The Bartlett School of Architecture reveals movable urban garden in King’s Cross, London

The Skip Garden, the urban garden and community space in the heart of the King’s Cross redevelopment, has opened in its new home, unveiling seven new structures curated in collaboration with The Bartlett School of Architecture.

The city-centre green space, which is run by Global Generation, has moved to its third and most exciting space at King’s Cross, working with students from The Bartlett to create bespoke structures for learning and events.

The garden was conceived to be movable, making a new home for itself in different parts of King’s Cross making the most of the redevelopment site throughout its years of construction. Now open to the public, the collaboration aims to add to the existing garden, whilst giving undergraduates experience of project management and design as well as exposure to a real client and a real brief.

The students have embraced sustainable construction techniques through the use of reclaimed materials such as sack windows to create a greenhouse effect, railway sleepers to form fruit cubicles and coffee sacks filled with earth to create energy efficient walls.

The development includes various facilities that can be used by the public such as the Skip Garden Kitchen, a dining area and multi-purpose growing spaces incorporating into London’s first large scale reed bed water filtration space.

The collaboration between The Bartlett School of Architecture and Global Generation is the brainchild of Julia King and Jan Katten who run The Bartlett’s BSc Architecture Design Unit, U03.

Commenting on the collaboration, Julia King, from The Bartlett’s BSc Architecture, said:

“We are delighted to have been able to work in partnership with the Skip Garden. Full-scale making exposes students to real world challenges. Building your own structure and then inhabiting it engages you with your work in a very visceral manner and working with Skip Garden has allowed the students to do just that. To see how the structures in the final phase is both rewarding and exciting. We hope the Skip Garden continues to work with the local community, allowing opportunities, such as this to grow.”

Speaking about the Skip Garden, Jane Rodford, co-founder of Global Generation, said:

“When people think of skips they think of construction, building and dirt. We didn’t. We thought less robust and more robust. We wanted to create a space that was both innovative, but served as a learning resource to the community. It has been a pleasure to work with the students at Bartlett’s. Watching their innovative structures go from prints and scale models, to real life has been a very exciting journey for us, and we very much look forward to welcoming the public to experience it for themselves.”

To mark the launch of the official opening, the Skip Garden will be running a series of summer events, starting with its popular Summer School, which will run from the 23 July. The Summer School will allow young enthusiasts to explore the wonders of urban gardening, making use of the outside learning space and learn more about the garden.

The Skip Garden will also be hosting a series of events, including twilight dining experiences, family growing sessions and knitsfite talks. Their dedicated kitchen, Skip Garden Kitchen, is open daily, serving up fresh produce.

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