

## Architecture students create new facilities at the King's Cross garden that goes on the move

# Higher ambitions for the Skip Garden

### Seven new structures at the Railway Lands

#### WELCOME SHELTER

An impressive, transparent fixture directly in front of the Skip Garden kitchen which, due to its ability to retract and expand, allows for the possibility of transforming from a shelter into a snug dining space. (Designed by Iman Mohd Hadzhalie)

#### THE GLASS HOUSE

A quirky greenhouse-cum-dining area with an outer shell made entirely out of assorted, used sash windows and scaffold-board from an old shipping container. (Designed by Rachael Taylor)

**EARTHBAG COOLSTORE AND OFFICE**  
The coolstore, a storage space comprised of compost-filled, re-used coffee bags from a

local roastery and reclaimed timber, rests beneath the garden's office and exploits a sun-facing ventilation stack as an additional means of temperature regulation. (Designed by Alessandro Conning-Rowland)

#### GREYWATER DINING SCAPE

A wetland dining room with a gravity-operated irrigation system that recycles water from the Skip Garden kitchen in order to power the space. (Designed by Yangyang Liu)

#### CHICKEN COOP

A three-bird chicken coop with a silver birch tree at its heart, encapsulated by a bamboo structure with intricate panel cut-outs. (Designed by Valerie Vyvial)

#### HYDROPONIC HEDGE

A herb-filled hedge supported by a timber structure which uses recycled wine bottles as a means of running a hydroponic system. The hedge also features an "aromatherapeutic workspace" which was designed to give visitors an opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. [Designed by Iman Mohd Hadzhalie]

#### 100 HANDS HALL

Named in reference to the efforts of the local community that helped to construct it, the rammed earth wall, primarily made up of local clay extracted from a construction site, supports the dining and growing hall. (Designed by Christophe Dembinski)

FROM a chicken coop made out of bamboo, to a herb hedge growing out of recycled wine bottles, the Skip Garden at the King's Cross Railway Lands this week unveiled seven new structures designed and built by architecture students from the Bartlett School at University College London, writes *Kuba Shand-Baptiste*.

The garden, managed by environmental charity Global Generation, is in the middle of the 67-acre development. Started in 2006, plants are grown in earth-filled containers so they can easily be moved around the site as new buildings go up around them.

The Skip Garden moved for the third time in May and the students have used the new site – to the north of the University of the Arts building – to showcase their designs.

Recycled materials have been used to create a manual irrigation system powered by bicycles, a greenhouse made from used sash windows and pallet crates, and a hedgerow that uses hydroponic techniques, aided by old wine bottles that collect and store water.

There is also a café that uses the vegetables grown on-site, a classroom used for a youth leadership programme, and lessons for families with children under five to learn about cooking and gardening.

Skip Garden's programme director Nicole Van den Eijnde said the site, like its plants, is constantly growing.

"We never see it as a finished site," she said. "The exciting thing about moving around is that we can set up new partnerships. It's about involving the community and making people feel that this is their garden."

Clara Goundry, 15, a Global Generation youth leader who admits she "wasn't that much of a fan of nature" when she first got involved with the project, said: "I like the sense of community. Currently they're showing us bees, so we're learning a lot about them. I did beekeeping as well, so I had to wear one of those suits. It was scary, but it was



Architecture students from the Bartlett School at University College London built new structures at the Skip Garden, before inviting school children in to enjoy them

fun." And when the King's Cross development is finally completed, Global Generation hope the skips can be moved to a new building site and their work can continue.

Ms Van den Eijnde said: "We're speaking to a couple of other construction sites with one of the construction companies that we work with quite

closely here.

"It needs to have those elements of a community group that works with young people, having a gardening space and maybe a cooking space for us to really help them set it up."

The Skip Garden and kitchen is open from 10am-4pm, Tuesday to Saturday.