the machines up and running is an important to them as it is to us. That's exactly why our partnership with Hamilton Ross Group has thrived for close to three decades."

About Kubota Corporation

Kubota has been a leading manufacturer of agricultural equipment, construction equipment, lawn mowers and industrial engines since 1890. With its global headquarters in Osaka, Japan, offices in more than 120 countries and more than 41,000 employees in North America, Europe and Asia, Kubota had a turnover of $20 billion in 2021. Although agricultural, construction and turf equipment are its main product lines, Kubota also produces a wide range of products such as city water purification systems, irrigation systems, piping systems, roof and home construction, and large underground valves.

Our Mission

Our mission "For Earth, For Life" speaks to our commitment to the conservation of the environment while aiding the production of food and water supplies, which are vital to meet the needs of our society, as the world's population continues to grow. This mission is accomplished every time a Kubota tractor harvests the land to produce food or when our construction equipment excavates to transport water or provide shelter.

For more information about Kubota, visit www.kubota-global.net www.kubota-eu.com Explore the Kubota Group Solutions Hub: www.kubota-group.eu

SALTEX 2026

WHERE THE GROUNDS MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY MEETS

The grounds management industry will come together at the NEC Birmingham on 11-12 November as SALTEX celebrates its landmark 80th edition.

Organised by the Grounds Management Association (GMA), SALTEX 2026 will connect grounds professionals, volunteers, manufacturers, suppliers and industry organisations from across sport, education, local authorities, landscaping and wider amenity management.

This year's exhibition will give visitors the opportunity to compare the latest machinery, turf-care products and technology, speak directly with suppliers and discover practical solutions for their own sites.

A series of product launches and UK debuts will demonstrate how manufacturers are responding to demand for smarter, cleaner and more efficient equipment.

ISEKI UK & Ireland will give the fully electric AllTrec 7510F out-front commercial mower its UK debut alongside the launch of the new ISEKI Sports Turf Scheme.

DENAIYOU Intelligent Technology will use SALTEX as the UK launch platform for three electric turf-care machines: the E362B Electric Triplex Reel Mower, EDY750 Electric Turf Sprayer and EDL80A Electric Walk-Behind Cylinder Mower.

Elsewhere, LEDTURE will introduce new sports and entertainment lighting solutions, while Origin Amenity Solutions will unveil its Nutri-Max liquid nutrition range. GKB Machines will showcase its DTA High Speed, designed to help grounds teams complete deep-tine aeration more efficiently.

Visitors will also find the latest equipment from established industry names including Kubota, Baroness, Dennis and SISIS, Campey Turf Care Systems, Howardson Group and many more.

Education will remain central to the event. Learning LIVE will deliver 30 hours of free expert-led content across three stages, covering sports turf best practice, workforce development, sustainability, technology, funding, climate resilience and weed, pest and disease management.

The programme will bring together experienced practitioners, emerging talent and leading organisations, giving visitors access to knowledge they can apply within their own clubs, facilities and businesses.

For more practical learning, The Workshop will return with live, hands-on sessions covering machinery maintenance and set-up, sprayer best practice and performance optimisation. Visitors will be able to put their questions directly to machinery specialists and gain advice designed for use beyond the show.

New for 2026, the SAPCA Pavilion will unite specialists involved in the development of modern sports and recreation facilities, including Foams 4 Sports, Premier Sports Surfaces, Mapei, Labosport, JUTA, Boud Minerals and GCP Chartered Architects.

The 80th edition will also celebrate the industry's heritage through The Archive. Supported by The Hall & Duck Trust, the feature will trace the development of grounds management through historic machinery, milestones and innovations, including an 1858 Improved Budding mower, a 1905 Ransomes Patent Motor Mower and a 1919 Simar rotavator.

Alongside the products and education, SALTEX remains an important opportunity to meet fellow professionals, exchange ideas and strengthen relationships across the sector.

Entry and visitor parking are free, making the event an accessible opportunity to spend two focused days discovering what is changing across the industry.

www.saltex.org.uk

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NEW FLAILDEK S4. 25 YEARS OF PEGASUS. MEET TRIMAX AT SALTEX 2026.

Trimax will showcase three key machines at SALTEX 2026 on stand H074: the new FlailDek S4, Pegasus S5 and Striker.

Making its SALTEX debut, the FlailDek S4 builds on more than 30 years of FlailDek development and the proven performance of the FlailDek FX. Designed for reduced maintenance, greater durability and increased versatility, it introduces practical enhancements to make everyday commercial mowing easier and more efficient, from fine turf to longer grass, roughs and surrounds.

2026 also marks 25 years of Pegasus in the UK. To celebrate, Trimax will showcase the latest Pegasus S5, representing the first complete ground-up redesign of the mower's structural elements in more than 20 years. Developed using extensive real-world user data, the S5 features stronger structural components and practical improvements designed to increase reliability, simplify maintenance and extend service life.

For grassroots sports, the Striker offers an accessible entry point to professional-quality rotary mowing. Designed for compact tractors, its simple operation and robust construction make it well suited to sports clubs, schools and smaller grounds teams, including those supported by volunteers.

Visit Trimax on stand H074 to explore the latest in commercial mowing and discover how Trimax can help you power performance where it counts.

www.trimaxmowers.co.uk
email: info@trimaxmowers.co.uk

STIGA SHOWCASES SMARTER GROUNDS MANAGEMENT AT SALTEX 2026

STIGA will showcase its latest professional grounds management technology at SALTEX 2026, highlighting how automation, electrification and smart technology can help teams tackle labour shortages, operating costs and sustainability challenges.

Visit STIGA on Stand G120 to discover three key solutions: APX Pro, ePark Pro and Vista Robots.

The autonomous, battery-powered APX Pro is engineered for demanding professional environments, including sports venues, municipalities, golf courses and large estates. Designed for extensive areas and multi-site use, it delivers efficient, consistent mowing with minimal intervention.

The ePark Pro combines the proven STIGA Park platform with electric power, offering quiet, clean and efficient operation alongside excellent stability, manoeuvrability and operator comfort.

STIGA will also be highlighting its Vista Robots, featuring AI-powered vision, quad-band RTK-GNSS and Active Guidance System technology for accurate navigation and obstacle detection, with an Antenna-FREE setup for simplified installation.

Find STIGA on Stand G120 at SALTEX 2026.

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WARRIOR

The STM Co Pink Warrior Draw

STM are **donating one of these machines** to a Prize Draw, with **100% of the total income** from the giving page going to Breast Cancer Awareness through Cancer Research UK.

STM Co Ltd in Warwickshire are the sole importers of SCAG products in the UK, and they are joining the SCAG incentive, PLUS doing a Prize Draw for a Pink Warrior machine in association with Cancer Research UK.

Using this QR code people can donate to a dedicated giving page, with a draw to take place at SALTEX at the NEC, 11th - 12th November 2026 Stand QO60

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GARDEN ORNAMENTS FOR IMAGINATIVE GARDEN DESIGNS

Hard landscaping is integral to garden design, but well-placed garden ornaments and planters bring personality to a space. They can express a signature style and transform those overlooked or underutilized areas, creating a beautiful focal point throughout the seasons. Cast stone garden ornaments complement existing planting schemes, while urns and planters create room for more flowers.

Statues and stonework as garden highlights

Think about garden ornaments as the constant in an ever-changing plant-scape. The north star in a garden that can be planted around to maintain interest month after month. A statue between shrubs will create a feature that the foliage can change and bloom around, contrasting with the colour and texture of the stone. The use of statues can be scaled up or down, depending on the available space. A small statue can brighten up a nook or be used as a finial on a gate post, while an impressive statue or classical urn and pedestal can add drama to a larger vista. There's so much possibility to bring the best out of every garden, no matter how large or petite.

Maximising planting spaces

Brighten up gardens and patios with pops of colour, placing small urns and planters in unexpected places, along garden walls, paths and driveways to add plants in otherwise hard landscaped areas. Urns and planters have the flexibility to be raised up on pedestals to create a floral feature on lawns or within flower beds for greater impact.
The container for your plants can be just as important as the blooms. Fantastic flowers only last so long, whilst an elegant jardinière or an ornate urn is a decorative piece in its own right. Use them to draw the eye to certain areas of a garden design,

whether that's to create the illusion of space, an essence of grandeur or for a sense of tranquillity within an intimate, smaller garden design. There's such versatility, so be inspired and unleash your garden creativity.

Another benefit is that cast stone develops a rich patina as it weathers, adding to its charm. Over time moss and lichens reclaim it as part of the garden, for that feeling of enchantment. Place stone urns and tazzas on pedestals for romantic whimsy or on top of garden gateposts for extra planting opportunities avid gardeners will adore.

Flexibility

The best thing about urns, troughs and jardinières is the flexibility to change and refresh the planting scheme with seasonal annuals. Although, many planters are large enough to grow perennials too, especially those that prefer tight roots, such as agapanthus. Because Chilstone planters are handmade, it allows for adaptations. Some planters can be made without a bottom on request to house trees, creating the illusion of potted trees, whilst allowing their roots to grow into the ground and thrive. Our planters create impact and elegance in pairs to flank paths and entrances, both to emphasize these features and to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Our wide range of garden ornaments are available in different shades to colour match hard landscaping and property features.

Visit Chilstone for more inspiration.
www.chilstone.com

PRACTICAL INSTANT HEDGE™

A MATURE SOLUTION FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

A mature hedge can do a lot for a landscape. It can define a boundary, provide instant screening, create structure or simply make a newly planted garden feel more established. For landscape professionals, achieving that effect reliably is where Practical Instant Hedge™ comes in.

A choice for every project

Grown at Practicality Brown's nursery in Iver, Buckinghamshire, Practical Instant Hedge™ is supplied in one-metre sections, with the plants grown together over several seasons to create a dense, established hedge. The range includes both evergreen and deciduous species, with a choice of heights to suit different projects and planting situations.

For designers and landscapers, that choice is important. Evergreen options such as Cherry Laurel, Portuguese Laurel, Yew and Holly can provide year-round structure and screening, while Beech, Hornbeam and Native Mix offer alternatives for more naturalistic or seasonal schemes. Whether the requirement is to screen a neighbouring property, define a boundary, create a garden room or provide a mature backdrop to planting, there is considerable scope within the range.

See the hedge before you specify

One of the benefits of specifying an instant hedge is being able to see the finished product before it reaches the project. Professional customers and their clients are welcome to visit Practicality Brown's Buckinghamshire nursery by appointment. Seeing the hedges growing at scale, comparing different species and heights and discussing the requirements of a particular scheme with the nursery team can make the selection process much more straightforward.

There is considerable expertise behind the finished hedge, too. Practicality Brown has been growing and supplying instant hedging for decades, with close attention paid to plant health, growing conditions, establishment and the quality and presentation of the finished product. Its Plant Healthy certification reflects the nursery's ongoing commitment to responsible plant production and biosecurity.

For landscape professionals, Practical Instant Hedge™ is more than achieving an immediate visual effect. It offers the opportunity to specify an established hedge with confidence, backed by expertise, practical nursery knowledge, and the ability to see and discuss the broad range of stock before deciding.

For clients, it can be the difference between imagining what a hedge will eventually become and seeing the character and scale of the finished landscape much sooner.

Trees too

As well as Practical Instant Hedge™, Practicality Brown has a range of evergreen screening trees and specimen deciduous trees at the nursery in Buckinghamshire. You are welcome to visit to view both trees and hedges.

For further information, visit www.pracbrown.co.uk or contact hedge@pracbrown.co.uk

Native Mix: 1.8-2m Instant Hedge

Ligustrum japonicum (pleached)

15 varieties of Practical Instant Hedge available

WHEN SHOULD YOU PLANT HEDGES OR TREES IN YOUR GARDEN?

Ilex aquifolium Nellie R Stevens screening trees

Photinia Red Robin

Portuguese Laurel grown in 1m long hedge bags

Traditionally, the best time to plant semi-mature stock is during the autumn/winter, whether its evergreen or deciduous. However, our hedges and trees have been carefully curated and maintained to be planted anytime of the year, even during the growing months.

Our **Practical Instant Hedge™** has been produced to ensure that it is easy to handle and plant all year round, with no transplant shock. We have designed this instant hedging range to give you plenty of choice, depending on your garden style, local soil, and weather conditions. It's also ideal for use as a partition or screening to divide your garden into sections.

All of this means, any time of year is the perfect time to plant **Practical Instant Hedge™**.

We also specialise in screening trees, with over 800 in stock at our nursery in Buckinghamshire. We have standard trees available with a clear stem and a full bushy canopy above plus pleached trees trained to grow on a narrow canopy and fully feathered specimens. Our trees are containerised, meaning that they are currently growing in large pots, and are ready to plant and thrive in your garden.

With our Plant Healthy certification, you can be sure that all our plants meet rigorous biosecurity standards. We have grown and produced instant hedges and large tree, so that you can appreciate the mature effect from the moment it is planted.

All our hedges and trees are listed on our website. We can help you choose too, simply email us hedge@pracbrown.co.uk

Book a visit or chat to our Horticultural team to find out more.

Screening Trees

Instant Hedge

Plant Healthy

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ELVEDEN

INSTANT HEDGE

Helping Developers To Profit From Better Community Relationships

Despite the government stating there is a clear need for more housing in the UK, many proposed developments face long drawn out and costly planning processes due to local objections. Here are Elveden Instant Hedging, we believe that building better community relationships from the outset is key to overcoming objections and increasing perceived value for the homes you build. Our instant hedging products are designed to help you do just that.

Elveden Instant Hedges solve a number of problems facing developers. From speedy replacement of vegetation disturbed by the building process, to visual screening and noise amelioration, biodiversity concerns and the capture of dust and debris, it's amazing what a fully grown hedgerow can do to sooth anxious souls and build stronger relationships with local communities.

An Elveden Instant Hedge is exactly what the name suggests. It's a fully grown wall of vegetation with densely interwoven leaves and branches. Hedges are available in a choice of heights from a neat 1.2 metre height, ideal for delineating front gardens, to a full 1.8 metres to screen site features from view.

- **Attractive screening solutions**
- **Supports biodiversity net gain**
- **Offset carbon emissions**
- **Noise amelioration**
- **Filters dust from the air**
- **Increased property values**

Why choose Elveden Instant Hedging?

Grown on the Elveden Estate in Suffolk, UK, the Elveden Instant Hedge is a fully knitted, mature hedging product with a difference.

Unlike other hedging, the Elveden Instant Hedge has a uniquely developed root system allowing hedges to be lifted, transported and transplanted at any time of the year, without the risk of root shock. Our transportation system involves neither plastic troughs nor wooden pallets, meaning that our clients have no packaging to recycle.

The Elveden Instant Hedge has proven to be one of the most reliable hedges available and as such, remains a firm favourite across the landscaping industry for use in both domestic and commercial situations.

At Elveden we pride ourselves on our sustainable farming methods with minimal use of pesticides and maximum respect for the wider environment. Which means that we understand exactly what you need in order to maximise BNG on your projects.

We welcome visits from Architects, Designers, Planners, biodiversity, conservation and infrastructure managers who wish to explore quick and simple ways to meet their biodiversity net gain targets. If you would like to learn more about our cultivation techniques, our contract growing service and our Instant Hedging products, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team, who will be pleased to make all of the necessary arrangements.

Our Elveden Instant Hedge can be installed at any stage of the build using machinery you already have on site. Boundary hedges which will filter dust from the air, screen the site from prying eyes and reassure people of your intent to preserve biodiversity can be installed before groundworks begin. As the project proceeds, mature hedges can be installed on public open spaces and in private gardens. We can also arrange installation for you as an additional service if this is required.

Over the past few years the housing market has had its fair share of peaks and troughs, and housebuilders have had to compete for a dwindling marketplace in the current financial climate. One of the areas that makes a difference to customers signing on the dotted line is options.

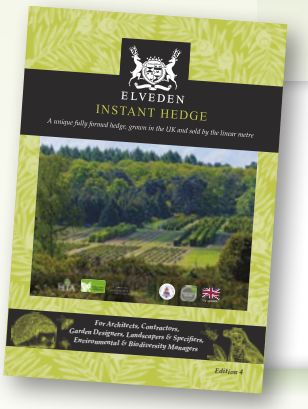
Making the client feel like they have a bespoke build is often the cherry on the cake.

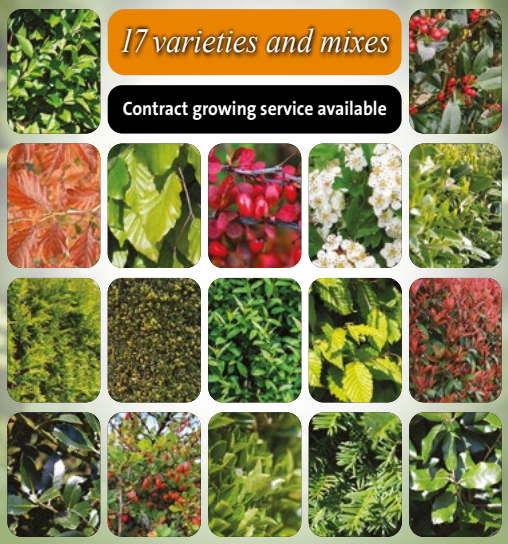
Your potential clients are always given the choice of kitchen furnishings, tiles, carpets etc. So, why not give them the choice of upgrading their gardens with a fully mature hedge of their choice to hide away dull fencing panels while providing more privacy.

Hedges are wonderful for maximising kerb appeal both on the development site and of individual properties. Your clients will jump at the chance to live somewhere where they feel immersed in nature, where well trimmed hedges confirm that they are living in luxurious surroundings and where they can wake up to bird song every morning.

With 17 varieties of hedge to choose from and the option for contract grown hedges, you will be spoilt for choice.

- ***Building in a rural area?*** Try our range of native hedges for a similar look and feel to the surrounding farmland.
- ***Targeting HNW clients?*** Classic yew hedges speak of luxury, privacy and classic elegance.
- ***Offering great value for money?*** Privet, laurel, beech and holm oak are good looking and robust.
- ***Wanting to make an impact?*** The colourful yet hardy Photinia Red Robin or *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'* – Purple Beech is especially eye-catching.
- ***BNG concerns?*** Mixed native hedging will start attracting wildlife on the very day it is installed.





Scan QR Code to view/download our brochure or contact us for a free hard copy >>

Telephone: 01842 890423

Email: hedges@elveden.com

Better still, call the Elveden Instant Hedging team to organise a tour of our nursery to see for yourself just how an Elveden Instant Hedge can help you to profit from better community relationships.

www.elvedenhedges.com

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BRITISH CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Urban improvement

Borough and town councils have a duty to keep their public spaces welcoming and above all safe. Urban improvements such as enhanced lighting and clearer walkways will assist with public safety as can ensuring the spaces look smart and appealing rather than run-down.

Powdertech has worked on many urban improvement projects and latterly more and more 'street gardens' for want of a better term, are being introduced

Visual pleasure and interest through colour and texture.

The use of statement features is becoming increasingly popular. This can be achieved through contrasting and complimentary colours, textures and forms.

Powdertech has developed a carefully crafted range of architectural finishes for metal, embracing a multitude of colour hues and tones, textures and gloss levels. Our finishes can replicate natural materials that, whilst looking beautiful, have practical drawbacks.

Wood finish (PWF™) is our longest established process with over 20-years in the field. It offers a low maintenance super-realistic, tough finish. It won't rot or warp and doesn't need any special sealants. You can utilise the design flexibility of metal and combine it with the appearance of wood.

Our Stone™ range has become popular with a move towards lightweight engineering. Long aluminium spans, large planters, and robust seating can be constructed with no weight-issues, and our powder coated stone finishes deliver realistic colours and textures.

Evolution™ and Rust™ finishes, have an established reputation in construction and can be seen on buildings across the UK. These finishes have pleasing texture and level of visual detail that makes you feel compelled to touch them. Unlike Corten, which causes water run off staining, powder coating finishes are stable.

PowderLUX® is the newest of our ranges. It includes patinated coppers, blackened steel, burnished bronze and glossy soft pastel, 'edgy and contemporary' colours that work well in urban environments. Living with the finishes.

The powder coating process does not use heavy metals, CFC's, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or age-accelerating processes. There is no chemical run-off, secondary contamination or hazardous waste. It is pet friendly. Coated materials can be recycled easily. Maintenance couldn't be easier - just wash with water, no need for chemicals or harsh cleaning materials.

All products are designed for long-term retention of colour and gloss, so no fading or chalking.
Read our latest street furniture project here

Get in touch

Powder coated finishes are factory applied by Powdertech in our UK facility. If you are a metalworker, fabricator or manufacturer of one-off or volume urban structures then get in touch and discuss the project with us. We'd love to discuss the options, including advice on structural design to optimise coating.

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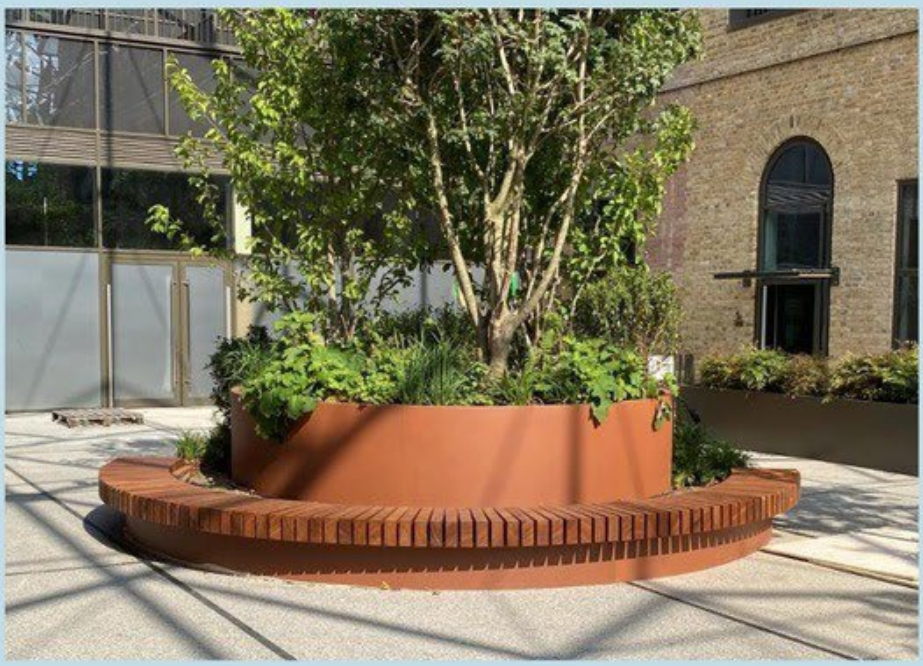

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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR CREATING INDOOR-OUTDOOR FLOW IN YOUR HOME

If there's one trend in the home design space that doesn't seem to be slowing anytime soon, it's the interest in indoor-outdoor flow and open-plan living. A 2024 survey by Houzz found that 46% of respondents had their kitchen opened to the outdoors. Rightmove also found that the proportion of property listings mentioning bi-fold doors increased by 589% over ten years, in its 2022 analysis.

So, how do you go about achieving that indoor-outdoor flow look in your home? I'm Costel Radescu, founder of CR Group and here is the guide...

Start with how you actually use your home

Before you make any changes such as looking at doors, extensions, or expensive renovations, think about how you actually want to use the open space. Do you want a brighter kitchen that has lots of natural light and opens straight into the garden, or do you want somewhere you can have dinner parties where there's lots of space to entertain? Perhaps you just want to keep it simple and want to be able to open the doors on a warm morning and enjoy your coffee with a view of the garden.

One of the great things about achieving indoor-outdoor flow in your home is that there is no strict rulebook to follow or one way to get it right. It doesn't always mean undertaking a huge project like an extension to achieve it either. Sometimes, changing the layout of a room, improving the natural light or making better use of an existing patio can completely change how connected your home feels to the outside.

It's also worth thinking about what happens when the weather turns. We don't get endless sunshine in the UK, so your space needs to work with the doors closed as well as when they're wide open. The best designs feel comfortable and practical whatever the weather happens to be doing.

Choose the right doors

Doors are often the biggest feature in an indoor-outdoor design, so it's worth spending some time working out which style suits your home and needs best. Bi-fold doors are a popular choice because they fold back to create a wide opening between your home and garden.

Sliding doors are another good option, especially if you're looking for plenty of glass without needing space for the doors to fold back. They also offer uninterrupted views of the garden and can be a practical choice for smaller patios where you don't want doors taking up valuable space.

If you prefer something with a little more character, Crittall-style doors can give a home a more traditional feel while still allowing plenty of light through. Whatever you choose, pay particular attention to the frames and thresholds. A low threshold, for example, can make moving between the house and garden much easier, while a well-chosen frame can help maximise the amount of natural light coming into the space.

Get your layout working harder

People often think of open-plan living as knocking down walls and making everything one big room, but this is a common misconception. You still need different areas for cooking, eating, relaxing and spending time together, particularly if several people use the space at once.

A kitchen island is one thing I recommend as a link between the kitchen and garden, especially if it faces towards the doors rather than towards a wall. It gives whoever's cooking a view of the garden but means they can still chat to guests sitting nearby. A breakfast bar can do a similar job, offering somewhere to sit with a coffee or keep an eye on the children while they're outside.

If you have the room, outdoor dining furniture positioned close to the kitchen makes serving meals much easier. You won't want to carry plates and drinks across the entire garden every time you eat outside. The same applies to outdoor cooking areas, where keeping the barbecue or preparation space close to the house can make everything feel more joined up.

Consider all-year-round elements

Indoor-outdoor flow shouldn't stop being useful when the sun starts going down earlier. Outdoor lighting makes a big difference to how the garden feels in the evening, particularly when you can see it from the living room or kitchen. Wall lights, ground lighting and smart lights around a seating area can make the outside feel welcoming without being too harsh.

Shelter is important with the unpredictable British weather. A pergola or covered patio means you can still enjoy the garden when it rains, while outdoor heating can make it more comfortable on colder evenings. Good drainage and weather-resistant furniture are worth thinking about, too. These details might not be the most glamorous part of planning your indoor-outdoor flow, but planning ahead can make all the difference between a space you only use in summer and one you can enjoy throughout the year.

Bring the whole design together

Finally, think about the smaller details that help your indoor and outdoor spaces feel like they belong together. That might mean carrying similar colours and designs through both areas, adding plenty of greenery near the doors or choosing outdoor cushions and accessories that complement your interiors.

You don't have to make everything an exact match. In fact, a garden that looks exactly like your living room can feel a little out-of-place. It's more about creating a natural connection between the two, so that the garden feels like an extension of your home rather than a completely separate space.

Good indoor-outdoor design should make everyday life easier, whether that's having friends over for a summer barbecue, letting more daylight into your home, or simply enjoying a better view while you cook dinner. Get the layout, doors and practical details right, and you can create a space that feels brighter and far more enjoyable throughout the whole year.

About Costel Radescu

Founder and Director of CR Group

Costel Radescu is the Founder and CEO of CR Group, a fully integrated property and construction company uniting five specialist divisions: CR Joinery, CR Developments & Constructions, CR Building Contractors, CR Designs, and CR Property Investments. With a background in hands-on construction and project management, he brings over a decade of industry experience across residential, commercial, and investment sectors.

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Efficiency, however, doesn't come at the expense of appearance. Rather than forming a thick film over the timber, One Coat Only penetrates the wood and allows its natural grain and character to remain visible. The result is an attractive, natural-looking finish that enhances the timber while providing dependable protection against the elements.

Once dry, the finish is water and dirt resistant as well as weather and UV resistant, helping exterior timber withstand the demands of changing British weather. By protecting the wood while allowing it to breathe, One Coat Only also helps to reduce swelling and shrinkage caused by changes in moisture.

Its microporous properties are particularly important. Unlike conventional film-forming finishes, the coating remains breathable and flexible, meaning it will not crack, peel or flake as the timber naturally moves.

This makes One Coat Only a versatile option for a wide variety of exterior projects, from timber cladding, fencing and garden structures to garden furniture and children's exterior play equipment. Once the coating has fully dried, it is also safe for humans, animals and plants, making it particularly well suited to timber used throughout gardens and outdoor living spaces.

Maintenance has been considered too. When the time eventually comes to refresh the finish, there is no need to sand the existing Osmo coating before applying a future maintenance coat, provided the surface remains intact and is suitably cleaned and prepared.

With just one coat required, excellent coverage and long-lasting exterior protection, Osmo One Coat Only HS Plus offers a faster, more economical way to protect timber without hiding what makes wood beautiful in the first place.

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17,000 PLANTS BRING ROCKLIFFE'S NEWLY TRANSFORMED GARDENS TO LIFE

One of the UK's largest plant nurseries, Johnsons Nurseries Ltd, has continued its long-standing relationship with the five-star luxury resort, Rockliffe, supplying more than 17,000 plants and trees for its newly landscaped grounds as part of its multimillion-pound transformation.

Set within 375 acres of historic parkland near Darlington, Rockliffe has undergone an extensive transformation, including the restoration of its Grade II-listed Old Hall, enhanced accommodation, new dining experiences, and the creation of a standalone restaurant pavilion named Atlas.

The ambitious project has seen the resort's gardens and outdoor spaces transformed to complement the renovated and new buildings, creating an attractive and welcoming environment for guests.

The landscape and planting scheme was designed by Colour Landscape Architects, while Johnsons Nurseries supplied an extensive selection of shrubs, trees, instant hedging, ornamental grasses, flowering perennials and topiary, creating year-round interest throughout the newly landscaped grounds.

Among the varieties supplied were mature Scots pines, multi-stem Amelanchier lamarckii and Magnolia trees, alongside instant Carpinus betulus hedging and ornamental Taxus baccata topiary. The planting scheme also features an extensive mix of flowering perennials and ornamental grasses, including Anemone 'Honorine Jobert', Geranium 'Rozanne', Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm', Calamagrostis and Deschampsia, providing seasonal colour, texture and movement throughout the gardens.

The landscaping was carried out in-house by Rockliffe's Estates team, led by Head of Engineering & Estates Phil Mennell. Despite one of the hottest and driest summers, the team worked tirelessly to establish thousands of plants and trees, extensive hedging and new lawn areas, overcoming challenging conditions and tight deadlines to complete the grounds ahead of the resort's reopening.

Group Managing Director at Johnsons Nurseries, Graham Richardson, said:

"We're incredibly proud to have supplied the plants for Rockliffe's newly transformed gardens as part of this prestigious development.

From the restoration of the historic walled garden to this latest transformation, it's rewarding to see how the grounds have evolved. The finished gardens look fantastic, and we're delighted to have played a part in creating outdoor spaces that guests can enjoy for years to come."

Phil Mennell, Head of Engineering & Estates at Rockliffe, added: "This has been one of the most ambitious landscaping projects we've undertaken at Rockliffe, and I'm incredibly proud of what our Estates team has achieved. Working closely with Johnsons Nurseries has been invaluable, ensuring we had the quality and variety of plants needed to bring the designs to life. It's been fantastic to see the gardens transform, and I'm looking forward to watching them establish and mature for our guests to enjoy for many years to come."

Emma Fletcher, Director at Colour Landscape Architects, said: "Johnsons have been a great support on the delivery of the new gardens at Rockliffe, assisting us on species choices and availability from early design stages and providing flexibility in deliveries to align with the challenging project programme. We are delighted that the completed gardens have been so well received, and a large part of that is the impact that the planting beds and stock have had."

The completed gardens complement the resort's historic parkland setting, enhancing the guest experience and marking another chapter in Johnsons' long-standing relationship with Rockliffe, which reopened at the beginning of September.

www.johnsonsnurseries.co.uk

WYKEHAM MATURE PLANTS

Supplying the trade with high quality large trees, specimen shrubs, instant hedging and screening plants for over forty five years, Wykeham Mature Plants are experts in supplying mature stock for instant transformations, tailored to the site conditions and to the requirements of your business. The 150 acre nursery is located in a frost pocket near Scarborough; the Yorkshire-grown stock is guaranteed to be hardy and, as a nursery that has achieved the prestigious Plant Healthy certification, you can rest assured that it is free from imported pests and diseases.

A range of large ornamental shrubs is available to provide instant maturity to any planting scheme. A range of pleached trees and hardy standard-trained evergreens are available to provide privacy and screening, which complement and supplement a range of trees, including fruit trees, in sizes heavy standard and above.

A particular specialty at Wykeham is the range of instant hedging blocks. Each hedge block is a single, mature plant, clipped for many years on site to provide maximum density, allowing you to build a hedge, whether in straight lines or in curves, which would otherwise take years to achieve

Advisory and quality planting services are available to both private and commercial clients, to ensure that the plants you purchase have the best possible start. The experienced sales staff are happy to advise you of the ideal plants to thrive in the conditions on your site.

For further information, call 01723 862406, email enquiries@wykeham.co.uk or visit www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk

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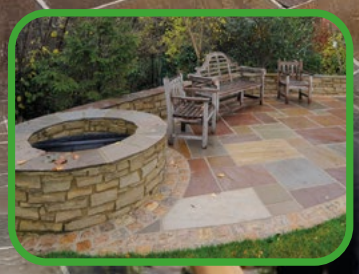

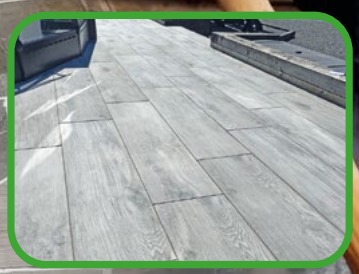

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AS AUTUMN TURNS TO WINTER, GFTK'S UNIQUE JOINTING IS MORE OUTSTANDING.

KEEP WORKING & GET FINISHED - EVEN IN THE RAIN!

As autumn progresses and turns to winter, the British weather often decides when you can finish paving jobs. Rain, colder mornings and residual water sitting in the joints, will all stop most jointing products in their tracks, or cause problems and failures later in service. However, the right paving jointing changes that. Here we explain why GftK vdw 850 plus lets you keep working effectively through the wetter winter months. It also avoids the other two major problems that worry owners and contractors about paving jointing - Staining and Cracking.

Why wet and cold weather stops most jointing

Most jointing products have strict weather limits for successful application on site. Sadly, these limits are not always made clear or properly observed. For example, cement-based mortars need relatively dry conditions and a dry forecast. They will also often leave a cement haze on the paving, especially in damp conditions. Many 1-part jointing compounds also need warmer, dry weather, so that sufficient evaporation takes place for them to harden properly. Some epoxy grouts also cause problems, as most epoxy resin jointing mortars stain sensitive, permeable stone surfaces, and leave an unsightly resin bloom in damp conditions. As a result, jobs stall, complaints and call-backs increase, contractors wait to get paid, and owners have wait to open or reopen and use their paving.

A resin jointing compound that lets you keep working, even in the rain!

GftK vdw 850 plus is a unique 2nd-generation, 2-part epoxy resin jointing compound, designed for you to start and finish on schedule, whatever the forecast. In fact, you can even keep working in the rain when you need to finish.

It can also be applied and hardens at lower temperatures, suitable from around 3°C on a rising thermometer. So, you can plan your jointing and repointing works when you are ready, not only when the British weather cooperates.

Key application advantages come from the high extended flow characteristics, and as the GftK vdw 850 plus mortar is highly cohesive, it spreads easily across the paving as a wet slurry and effectively self-compacts into the joints, which displaces any residual water without segregation. Therefore, water left in the joints is no concern. You also don't need any extra tooling or finishing. As an additional bonus there is much less wastage.

Finally, clean-up is simple. You just rinse and brush off any residue with a little more water from a fine hose spray.

- For contractors: No Delays, No Staining, Finish & Get Paid on Time!
- For owners: No Delays, No Staining, Back Open & In Service on Time!

No staining, even on sensitive natural stone

With many resin jointing products, the resin binder separates from the sand during application, especially with wet slurry application. It then contaminates the paved surface, especially lighter, more permeable and 'sensitive' natural stone. Some suppliers call this a "temporary sheen". However, it still looks terrible. It also takes a lot of effort to clean, or a long time to weather off.

GftK takes a different approach. Its 2nd-generation, water-dispersed epoxy technology is exclusive to GftK in Germany. The resin precoats specially graded, spherical, alluvial glacial sands. Because of this high internal cohesion, the mix doesn't separate or lose resin. That's why, with GftK, it is "the wetter the better" at the wet-slurry stage. By contrast, that much water could cause more separation and loss of performance with other jointing products.

GftK vdw 850 plus stays non-staining even on relatively sensitive sandstone, limestone and granite paving. In addition, there is none of the annoying cement haze you get from cement-based jointing. That makes GftK vdw 850 plus the ideal resin grout where staining is a worry.

No shrinkage cracking

Cement mortars shrink as they harden through cement hydration, and this shrinkage causes cracking. In fact, shrinkage is the root cause of many joint failures. GftK vdw 850 plus is different, because it hardens by internal cross-linking. As a result, there is no short- or long-term shrinkage, and so no shrinkage cracking.

This also makes it well suited to joints with variable widths. For example, it is excellent for repointing traditional and historic Yorkstone, Slate slabs and Granite setts, all with variable width joints and without uniform joint sides. Also ideal for the 'Crazy Paving' coming back into fashion.

Tough enough for driveways, streets and market squares

GftK vdw 850 plus suits all types of paving, from public highways to retail and commercial areas to domestic driveways and patios. This includes heavily pedestrian and vehicle trafficked paved roads and other public spaces such as market squares. Moreover, it withstands frost, de-icing salts, high-pressure jet-washing and even mechanical street-cleaning machines.

Get the job done this winter

Does the weather look set against you next week, or do you simply want fewer joint problems and potential comebacks in future.....? Either way, choose GftK vdw 850 plus for your next project. It is the non-staining resin jointing compound you can use in wet weather, even in the rain. You get fewer site and / or environmental limitations, no delays, and for a small initial increase in materials cost, you get big savings in time and money when it really matters.

For more information, advice and GftK Product details, please visit our focussed webpages:

▪ For more about 2nd-generation Epoxy Resin-based Jointing:
https://nccstreetscape.co.uk/paving-jointing/second-gen-2part-epoxy.html

▪ For information on GftK vdw 850 plus:
https://www.nccstreetscape.co.uk/paving-jointing/vdw-850plus.html

▪ For information on Paving Repointing:
https://www.nccstreetscape.co.uk/type-of-area/paving-repointing.html

Need advice on your project?

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For our best advice on repointing projects, a few pictures always helps our experts if you can...

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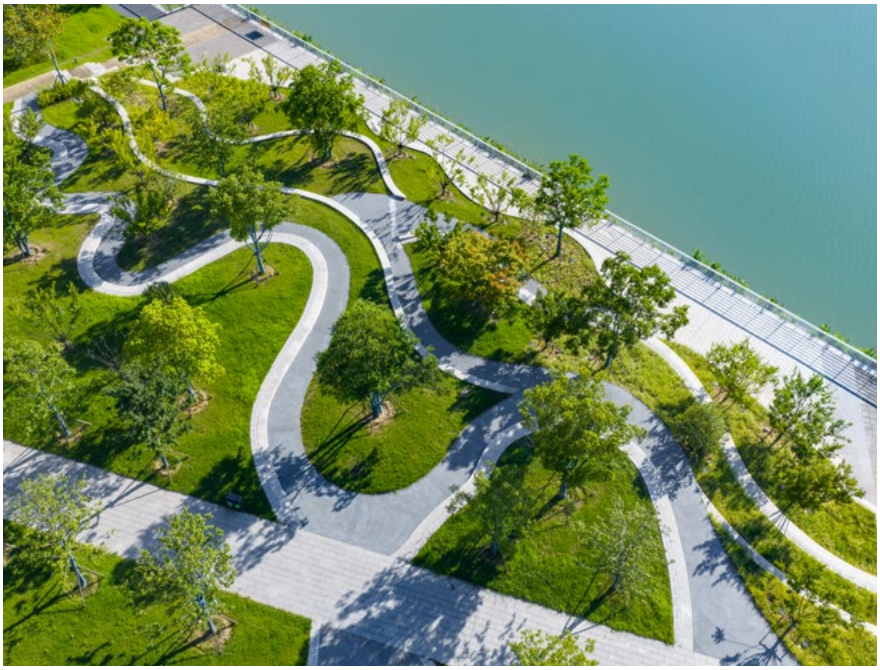


XICHENG CANAL LANDSCAPE

OPPOSITE PARKS

City Park Network

Xicheng Canal Parkland is a defining component of Jiangyin's emerging city wide park network and a clear expression of BAU's Networks Cities* framework, which understands successful urban form and space as a layering of interconnected, adaptive systems rather than isolated objects. As Jiangyin grows, the project asks a critical question: Can a city cultivate both a resilient ecological network and a dynamic cultural park network—side by side, and mutually reinforcing? (*See BAU's Designing Networks Cities, Routledge 2024.)

Xicheng Canal Landscape

Two landscapes in quiet opposition along Xicheng Canal — one shaped by nature, the other by culture
The design proposes a pair of "complementary yet parks" along a 4 kilometre stretch of the Xicheng Canal—two landscapes with intentionally contrasting agendas. One is a continuous, indigenous ecological corridor; the other is a highly flexible cultural park composed of 101 distinct park mosaics. Together, they form a complementary system: one extremely environmentally resilient, the other extraordinarily responsive culturally. The parkland, situated on remediated brownfields, is the heart of the district's transformation from a site of polluting industry and a contaminated canal into a series of high-density residential and mixed use precincts.

East Bank Cultural Landscape Corridor: 101 Gardens - a framework designed for maximum adaptability

Contemporary Chinese culture is fluid, fast moving and continually reinventing itself. The East Bank responds with a framework designed for maximum adaptability. A pentagonal tessellating pattern is overlaid across the site, subdividing the park into 101 whole or partial units—each one a garden/park in its own right. The maximum length of any garden edge is 100m, with a diagonal length 142m. Without hierarchical order, the park's structure allows gardens the freedom to evolve independently. Each can be designed, re designed, programmed and re programmed without disrupting its neighbours or the overall structure.

Many Layers

BAU identified each design issue involved in this project and developed an independent ideal, uncompromised or utopian solution for each of those issue. These ideal layers have been put together in a rich and complex assemblage. Any conflict within the assemblage was solved locally while maintaining the layer(s).

A number of other urban issues were identified and a layer developed for each. These issues include:

Palimpsest

This cultural park makes visible parts of what has been removed and uses those fragments to advantage. Thresholds of historical precincts are redefined, walls lost to demolition are partially rebuilt to frame views, or become seats and benches, increasing amenity for the park users.

Peripheral Paths

Both the eco-indigenous and the cultural park have a peripheral path that runs between and under existing vehicular bridges, providing highly accessible edges to both parks.

Desire Lines

From every intersecting street, a path leads directly to the river. In the wider park areas, shortcuts are provided so pedestrians can cut diagonally through the park to the next intersecting bridge. In addition, the eco-park has a path running through the centre, a quiet route through nature.

Existing Buildings

Existing buildings are recycled and re-programmed to become part of a post-industrial landscape - either on green islands within the new eco-park, or becoming the focus of new

cultural programs and activities in the cultural park.

Pavilions
Both parks have programmed pavilions distributed fairly and evenly throughout. From extra-small programs (picnic, mahjong) pavilions at 2.5 minute intervals; to medium programs (children's playground, kiosk) at 5 minute intervals; to large programs (cafes, events spaces) at 10 minute intervals.

Uncompromised
This project provides a new uncompromised landscape despite the conflicting landscape demands of this new century.

West Bank: Indigenous Ecosystem Corridor reparations, healing and co-existence

The West Bank is a rewilded post-industrial landscape, restored as a single, uninterrupted ecological space. Its design prioritizes habitat continuity, enabling indigenous fauna to re-establish and connect safely through the city's broader network of wildlife habitat and corridors. A rich mosaic of habitats and shelters—including protected spaces, nesting boxes, frog ponds, islands, rain gardens and wetlands—supports this ecological resurgence. By removing kilometres of concrete canal edges and replacing them with vegetated, contoured banks, the project fosters fish spawning and amphibious life. These banks are stabilized using native riparian species of trees, plants and reeds.

Yangtse Fauna Restoration
The restored aquatic and terrestrial environments are specifically designed to support the biodiversity of the Southern Yangtze, hosting a variety of native species. The wetlands can provide critical staging and wintering grounds for migratory waterbirds such as the Oriental Stork, Little Egret, and the Chinese Pond-Heron. Resident species like the Common Kingfisher and Light-vented Bulbul should utilize the corridor for year-round foraging and nesting. The rejuvenated waterway supports native fish from both the Yangtse River at one end and Taihu Lake, Suzhou at the other. These populations are critical to a healthy food web within the riverine ecosystem.

Urban vs Wild: The Rewilding Struggle
The 4km eco-corridor balances public access with ecological preservation through purposeful, low-impact design. Winding, meandering paths guide visitors through the landscape, protecting sensitive habitats from disruption. Site amenities utilize muted colors, textured natural materials, and ecological themes to blend into the environment. To further soften their integration, large-scale infrastructure like car parks and playgrounds adopt ship shaped footprints that mimic wetland islands forms, ensuring the high-density residential precinct thrives without compromising the integrity of the surrounding ecosystem.

Unchartered Frontiers
While indigenous corridors are well-established in many countries, they are unheard of, and difficult to appreciate for many municipal patrons and professionals in the Yangtse River Delta. Fortunately, an open-minded client supported this rewilding effort. However, we underestimated the new residents' expectations; as high-density developments were completed, the community began demanding the manicured intensity of the cultural East Bank. Many residents are newly urbanized and find little novelty in "wild" settings. Consequently, the client requested amendments for later stages toward expansive lawns over native grasses—a biting irony, as twenty years earlier we had fought hard to introduce some lawns, then exotic, into new parks in this very city.

Decoding the Wild - Signage for Stewardship
To bridge this cultural gap, we seek to expand our system of educational signage throughout the corridor. These markers will serve as a decoded layer of the landscape, explaining the hidden functions of the wilder zones—such as how specific reeds filter canal water or why messy scrub are essential for the native residents to enjoy. By reframing the wild landscape as a sophisticated living utility rather than neglected land, we hope to build the local stewardship necessary to eventually reclaim the lawns as functional, biodiverse habitats.

Cultural and Industrial Heritage
To honour Xicheng Canal's shipping legacy, BAU integrated the site's industrial bones into the landscape by preserving original structural skeletons and constructing large-scale architectural interpretations of former workers' villages as sculptural memories. These skeletal forms, alongside repurposed landmarks like the industrial silos, maintain the industrial scale of the waterfront while grounding the park in its history of labour and trade. Visitor installations and interpretive signage further highlight the canal's regional role as a vital link connecting Suzhou and the hinterlands to the Yangte River and the sea.

Documentation Partner:
Hangzhou Landscape Architecture Design Institute Co., Ltd.

Photography:
Inter_Mountain Images

TREE RELOCATION:
CIVIC TREES – WE DON'T JUST MOVE TREES, WE SAFEGUARD THEM

For over 60 years, Civic Trees has been at the forefront of tree relocation across the UK. From introducing Europe's first Vermeer tree spade to designing the globally renowned Newman Frame, we have consistently led the way in innovation, combining technical expertise with a genuine passion for preserving nature.

Why Relocate a Tree?
Because every tree matters. Relocating a tree isn't simply moving it—it's about preserving life. By saving a tree from being cut down, we protect the environment, support sustainable urban growth, and maintain the natural beauty of our surroundings. In a world where sustainability has never been more important, tree relocation is a practical and responsible way to make a lasting difference for future generations. Each tree we relocate continues to provide shade, clean air, and aesthetic value, contributing to healthier, more vibrant communities.

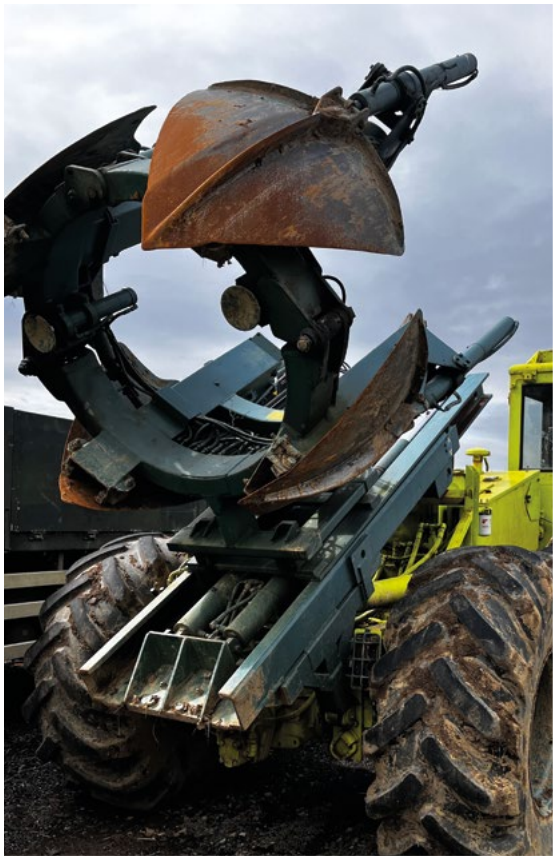
At Civic Trees, every relocation begins with a thorough assessment of the tree's health, size, and root system. Our team carries out a detailed site-specific risk assessment to ensure the entire operation is carried out safely and efficiently. Using specialist equipment, we carefully lift the tree with minimal disturbance to its roots, transport it securely, and replant it in its new location. From the moment a tree is uprooted to the ongoing care it receives after replanting, our skilled team ensures it adapts successfully and thrives for many years to come.

We believe that a tree is only as healthy as the care it receives. Through meticulous handling, expert planting techniques, and dedicated aftercare, Civic Trees safeguards every tree as if it were our own.

Our unwavering commitment to staff training, safety, and technical excellence means our clients can trust that every relocation is performed to the highest standards.

By choosing to relocate rather than remove trees, we preserve nature's beauty while supporting sustainable growth in urban and rural communities alike. At Civic Trees, we take pride in treating every tree as the most prized asset it is, ensuring it continues to enhance landscapes and enrich lives for generations. Civic Trees - Because a tree is only as strong as the care it receives.

www.civictrees.co.uk



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ORIGIN GREEN-TECH SUPPORTS DTMS WITH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS FOR GOOLE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Project Overview

The Goole Public Realm Project is a phased regeneration scheme designed to enhance key locations across Goole Town Centre, including the railway station, market hall, library and main pedestrianised high street. The project combines hard and soft landscaping improvements to create a more attractive, welcoming and sustainable environment for residents, visitors and local businesses.

As part of the wider town centre transformation, DTMS Group's scope of works included the installation of Hydroleca drainage media within pre-built planters, supply of topsoil, planting of 2,000 perennial and herbaceous shrubs and application of a surface bark mulch. These landscape enhancements will introduce greenery throughout the town centre, improve urban biodiversity and strengthen the visual appeal of key public spaces.

The Challenge

To establish healthy, long-lasting planting within a series of modular planters located in busy urban environments. Creating suitable growing conditions within these confined planting spaces was essential to support long-term plant performance, while ensuring effective drainage, moisture management and weed suppression.

Origin Green-Tech Involvement

DTMS Group, a specialist landscaping contractor, was responsible for delivering the soft landscaping elements of the project, including planting 2,000 perennial and herbaceous plants in newly constructed planters throughout the town centre.

To support successful plant establishment and long-term landscape performance, Origin Green-tech supplied a range of specialist landscape materials designed to improve drainage, provide a high-quality growing medium and enhance moisture retention. These products formed an integral part of the planter build-up and helped create optimal growing conditions throughout the scheme.

Origin Green-Tech Products Used

The planting programme was supported by a range of sustainable landscaping materials to create ideal growing conditions within the scheme's modular planters and to support long-term planting success.

This included,

Hydroleca lightweight clay pebbles were supplied as the drainage layer within the planters. Their lightweight, porous structure provides excellent drainage, aeration and water retention to support healthy root development and help to create a balanced growing environment.

Green-tree topsoil was supplied as the primary growing medium, with approximately 18 tonnes used across the project. Manufactured from recycled organic materials, it provides a fertile, consistent and sustainable rooting environment, supporting healthy plant establishment while helping to reduce the use of peat-based products.

Scotbark ornamental bark was applied as a surface mulch across the planting areas. The bark helps retain moisture, suppresses weed growth and regulates soil temperatures while providing an attractive finish that enhances the overall appearance of the scheme.

Impact and Outcome

The Goole Public Realm Project is an important part of the town's wider regeneration programme and demonstrates how high-quality landscape materials can support the successful delivery of attractive, sustainable public realm schemes. It is delivering significant improvements to the town centre environment, helping to create cleaner, greener and more welcoming public spaces.

The introduction of perennial and herbaceous planting has enhanced urban biodiversity, providing valuable habitats for pollinators while improving the overall visual character of the town centre. The combination of effective drainage, sustainable growing media, and moisture-retaining mulch has helped create resilient planting areas within a challenging urban setting.

Nick Rogers from DTMS Group explains: "Origin reen-tech provided excellent support throughout the project, from the initial enquiry stage through to product supply and delivery. The quality of the products supplied was consistently high and they performed as required on site. Having reliable materials, expert advice and dependable service helped us deliver a successful planting scheme and achieve strong establishment across the project.

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GREEN ROOFS:

WHAT WORKS FOR RAINWATER INTERCEPTION?

As towns and cities become denser, hotter and increasingly vulnerable to intense rainfall, one of the most underused areas of urban space in the UK remains directly above us: the roof.

Conventional rooftops absorb heat, shed rainwater quickly and contribute little to biodiversity. Green roofs offer an alternative, transforming passive surfaces into functional elements of urban infrastructure that can support more resilient, attractive and environmentally responsive places.

Managing heat and water

The value of a green roof is particularly evident in the way it manages heat and water. Vegetation and growing media provide additional insulation, while evapotranspiration can help cool roof surfaces and the surrounding environment. At the same time, green roof systems retain rainfall within their layers and release excess water more gradually. This can reduce the rate and volume of runoff entering drainage networks, making green roofs a useful component of wider sustainable drainage strategies.

Supporting biodiversity

Beyond managing water and heat, green roofs play a valuable role in supporting urban biodiversity. In areas where development has fragmented natural habitats, carefully designed roofs provide food and shelter for birds, bees and other pollinators. Native and flowering species can increase ecological value, while networks of green roofs may also help strengthen connections between existing green spaces.

Improving urban spaces

In addition, greener roofscapes improve the quality of urban spaces by softening the impact of dense development and, where they are accessible, offer spaces for relaxation, education, food growing or community use.

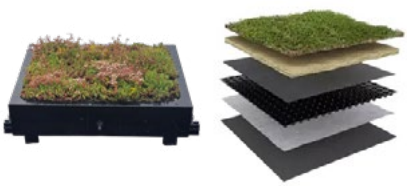
Designing for long-term performance

Successful green roofs, however, depend on considered design. Structural capacity, waterproofing, drainage, exposure, plant selection, irrigation and long-term maintenance all need to be addressed from the outset. There is no universal specification: each system must respond to the building, its location and the environmental outcomes it is intended to achieve.

Rethinking the role of the roof

The wider opportunity is to reconsider the role of the roof itself. Rather than remaining a passive surface, it can help regulate temperature, manage rainfall and support biodiversity.

As the built environment adapts to a warmer and wetter climate, green roofs offer a practical way to make better use of existing space, allowing buildings to contribute more actively to the resilience of the places around them.



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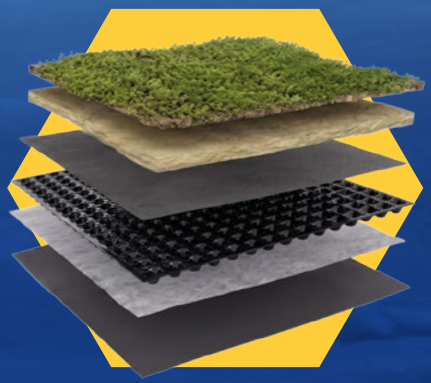

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SPATEX 2027 FOR ALL OF WATER LEISURE'S BUILDING BLOCKS

Photo courtesy of New Dawn Pools

The UK's only dedicated water leisure exhibition, SPATEX 2027, is the show for designers, architects, specifiers, builders and developers. Bursting with inspiration and information, it showcases the very latest products, trends and innovations in water features, spas, hot tubs, saunas, steam rooms, swimming pools, ice baths, enclosures and much more!

Held at the Coventry Building Society Arena from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th February, SPATEX 2027 is open to all and free to attend.

Why readers of Landscape & Urban Design should visit SPATEX 2027

1. Centre of design excellence
Each SPATEX hosts the presentation of the prestigious SPATA (The Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association) and BISHTA (The British and Irish Spa and Hot Tub Association) Awards on the evening of Tuesday, February 2nd. If you're seeking inspiration, then head over to the Industry Hub to see photos of these award-winning projects.

2. New innovations
SPATEX is a launchpad for innovation, showcasing exciting new products and technologies, many making their debut on the world stage. The dedicated New Product Zone, sponsored by Swimming Pool News, puts the spotlight on the latest innovations shaping the future of the water leisure industry.

3. Energy-saving showcase
Saving energy is high on the agenda with the 100-plus exhibiting companies, including all the world's major suppliers and manufacturers.

4. Free expertise for your projects
SPATEX is a unique pool of free expertise for your projects - there's no better place to seek impartial advice. Providing a valuable focal point for industry expertise, the Industry Hub brings together, on one stand, the collective knowledge of RLSS UK, IoS (Institute of Swimming), STA (Swimming Teachers' Association), PWTAG, and BSPF (British Swimming Pool Federation).

5. Powerhouse of knowledge
Not just an exhibition - SPATEX will host a free-to-attend double seminar programme including the ISPE (Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers) CPD-accredited technical workshops.

Highlights include:
Tuesday 2nd February Supporting Sustainability and Aiding Net Zero Design.
Wednesday 3rd February UK Swimming Pool Trends
Thursday 4th February Swimming Pool Design Guidance updates

6. Easy to get to
Conveniently centrally located, Coventry Building Society Arena is easy to reach, and with free parking for all registered SPATEX visitors, getting to the show couldn't be easier!

SPATEX 2026

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THE TURF INDUSTRY HAS TRANSFORMED

NOW IT FACES A CHALLENGE EFFICIENCY ALONE CAN'T SOLVE

The turf industry of today is unrecognisable from the one operating at the turn of the century.

Turf harvesting is highly automated. Modern machinery operates with precision. Irrigation is informed by real-time weather data, while soil testing and variable-rate spreading allow fertiliser to match crop requirements.

For 25 years, turf growers have invested and innovated.

But 2026 has exposed an uncomfortable reality: there are some challenges that greater efficiency alone cannot solve.

25 years of increasing efficiency

At Harrowden, Raindancer technology controls the timing and application of water, while Sencrop weather stations and soil-moisture probes support irrigation. Soil testing and variable-rate spreading determine efficient fertiliser use.

But modern turf production cannot simply respond to more challenging conditions by applying more. Growers have a responsibility to farm efficiently and responsibly.

That means the challenge facing the industry is no longer how to produce more with less. It is how to remain productive when natural resources become less predictable.

When efficiency meets its limits

Turf farms can irrigate large growing areas. Water and equipment can be moved between fields.

But in extreme heat the frequency with which crops require water can increase dramatically. A system capable of working across a farm on a ten-day cycle may face conditions in which turf requires water every few days

Building the infrastructure to meet that level of demand requires investment for conditions that may only occur for part of the year. Even with additional capacity, growers cannot apply water that simply isn't available.

On farms which use ditch networks to move water, falling water levels can make it more difficult to get water to fields. So hot temperatures can increase water demand as evaporation increases and water resources come under greater pressure.

Efficiency alone cannot create more resources.

2026 - an exceptional year, or a sign of what's ahead?

The dry conditions experienced this summer placed significant pressure on turf production, but longer-term climate data suggests growers must think beyond one difficult summer.

Analysis provided by MapleSky's Environmental Data Scientist Dr Tim Farewell shows the duration of the theoretical thermal growing season in Eastern England has increased by approximately seven days per decade.

Average growing seasons have increased from 222 days in the 1980s to approximately 244 days during the 2020s.

On paper, that sounds positive. The reality is more complicated.
Over the same period, average summer temperatures have increased, spring and summer rainfall have fallen and the number of days experiencing significant summer soil-moisture deficits has risen considerably. Winters, meanwhile, have become wetter.

So that creates a contradiction. Temperature is only one part of successful turf production. Soil conditions, water availability, machinery, labour and suitable access to the land all need to align.

Dr Farewell said: "The UK climate is changing to one with an earlier start, and later end, of the theoretical grass growing season. But this does not necessarily mean easier growing conditions. With springs and summers both becoming much hotter and drier, this increases both soil moisture deficits and water demand. At the same time, wetter winters create a distinct challenge. It is the increasing extremes of those conditions that growers will need to adapt to."

Our own farm teams are already seeing those patterns.

Late-spring sowings can struggle to establish before high temperatures arrive, while drought followed by excessive autumn rainfall can compress the "sowing window".

And when a crop fails to establish or is damaged, the consequence isn't just a delay. It can mean more work before that area is ready to produce turf again.

Warmer conditions also affect how turf is harvested. We typically move to night-time harvesting between June and September, allowing turf to be loaded and delivered the same day to reduce the risk of turf heating.

The economics of growing turf have changed too.

Many of the underlying costs associated with agricultural production have risen over the past 25 years.

Data from ONS and Defra shows that between 2000 and 2025, wider agricultural input costs increased by 131%, while red diesel rose by more than 200%, wages by around 230% and compound fertiliser by more than 300%.

Over approximately the same period, historic purchasing data from within the business shows that the ex-field price for turf increased by approximately 86%.
The comparison does not mean every turf grower has experienced identical cost or pricing movements. Prices vary according to supplier, customer and commercial model, while individual input costs fluctuate from year to year.

What it does illustrate is the wider economic environment.

For years, investment has enabled turf businesses to respond to changing costs and market conditions. But what happens when the variable that changes is the growing environment itself?

The next challenge is resilience.

Technology in all areas has a key role to play.

But after decades of focusing on efficiency, experience suggests the next phase of innovation cannot be delivered by productivity alone.

Efficiency is about doing more with the resources available. Resilience is about remaining productive when the availability and reliability of those resources changes.

That means a focus on adapting to less predictable growing conditions - from the way water is managed and crops are established to the technology, data and expertise used to make decisions.

Stuart Ridd-Jones, Director at Harrowden, said: "Turf production has changed enormously over the last 25 years. It is more sophisticated, precise and efficient than it has ever been.

"We can invest in better machinery, use data to make smarter decisions and apply water and fertiliser with greater precision.

"What we can't do is manufacture water that isn't available.

"The challenge now is building resilience into the way we grow for the conditions we're increasingly likely to face."

The summer of 2026 may be remembered for having an exceptionally challenging growing season. But it may also drive a different question.

After 25 years of transforming how turf is grown, how does the sector adapt when the environment itself is transforming too?

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FUTURE-PROOFING

THE BENEFITS OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL PLANTING SCHEMES

An increasingly common challenge facing landscape professionals is the need to introduce planting schemes that can cope with variable and extreme weather conditions. As a result, it is becoming increasingly important that planting schemes do more than just look attractive - they need to be multifunctional. Alongside creating visually impactful spaces for people to enjoy, planting schemes also need to contribute to climate resilience, reduce ongoing maintenance requirements and support biodiversity.

Contributing to climate resilience

In order to cope with the variable and extreme weather conditions we are facing, it is important that multifunctional planting schemes contain a rich diversity of species that provide considerable climate resilience. Pictorial Meadows Turf® comprises over 100 different species of wildflowers that have originated from a wide geographical area. Whilst many are UK natives, the diversity of species drawn from a broad geographical range gives the planting greater capacity to respond to increasingly variable climatic conditions, including hotter, drier summers and wetter winters.

More frequent periods of intense rainfall are increasing the need for flood-resilient urban landscapes, particularly where conventional drainage infrastructure is under pressure. Pictorial Meadows Turf® has been used as an integral part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), as the planting helps slow, intercept and manage surface water close to where it falls, reducing pressure on conventional drainage infrastructure.

Reducing ongoing maintenance requirements

Alongside being climate resilient, multifunctional planting schemes should also reduce ongoing maintenance requirements. Mown grass and conventional ornamental flower displays are both resource-heavy, whereas Pictorial Meadows Turf® offers a high-value yet low-maintenance alternative. Delivering upwards of 150 flowering plants per square metre within a grass-free planting mix, the density of plants in Pictorial Meadows Turf® naturally helps to discourage weeds.

Once established, routine maintenance can typically be limited to weed monitoring and an annual cut-and-collect, substantially reducing maintenance inputs compared with conventional amenity grass or seasonal bedding.

Supporting biodiversity

Another important factor of multifunctional planting schemes is their ability to support biodiversity. Pictorial Meadows Turf® has an exceptionally high floral content as well as an extended and very varied flowering period. The diversity of flower forms and extended flowering period provides nectar and pollen resources for a wide range of pollinating insects. In addition, seed heads and vegetation provide valuable food and habitat for wildlife through autumn and winter.

Get in touch

Pictorial Meadows® is a leader in designing and delivering multifunctional naturalistic landscapes and wildflower meadow solutions, blending ecological research with horticultural expertise.

If you would like to find out more about our products and services, please email info@pictorialmeadows.co.uk or call 0114 267 7635.

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THE KING'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2023

NEW GREEN SPACES BRING FRESH LOOK TO GLASGOW'S ST VINCENT STREET

Landscape architecture practice OOBE has completed new outdoor spaces at St Vincent Studios, a student accommodation development on St Vincent Street. The development brings colourful planting, street trees and new places to sit to one of Glasgow city centre's busiest streets.

The landscaping works have now been completed as St Vincent Studios welcomes its first residents for the 2026 academic year. At street level, raised planting areas introduce seasonal colour and greenery, transforming a part of the city that previously had very limited planting and tree cover.

This includes a new sunken plaza filled with perennial planting and street trees, creating an inviting arrival to the area. Seating areas have been created throughout, giving residents and visitors places to stop and spend time outdoors. Lighting has been carefully incorporated throughout the entrance and seating areas, helping the spaces remain welcoming into the evening.

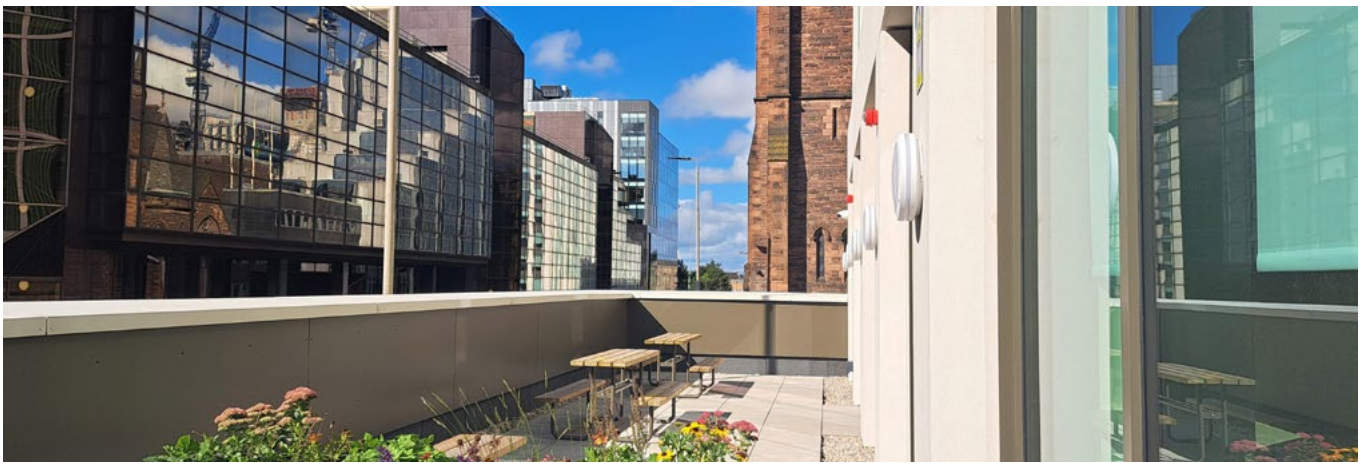
Away from the entranceway, OOBE has created a range of private areas for residents to enjoy, including an upper street-level terrace and four roof terraces. These colourful communal spaces provide residents with places to relax, socialise and spend time outdoors while enjoying views across Glasgow.

Olivia Phillips, Project Lead at OOBE, said: "St Vincent Street is a busy part of Glasgow with very little greenery, so we wanted to make the most of the opportunity to bring some green space into the area. With limited space, changes in level and a busy road right on the doorstep, it was important to create an arrival space that felt welcoming and offered a bit of breathing room from the surrounding city.

"The granite seating terraces and stepped planters help us work with the natural changes in level, while creating places for residents to stop, sit and enjoy the space. We've introduced street trees and a mix of perennial planting to bring colour, texture and seasonal interest throughout the year. The planting also provides a sense of separation from the busy street, making the entrance feel calmer and more inviting.

"Up on the terraces, residents have even more space to enjoy the outdoors, whether that's catching up with neighbours, relaxing or simply taking in the fantastic views across Glasgow and beyond."

To find out more about OOBE and its award-winning landscape architecture and urban design, please visit www.oobe.co.uk



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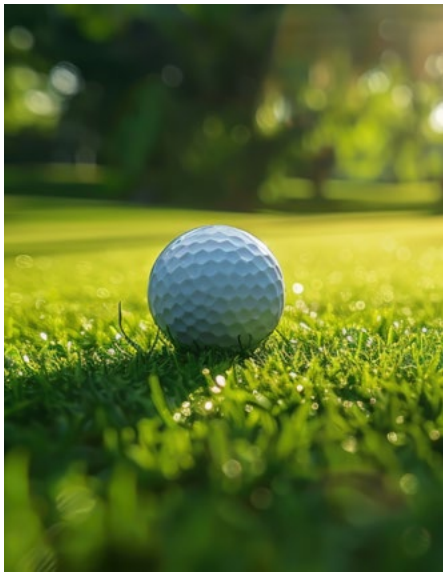
NEW SARALIS BIO ENTERS SPORTS TURF MARKET WITH SCIENCE-LED BIOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS



New company brings 30 years of plant physiology expertise and research-led biological technologies to professional turf and amenity markets.

Saralis Bio, a newly established biological technology company, has entered the sports turf and amenity market with a portfolio of research-led biological, biostimulant and nutrient technologies designed to support plant performance, resilience and more sustainable turf management.

The company brings more than 30 years of expertise in plant physiology and application to the sports turf sector, along with established knowledge and technologies to the challenges faced by professional turf managers.

Combining plant physiology, soil biology, genomics and data-driven agronomy, Saralis Bio has developed its approach around the increasing pressures facing professional turf management, from climate volatility and water availability to reduced pesticide options, rising costs and growing expectations around sustainability.

John Haywood at Saralis Bio said: "We have spent more than 30 years developing our understanding of plant physiology and application, and we're now bringing that knowledge into sports turf, where the demands on plants are exceptionally high.

We combine decades of plant physiology expertise with a detailed understanding of biological technologies to identify what plants need, when they need it, and how best to deliver it. This enables us to develop practical, targeted solutions that deliver reliable results for turf managers and greenkeepers."

The company's technologies span biologicals, biostimulants and nutrition, with products available as seed treatments, foliar solutions, powders and granules. Its approach also enables complementary technologies to be 'stacked' to address specific agronomic challenges.

Saralis Bio has an extensive portfolio of products listed under the new EU regulatory framework for biostimulants, providing a strong foundation for its development programme and future expansion.

Six further products are commercially ready and will be available to join the existing range, while 19 active ingredients are currently being analysed and assessed for their potential across areas including rooting, water-use efficiency, salinity management, nutrient-use efficiency, thatch mitigation, stress management, soil health and plant health.

The company will officially launch its expanded sports turf portfolio at BTME in January, where it will unveil further products and technologies for the professional turf market.

John Haywood added "BTME will be an important milestone for us. It's where we'll formally introduce the wider Saralis Bio portfolio to the sports turf industry and demonstrate how our science-led approach can support the future of turf management."

To learn more, visit saralisbio.com and to join the Saralis Technical Group, please visit www.saralisbio.com/technical-group

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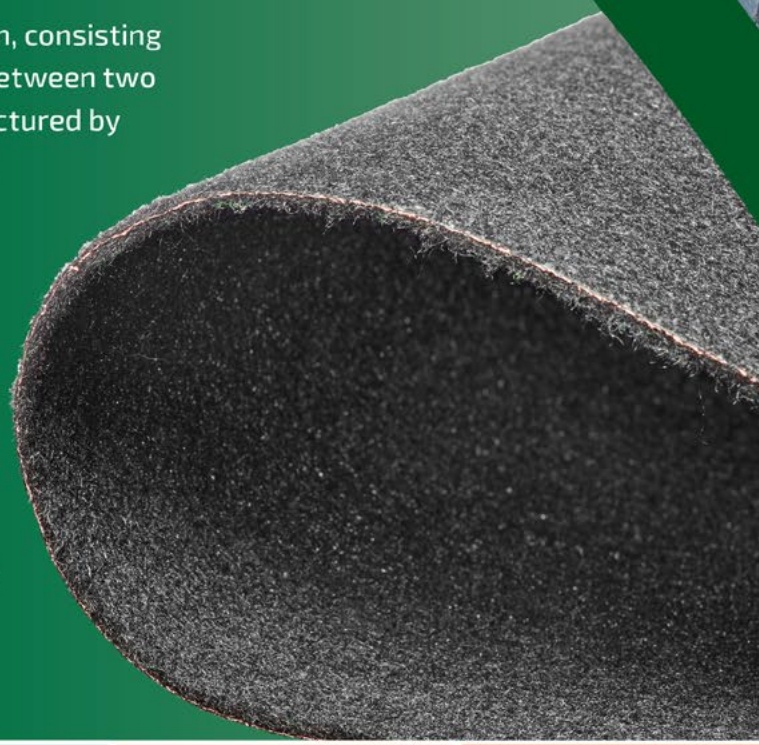

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JOIN BALI AND CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF LANDSCAPING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

The countdown is on to one of the most significant occasions in the landscaping industry calendar, with tickets are now on sale for the 50th BALI National Landscape Awards, headline sponsored by Origin Enterprises.

This landmark anniversary is taking place on Friday 4 December 2026 at JW Marriott Grosvenor House, London, and is set to bring the industry together for an unforgettable day of recognition, inspiration and celebration.

Who will bag the biggest prize in landscaping?

This year has seen entrants rise to the occasion once more, with the judges commenting on the incredible quality and craftmanship of the projects entered. National winners have already been announced, and anticipation is building to see who will walk away with the Principal, Special and coveted Grand Award on the day.

For five decades, the BALI National Landscape Awards have championed excellence, providing a prestigious platform to showcase exceptional craftsmanship, innovative design, technical expertise and professional standards. From remarkable private gardens and transformative public spaces to ambitious commercial developments and landscape maintenance, the Awards reflect the breadth, diversity and positive impact of the industry.

BALI Chief Executive Wayne Grills said: "Reaching the 50th year of the BALI National Landscape Awards makes this an especially proud moment for our industry. The winners represent not just outstanding projects, but the people, partnerships and businesses behind them - all of whom are helping to showcase the extraordinary breadth of talent within the BALI community."

He continued: "From transformative public spaces and exceptional private gardens to pioneering approaches to biodiversity, regeneration and landscape maintenance, this year's winners demonstrate the positive impact our industry has on the places where people live, work and spend their time."

From past to present to future

While the 50th anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on an impressive history, it is equally about looking ahead. The people and businesses recognised through the Awards are helping to shape greener, more resilient and more sustainable places for future generations, ensuring the industry continues to evolve and thrive.

With over 1,000 people expected to attend the awards, and limited spaces available, anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to secure their place soon, before it is too late. Whether you are celebrating a successful project, recognising the hard work of colleagues, reconnecting with industry peers or discovering the very best of the profession, the Awards offer an unrivalled opportunity to be part of the BALI community.

Tickets are now available to purchase, with individual places and tables of 10 or 12 available.

Be part of the celebration and help mark 50 years of ambition, innovation and excellence.

Visit www.baliawards.co.uk to buy your tickets and find out more.

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THORN LIGHTING GIVES BISHOP AUCKLAND'S HISTORIC MARKET PLACE A NEW LEASE OF LIGHT

Bishop Auckland's historic Market Place has long been at the heart of the town. Today, as significant investment continues to regenerate the town centre for residents and visitors, the role of this important public space is evolving too.

The existing scheme combined four large decorative columns with ceramic metal halide lamps in the square and conventional SON lanterns serving the surrounding streets and car parking areas. Durham County Council wanted to replace this ageing infrastructure with a state-of-the-art solution that would enhance the Market Place after dark while supporting the festivals, celebrations and community events that increasingly bring added life to the space.

For Thorn Lighting, the brief presented an interesting challenge. The new scheme needed to respect the traditional buildings surrounding the square and provide comfortable, appropriate illumination for everyday use, but it also needed the versatility to become part of the event experience itself.

Respecting history, embracing change

The solution was designed around two very different personalities.

On most evenings, the RGBW luminaires combine their colour channels to create a warm-white 3000K setting for the Market Place and its surrounding architecture. The lighting to the square and buildings is remotely programmable and can also be dimmed when appropriate.

When the town comes together for an event, the same infrastructure can take on a completely different character. RGBW lighting, GOBO projection and wireless control introduce colour, movement and customised projected designs, with specific scenes programmed for different festivals and community events.

Craig Lensky, Key Account Manager, Outdoor Lighting at Thorn Lighting, explains:

"What made this project interesting was the contrast between what the Market Place needs day to day and what it can become during an event. The everyday scheme needed to feel warm and sympathetic to the historic surroundings, but behind that sits the technology to completely change the atmosphere when the occasion calls for it."

Six columns, countless possibilities

At the heart of the new scheme are six bespoke 12-metre feature columns positioned around the main square.

Their arrangement takes up minimal space while providing the required lighting across the Market Place, with particular attention paid to the large central area used for events.

Mounted across the six columns are 31 Thorn CONTRAST RGBW floodlights. Their combination of high output, optical control and colour capability allows the same infrastructure to support everything from the everyday 3000K scene to dynamic event lighting.

Each column also incorporates interchangeable GOBO projector brackets and waterproof power sockets for festoon lighting. Potential additional loads were factored into the columns' torsional calculations from the outset, providing safe, adaptable infrastructure for future events.

Designed by Thorn and manufactured by Fabrikat, the columns and associated steelwork incorporate custom brackets, carefully selected paint finishes and Bishop Auckland's distinctive Bishop's Mitre emblem, creating contemporary infrastructure with a strong connection to its setting.

Control without digging up the square

Delivering that level of control presented another challenge.

The DMX player is located on the balcony of Bishop Auckland Town Hall, with control cabling connecting the architectural lighting around the building and neighbouring church. Extending conventional DMX cabling from there to the RGBW luminaires and GOBO projectors across the Market Place would have required a very different intervention.

The route would have crossed a main traffic road before continuing between each of the six feature columns and along the side road towards the War Memorial. Thorn estimates that this would have required more than 300 metres of trenching through established stone paving, followed by reinstatement.

Instead, wireless DMX was used to communicate with the lighting and GOBO projectors across the square. Existing underground cable duct and power supplies were also retained,

tapped into and extended wherever possible to provide power to the new lighting, further reducing the amount of new infrastructure required.

Craig explains:

"Wireless DMX wasn't simply about giving the client sophisticated control. Running a conventional control network would have meant more than 300 metres of trenching, including crossing a main traffic route and disturbing established stone paving. By separating power from control and using the existing electrical infrastructure wherever possible, we could deliver the functionality we wanted without that level of intervention in the Market Place."

Heritage in the details

Twenty-two Thorn Legend luminaires with illuminated finials introduce a more traditional lighting language around the church, town hall and surrounding streets. A sequence of seven columns with twin Legend lanterns creates a strong visual line from the Main Square towards the War Memorial, with illuminated finials adding a decorative detail after dark.

Bishop's Mitre emblems incorporated across the columns and many of the brackets, together with carefully selected paint finishes, reinforce the scheme's connection to Bishop Auckland.

15 CAELON inground uplighters bring greater definition to the façades of the town hall and church after dark. The CAELON luminaires sit within custom-made sandstone housings designed to protect against water ingress, while the architectural lighting was carefully aimed onto the buildings to minimise upward light.

Together, the different elements create a clear hierarchy across the public realm: functional light where people need it, architectural illumination for the surrounding buildings and dynamic effects for events. Redundant lighting equipment was recycled wherever possible in accordance with WEEE requirements.

From concept to commissioning

Detailed visualisations allowed the council to see how the different elements would work together and how the Market Place could change between everyday and event settings before the design was finalised.

Thorn then developed the lighting design, configured the bespoke lighting and designed the steelwork and accessories, manufactured by Fabrikat. Discussions with heritage stakeholders helped shape the treatment of the town hall, church and surrounding historic architecture.

Durham County Council carried out the installation, while David Harris of Thorn Zumtobel Group commissioned and creatively programmed the DMX controls. Pre-programmed event scenes and customised GOBO slides give the council a palette of effects ready to use as the events programme develops.

A square that changes with its community

The completed scheme brings functional, architectural and event lighting together within one coordinated design. Paul Gleadow, Durham County Council's street lighting and operational support manager, comments:

"As part of our ongoing work to regenerate Bishop Auckland, we wanted to introduce lighting to the Market Place that could do much more than simply illuminate the space. It had to respect Bishop Auckland's historic character while giving us the flexibility to transform the area for festivals, celebrations and community events. We can completely change the character of the space through light when an event calls for it, while the bespoke details give the installation a real sense of place and make it feel very much part of Bishop Auckland."

For more information about Thorn Lighting's urban and architectural lighting solutions, please visit Thorn Lighting www.thornlighting.co.uk

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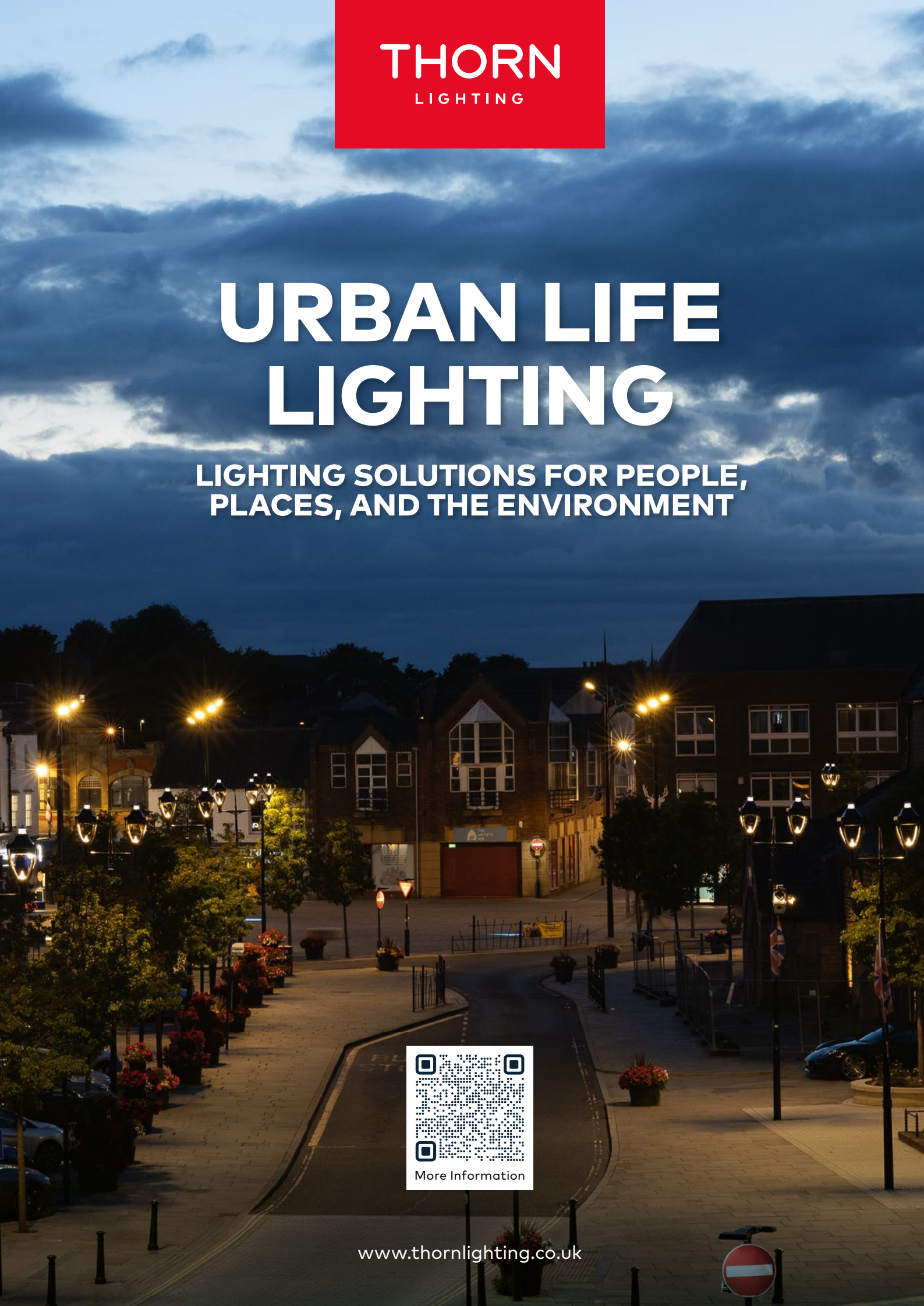

More Information

www.thornlighting.co.uk

HOW TO PLAN THE PERFECT GARDEN LIGHTING SCHEME

BY JACK TOLLEY-SMYTH, LIGHTING EXPERT AT HOME AND GARDEN LIGHTING BRAND 4LITE

Exterior lighting used to be purely practical, a floodlight for security or perhaps a modest porch light. Today, modern homes demand a far more thoughtful approach.

Homeowners increasingly want outdoor lighting that combines practicality with atmosphere. And for a very good reason.

While illumination is usually the primary purpose of exterior lighting, it is closely followed by its ability to transform outdoor spaces with stunning aesthetics which extend evening living, create an inviting atmosphere and enhance a home's kerb appeal.

The most common mistake with outdoor lighting is failing to plan ahead, treating it as an 'add-on' rather than recognising its potential. When integrated into the design from day one, a well-executed scheme can deliver exceptional results and elevate the entire project.

The best approach is to plan out a layered lighting scheme that combines various light sources, allowing them to work together or independently, offering complete flexibility to tailor the space for different purposes.

A layered lighting scheme generally incorporates three elements: ambient lighting, task lighting and accent (or decorative) lighting. In a garden setting, safety lighting should also be considered.

Ambient lighting forms the base layer, gently illuminating key areas including patios, driveways and pathways. The key is striking a balance: providing enough brightness to navigate safely without becoming overbearing.

This layer can feature wall lights, path lights and overhead festoon lighting. You can also use uplighters positioned to project light onto garden boundaries, such as walls, fences, trees or mature hedges. This helps eliminate dark spots and harsh shadows while opening up the space visually and making the garden feel significantly larger.

The second layer is task lighting, which provides practical illumination where needed after dark, adapting to how and when the garden is used. Common zones include outdoor kitchens and bars, barbecue areas, alfresco dining spaces, bin stores and reading nooks. Directional wall-mounted lights are ideal for task lighting, as are spotlights and LED strip lights.

When it comes to colour temperature, cool white light works well as it delivers crisp illumination and highlighting details in a way that closely mimics natural daylight.

Accent lighting is the creative layer that sets a garden lighting scheme apart. This is where you can define a garden's character and style, using targeted light to create a space that feels warm, inviting and sophisticated.

With accent lighting, the fixture itself can make a design statement, but the effect of the light it creates is most important. Good lighting transforms an outdoor space after dark.

This layer allows you to accentuate key garden features, create new focal points and generate visually striking effects. Start by assessing the space to identify opportunities. Use spike lights or ground fittings to project light upwards onto trees, plants, water features and any other visual points of interest, such as textured walls.

Festoon lights create a delicate, charming atmosphere, while outdoor LED strip lighting tucked under steps, wall coping, outdoor kitchen counters and built-in bench seating creates a subtle glow that adds depth, highlights lines and gives a visual 'floating' effect. You can also incorporate wall lanterns, portable lanterns and decorative wall lights to complete the design.

Warm tones are best for decorative and ambient lighting. In contrast to cool white light, warm white light produces a welcoming, cosy glow that softens edges and is much gentler on the eyes.

The final layer to incorporate into a garden lighting design is safety lighting. Here, you can plot wayfinding routes to guide people around the garden and the exterior of the home, ensuring that steps, changes in level, hazards, gates, paths and entrances are adequately illuminated.

There are several product options to achieve this, from path lights, bollards and spike lights to recessed lights, step lights, LED strip lighting, spotlights and festoons. Position these fittings to illuminate the ground and guide people safely along the route.

Ultimately, a successful garden lighting scheme is about more than visibility. It's about creating atmosphere and ensuring the space feels cohesive and considered after the sun sets. It is this attention to detail that can transform a garden into a stunning space and a true extension of the home.

Always consult a qualified electrician to ensure your outdoor lighting is suitable for its location and exposure to the elements.

www.4liteuk.com

HOW TO KEEP LANDSCAPES GLOWING AFTER DARK

A beautifully designed outdoor space shouldn't lose its appeal when the sun goes down. Whether it's a private garden, hospitality terrace, or communal landscape, lighting can carry the day's atmosphere into the evening, allowing clients to enjoy their outdoor spaces long after sunset.

For landscapers, lighting adds another layer of value to a project. A thoughtfully lit garden can feel larger, warmer and more inviting after dark, transforming patios into social spaces, pergolas into focal points and pathways into welcoming routes through the landscape. When planned correctly, lighting doesn't simply illuminate a space; it helps shape the way people experience it.

One of the most effective ways to create instant atmosphere is through festoon lighting. Suspended above seating areas, outdoor kitchens, dining spaces or pergolas, festoon lighting introduces warmth, character and a relaxed ambience that naturally encourages people to stay outside. Lumena's Orion 12V Festoon Lights, part of the Cosmic Range, are built for professional installations, offering a reliable and versatile alternative to domestic-style string lights. Featuring warm 2700K LED filament lamps and Lumena's VERSA Plug & Play connectivity, Orion makes it simple to create striking outdoor environments with straightforward installation.

Alongside decorative lighting, a balanced lighting design should also consider function. Path lights, bollards, wall lights and spotlights can help guide movement safely around a space while drawing attention to planting, architectural features, feature walls and specimen trees. The most successful lighting designs are rarely the brightest. Instead, they use carefully controlled light to create depth, contrast and visual interest, helping a landscape reveal a different personality after dark.

For larger or more permanent projects, 240V lighting remains a dependable solution. Professional solar lighting can also achieve impressive results where access to mains power is limited or extensive cabling is undesirable. While the initial investment can sometimes be higher, solar lighting can reduce installation disruption and eliminate ongoing electricity costs, offering long-term value for end users.

Whether the solution is 12V festoon lighting, 240V fittings or solar alternatives, the objective remains the same: to help outdoor spaces stay welcoming, functional and enjoyable long after daylight fades. After all, the best landscapes deserve to be enjoyed day and night.

For more information on professional outdoor lighting, or for help planning the right lighting design for your project, visit www.lumenalights.com, email sales@lumenalights.com, or call 01327 871161.

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BEYOND BRIGHTNESS: WHY WE NEED TO RETHINK LIGHTING

Drawing on Bradstone's latest Promoting Safety in the Public Realm whitepaper, Iwona Kossek, director of Ask for Angela, with Jo Roberts, head of product management at Bradstone and Holcim UK, explore how to make smarter lighting choices in public spaces.

As cities seek to create more inclusive, walkable and vibrant public spaces, lighting is increasingly being recognised as a critical component of urban design. And for good reason.

Three-fifths of people feel unsafe in a park or open space after dark, 24% of men and 37% of women stop walking in quiet places such as parks or open spaces after dark due to safety concerns, and people feel less safe walking alone in all settings after dark than during the day, with women feeling less safe than men.

But improving safety is not as straightforward as installing more streetlights. Instead, lighting can be used as a powerful tool in creating inclusive, inviting spaces, when choices are paired with strategic thinking.

Putting the nuance into safety

Safety in the public realm refers to the collective protection and wellbeing of people using shared spaces, such as streets, squares, parks, transport and town centres.

To understand safety, we must first understand risk, which expands beyond 'actual' threats, e.g. crime, violence and accidents, and includes 'perceived' threats- which may prevent or change the behaviours of people using public infrastructure and participating in public life.

When exploring possible interventions to these actual or perceived threats, the measures on hand usually fall into two groups: physical and social. Physical measures emerge through placemaking, design, maintenance, surveillance and lighting. Social measures looks like the presence of others, community cohesion activity and space management.

When looking at safety, there is a similar distinction as seen in risk. First is actual safety, which refers to an objective level of risk, supported by data such as accident rates and crime statistics. Though, this data should not be relied on for a complete picture for the safety of an area, as certain crimes are known to be underreported, such as sexual harassment and sexual violence. This is why we need to also consider perceived safety, the subjective

determination of risk shaped by emotions, past experiences and social contexts.

Actual and perceived safety are important considerations to balance, with the latter shaping behaviour more than the former. Lighting is a crucial element in improving both in public spaces. However, to get the most out of light, we must unpack its misconceptions.

Misunderstandings when it comes to light

There's a longstanding misconception when it comes to light: more light equals increased safety. However, this simple conclusion is not applicable to every scenario.

For example, increasing harsh lighting in an area may have the opposite effect by casting long shadows, making it hard to navigate spaces in the evening. There are also the negative effects to biodiversity and local wildlife that brighter, colder light may cause too. Other pitfalls of poor lighting include inadequate illumination in long, enclosed paths, creating blind corners. Conversely, over-lighting or poorly targeted illumination creates unnecessary visual clutter.

Lighting, and other design elements pertaining to public safety, have usually adhered to an outdated linear, single-earner model. Meaning, urban spaces have been structured for one member of a household travelled to and from work while others' movements were largely invisible in design decisions.

But when designing for today's society, multi-purpose, dynamic spaces are the current norm, meaning several people from the same household may be commuting, as well as combining trips such as school drop-offs, shopping and care responsibilities within the same journey.

Good design principles

So, what does good lighting design look like? This depends on the space, how the space is being used and who the frequent users of the space are. Lighting in an enclosed park will look different to a town centre. It might be more helpful to ask what space good lighting design should help to create.

Lighting should help create an open and elevated space to encourage a sense of security as they can see and plan their route ahead. Enhancing the opportunity for passive surveillance should be another consideration. The concept of 'eyes on the street' has been used for some time, allowing for natural oversight provided by residents and pedestrians. This can be achieved by prioritising clear sightlines and intelligent use of lighting and interventions to activate spaces.

Something lighting can do quite well is indicate a safe space that can be

occupied, not just by passers-by or dominant groups, but by a diverse range of users. Warm lighting, due to it being less harsh on the human eyes, can help create a comfortable setting, while a cooler light can be used for areas that require better clarity and recognition.

Smarter choices for safer streets

Getting lighting right within our public spaces is one of the many ways we can improve the physical and psychological wellbeing of our communities. Making everyday movement, access to green space and participation in public life more feasible and safer for more people is something that should be a serious design consideration.

Lighting sits at an important intersection. Its role can and should expand to be more than illumination, but actively curating open and inviting spaces, that allow people to enjoy public places and travel safely to their destinations.

To find out more about how urban design and safety can align in public spaces, read the whitepaper Promoting Safety in the Public Realm, here: www.bradstone.com

INCLUSIVE DESTINATION PLAY AT EDISFORD BRIDGE RIVERBANK PARK

Ribble Valley Council set out to create one of the North West's leading destination playgrounds at Edisford Bridge Riverbank Park in Lancashire, transforming a previously undeveloped area of land into a high-quality play space for local families, walkers and visitors. The brief called for an inclusive and accessible facility that could be enjoyed throughout the year, with new pathways and surfacing alongside an iconic centrepiece suitable for wheelchair users and children of all abilities.

Wicksteed worked closely with the Council to develop a comprehensive design proposal, supported by a detailed ten-page submission booklet illustrating the different play zones, key features and opportunities within the scheme. Designed to appeal to children from toddlers through to teenagers, the play area combines river and nature-inspired theming with a wide variety of physical, social and sensory activities.

Inclusivity was central to the design. The Universally Inclusive Boron, inclusive ground trampoline, Swirl Roundabout and wheelchair-accessible picnic tables create opportunities for children of all abilities to play together, while sensory features including a Colour Wheel Kaleidoscope, Eco-Rain Wheel, Taste & Smell Totem, sensory pathway and interactive panels encourage exploration and discovery. Older children can enjoy more adventurous play on the Pendle Hill Tower, HMS Edisford Multiplay, 20m steel cableway, Hurricane Swing and agility trail, providing a rich mix of climbing, balancing, swinging, spinning and imaginative play.

Following the award of the project, Wicksteed also supported the Council through the planning permission process. Although this was a lengthy process, the necessary approval was successfully secured, allowing the project to progress to installation between June and August 2026.

The completed scheme has transformed the previously undeveloped site into a major inclusive destination play space, combining accessible routes and surfacing with a varied selection of themed play experiences for a broad range of ages and abilities.

The Council commented: "Despite some early delays relating to planning permission, the project progressed extremely well. We were very happy with the installation team. The finished scheme is exactly as we had planned and envisaged, and we are very pleased with the overall result. We believe Edisford Bridge Riverbank Park will become a popular year-round facility, attracting both local residents and visitors from further afield."

Contact Wicksteed to arrange a free site visit and design consultation.

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