



eFIG Awards 2007



Maintenance
£5,000.00—10,000.00



Silver Leaf

Winner:
Project:

Urban Planters Oxford
Fugro, Wallingford

The UK arm of global geosciences, geotechnical and surveying company, Fugro consolidated three former offices into one at Wallingford, Oxfordshire in July 2005. The facility is two separate buildings linked together with a central atrium which is where the internal planting has been focussed. .

Two, four-stemmed 6m Adonidia palms form the central feature planting with dense planting along the sides of the atrium to screen and provide privacy to the offices beyond. Two eighty year old 4m olive trees were hand selected for the exterior lobby area at the building's main entrance.

Plant maintenance is carried out on a twice-monthly interval – this is important more for ongoing pest monitoring and management than watering which is aided by use of irrigation systems in all displays. The detailed specification that was agreed with the Client in advance of contract commencement. Watering is mostly achieved from under the root zone via the irrigation system, but about 25% is top watered to prevent the top layer of soil from drying out too much. Nutrition is achieved with use of Fargro's 'SB Plant Invigorator' product, which is used all year

round on a 'little and often' basis. This has also given Urban Planters team good control of Red Spider Mite and Mealy bug, so that they have not had to intervene with any other pesticide product on this site. However the control of Red Spider Mite on the Adonidia Palms has had to be supplemented using regular biological control usually in three month spells for treatment followed by a three month spell without until threshold levels of the pest have built up again. The introduction of beneficial predatory insects is fully compatible with the use of SB Plant Invigorator and has been endorsed by Fargro. The Adonidia Palms have put on approximately two metres of extra height during the two years since installation, and their size was carefully chosen to allow for growth within the atrium space.

Quarterly management audit and review meetings are held to monitor the progress of the project.



The European Federation of Interior-landscape Groups Ltd