

**Fresh news &
ideas from
Urban Planters**

AUTUMN TIME means innovation time

It's important to create and innovate.

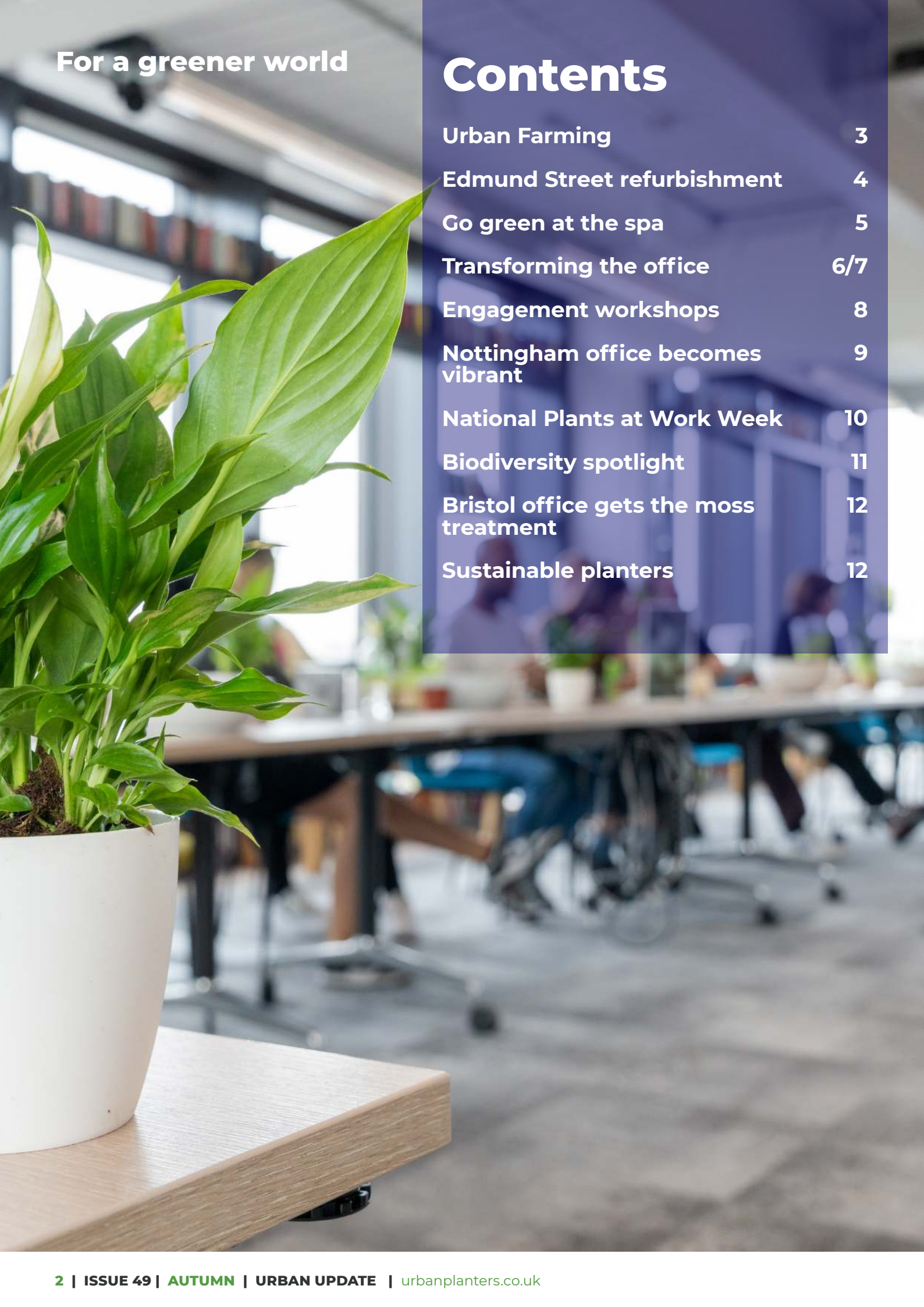
**See how Urban Planters can help
you stay ahead of the game.**

**The Urban Planters
Guide to a greener world**

AUTUMN 2024

Urban Update

ISSUE 49



For a greener world

Contents

Urban Farming	3
Edmund Street refurbishment	4
Go green at the spa	5
Transforming the office	6/7
Engagement workshops	8
Nottingham office becomes vibrant	9
National Plants at Work Week	10
Biodiversity spotlight	11
Bristol office gets the moss treatment	12
Sustainable planters	12

Understanding and improving our connection to nature

I have been a part of the Urban Planters family for nearly 20 years and during that time I have loved the evolution and growth the business has gone through and how we support and adapt to help all our clients. I have learned a lot during this time about how important nature is to us, our society, and the planet. We have evolved as part of nature and understanding this connection we have with nature is key to our future, how it uplifts us, enriches us, and improves our personal health and wellbeing.

We should remember how much we rely on our planet to survive, be more sustainable, and improve the biodiversity around us to help look after the environment. Whether large or small, changes we can make each day matter.

The planet and its resources need our help, whether it's soil health, food production, water sources or air quality, we all need to learn what damage we have done over time and how we can return the environment to how it should be.

In my new role, I will be acting as our Biophilic Lead. Biophilia refers to the innate human connection to nature and the natural world. I will be assisting architects, designers, prospects, and existing clients in understanding how important Biophilic Design is. I will be looking at the health and wellbeing benefits of utilising nature inside, outside and on your buildings, as well as how we can be more sustainable and improve biodiversity on your sites and surrounding areas. Get in touch and let's book a Biophilic Review and let's start making changes today!

Graham Flisher



Revitalise your workplace with urban farming and grow your own food right in the office!

Imagine having a lush, living wall or sleek indoor planters where employees can cultivate herbs, vegetables, and even fruit. These products not only enhance office aesthetics but also improve air quality and promote wellness.

Urban farming systems, like the Square Mile Farm stand pictured, are easy to set up and maintain, allowing you to harvest fresh ingredients for meals and snacks directly from your workspace.

This innovation is designed to seamlessly integrate into office environments, providing a green, sustainable solution for fresh, home-grown produce.

By adopting urban farming, your office can enjoy the benefits of sustainable living while fostering a healthier, more engaging work environment.

Transform your office today and experience the joy and satisfaction of growing your own food in the heart of the workplace!



Edmund Street, Birmingham

After an extensive refurbishment, the ground floor's common areas of this office needed a final touch: thoughtfully selected plants!

In the main reception and waiting area, gold vases were chosen to complement the forest green window frames and furniture, adding a touch of luxury that immediately draws visitors in.

For the soon-to-be café space, contemporary stone-effect planters were introduced, lending a modern, sophisticated vibe. These planters not only enhance the design but also create an inviting atmosphere that encourages relaxation.

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, plants offer significant benefits in office spaces. They improve air quality, reduce stress, and boost overall wellbeing. Greenery can also increase productivity and creativity, making the workspace more enjoyable and conducive to success.

By incorporating these carefully chosen plants, the building has been transformed into a vibrant, healthy environment where employees and visitors alike can thrive. These additions have truly completed the refurbishment, turning the ground floor into a harmonious blend of style, comfort, and wellness.



Malvern Spa

Malvern Spa recently faced a dilemma when the beloved olive trees in their guest lounge began to wither. These large, majestic trees had become iconic, adding a natural elegance to the space.

However, being indoors, they eventually succumbed, leaving a noticeable void in the lounge's ambience.

Determined to restore the lounge's charm, the spa sought a solution that would be just as striking. Enter the *Ficus Lyrata*, or Fiddle Leaf Fig—a plant known for its dramatic, oversized leaves that resemble the shape of a fiddle. These branched trees were the perfect choice, bringing not only the desired visual impact but also a refreshing burst of greenery to the space.

But the transformation didn't stop there. To further elevate the new look, smaller *Aglaonema* plants were added at the base of the *Ficus* trees. Their lush, varied foliage filled the extra space beautifully, creating a layered, textured effect that enhanced the overall design.

The result? A rejuvenated lounge that feels alive and vibrant, offering spa members an even more inviting and tranquil environment. The new plant arrangement has not only filled the void left by the olive trees but has also redefined the space, turning it into a lush, green oasis that perfectly complements the spa's serene atmosphere.



Swindon Office Space Transformation

Our team has once again dazzled our client, FI Real Estate Management in Swindon, with a cutting-edge green design for a new purpose-built office building.

Partnering with the client, we crafted a bespoke solution aimed at achieving BREEAM and WELL Building standards while creating a warm, vibrant interior that seamlessly connects indoor and outdoor spaces.

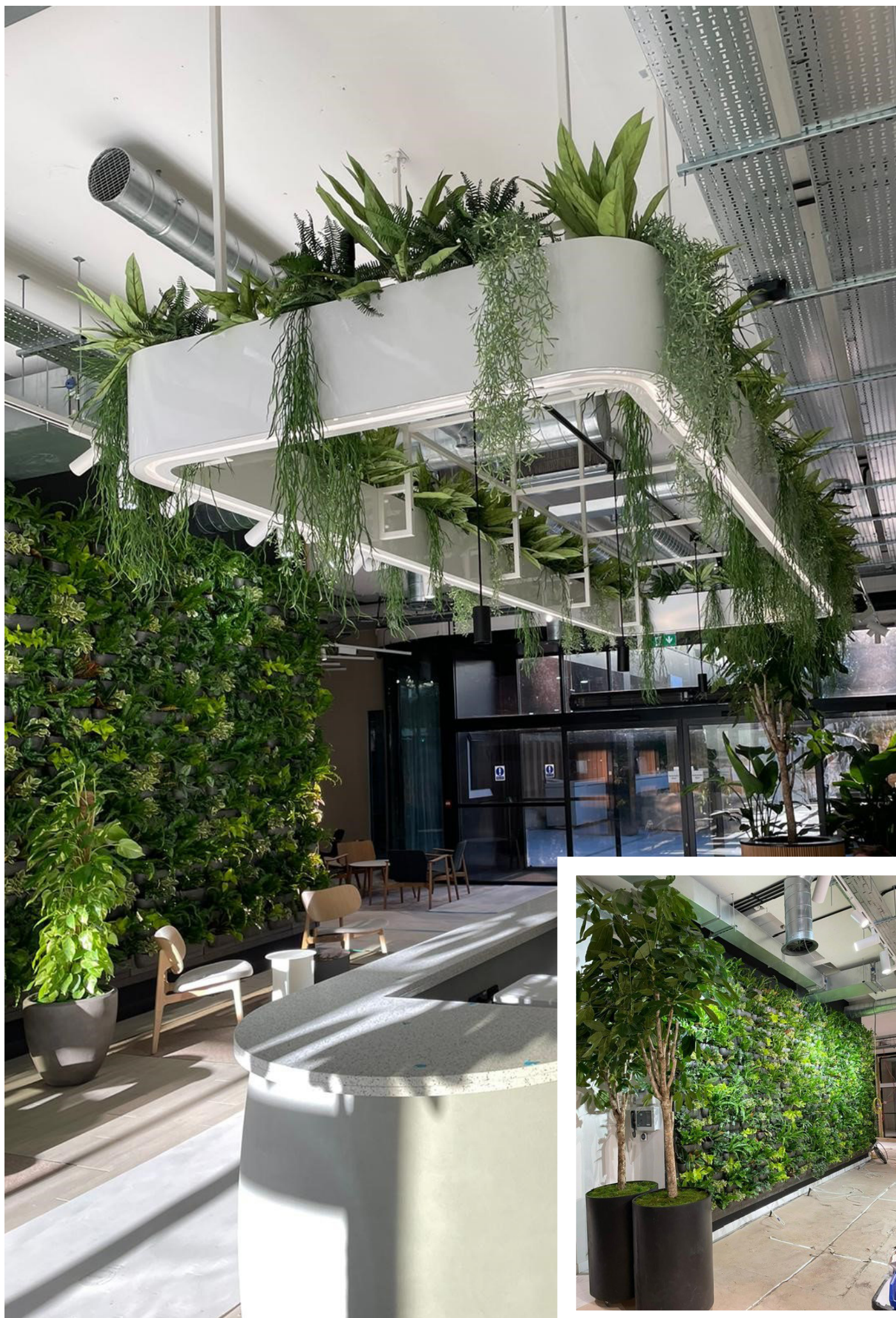
The standout feature is a stunning Living Wall using a super-sustainable system made from recycled and recyclable materials. The design also included two large feature trees in seating planters, setting a welcoming ambience in the reception area.

Preserved planting maintained the environmental ethos, while replica plants were strategically used in other areas.

To enhance air quality our team incorporated top air purifying plants suited to the space's light and temperature. The design was expertly installed by the Reading office and National Project Manager John Baxter, with coordination facilitated by Loop Interiors and their dedicated project lead.

With minimal challenges and seamless integration with other trades, the project has resulted in a vibrant, inviting office space that's already being considered for awards, continuing to set the standard for sustainable, innovative office environments.





Engaging with 'Four' agency

During this year's Health & Wellbeing Week, **Four**, the media and marketing agency, made a notable impact by hosting an engagement and enrichment session led by Catie and Andrea from our Urban Planters team, focused on creating a healthier workplace environment.

The workshop allowed participants to engage in a meaningful activity that combined fun and creativity.

Employees enjoyed the interactive experience of potting their plants, learning about the benefits of plants and how to care for them. This hands-on approach not only fostered a sense of accomplishment but also highlighted the importance of integrating nature into the work environment.

Emphasising sustainability, we utilised planters made from recycled materials and recyclable resources, reinforcing our commitment to eco-friendly practices. We also used the *Spathiphyllum* plant, featured in NASA's top 10 air-purifying plants list, chosen for its ability

to filter indoor air pollutants and contribute to a cleaner, more refreshing workspace.

We think it's fair to say everyone enjoyed the workshop and really showed off their planting skills. There were definitely some greenfingers in the room!

Overall, the session successfully blended engagement with enrichment, demonstrating Four's commitment to enhancing employee wellbeing, morale, and team building through practical, enjoyable activities.

If you would like to book an enrichment session for your company do get in touch.



Transforming Saint-Gobain's Office with Greenery

Creating a workspace that fosters productivity and wellbeing is essential in today's office environments. When Saint-Gobain wanted to enhance their new Nottingham office, they turned to us, inspired by the plant displays we had provided for their sister business in East Leake.

The office's design included shelving units that were perfect for integrating greenery. We provided bespoke GRP drop-in liners, each filled with a carefully selected mix of low-maintenance hydro-culture plants. These plants not only added vibrant touches of green but also required minimal care, making them ideal for a busy workplace.

To further elevate the office environment, we introduced floor-standing plant displays in key areas like the reception, boardrooms, and kitchen/break-out spaces. These larger arrangements brought life and energy to the communal spaces, creating a more inviting atmosphere for employees and visitors alike.

Our contact, Reshma was thrilled with the transformation, exclaiming, "The plants look fantastic!" The thoughtful addition of greenery has turned Saint-Gobain's Nottingham office into a vibrant, welcoming space that promotes both productivity and wellbeing, showcasing the power of plants in transforming any workplace.



National Plants at Work Week 2024

In July we celebrated National Plants at Work Week. A whole week dedicated to promoting the benefits of using planting in the workplace, whether it's for health and wellbeing benefits or to create a more aesthetically pleasing and greener work environment.

Our Urban Planters family played a vital role that week offering their knowledge on the power of plants and also spreading some selfie joy with their customers.



NEW Christmas Brochure out NOW!



Christmas is coming! It's time to get ready!

While there still maybe a few months to go before Christmas arrives, we know the festivities start early and the preparations start even earlier!

Our new Christmas brochure is now available, giving you a glimpse of how we can help make your Christmas hassle free. We can design, install and collect it all for you. Ask your consultant now or download a copy from the Urban Planters website.

Please don't leave it too late to get your trees and decorations ordered. We would hate for you to miss out on all that glitter!

Biodiversity Spotlight

Embracing biodiversity and fostering a biophilic connection to nature is essential for our health and wellbeing.

Embracing biodiversity creates a more balanced and resilient world that supports pollinators and integrates plants and flowers into our surroundings.

Why does it matter?

Promoting biodiversity isn't merely an ecological responsibility; it's a lifeline for our future. By fostering environments where wildlife can flourish, we contribute to the resilience of our planet, safeguarding the intricate and delicate balance of the life that sustains us all.

Pollinators, such as bees, play a pivotal role in the growth of many crops and wild plants, directly influencing our food supply and the health of our natural surroundings.

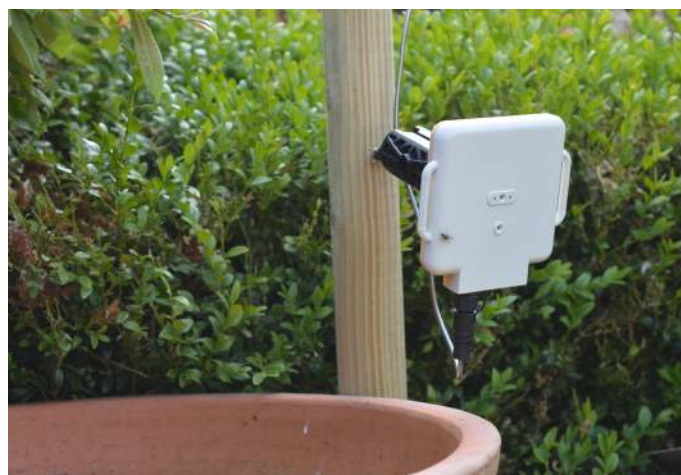
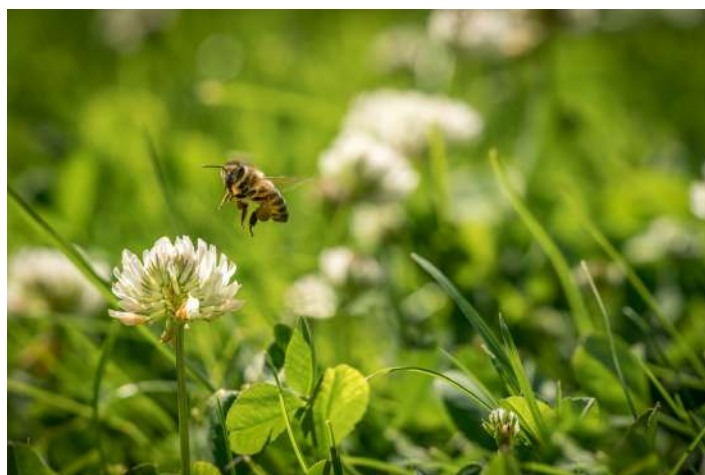
What can we do?

Encouraging biodiversity in our surroundings can be as simple as cultivating plants and flowers that support pollinators like bees and butterflies.

As part of our efforts to help increase biodiversity with our clients, we are utilising new technology, **AgriSound**, that can monitor and give real data on pollinators, such as bees, within the immediate vicinity of any plants and flowers on the customer's premises.

Whether you have planters, greenwalls, wildflower meadows or a roof garden with the intention to encourage biodiversity, we can help you achieve that goal and give some real time data if bees and other pollinators are on the rise.

Get in touch and ask us about **AgriSound**, our new pollinator monitor.



Walker & Sloan, Bristol

Incorporating plants into this Bristol office has enhanced the aesthetics and created a more welcoming, stylish environment for its staff. Using plants, wall planters and moss art we have been able to add texture, color,

and a natural element that complements modern interiors. Making it feel more vibrant and dynamic, and elevating the overall design of the workplace.



Sustainable Planters

For many years we have worked with manufacturers to not only have safe working practices, but also greener working practices. making sure where possible of zero waste in production, and that products are made and delivered as environmentally friendly as possible.

We're please to announce we have added even more sustainable and eco-friendly products to our range, which includes planters made from 100% recycled material.

Ask us about the new sustainable planters today to upgrade your designs and become even greener.

