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, unveiled 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. New 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 scrapt windows to create a greenhouse effect, railway sleepers to form toilet 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 multiple growing spaces incorporating London's first large-scale reed bed water filtration scope.

The collaboration between The Bartlett School of Architecture and Global Generation is the branchchild 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. Fabricating movable spaces to students to real world challenges. Building your own structure and then moving 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 now see the structures in the final phase is both rewarding and exciting. We hope the Skip Garden continue to work with the local community, allowing opportunities, such as this to grow."

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

"What people think of Skip may think of construction building and dirt. We didn’t. We thought less rubbish and more mindset. We wanted to create a space that was both innovative, but served as a resource to the community. It has been a pleasure to work with the students at Bartlett’s. Watching the innovative structures go from print and scale models, to real. We have been a very exciting journey for us, and we very much look forward to welcoming the public to experience it for them self.
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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 22 July. The Summer School will allow young enthusiasts to explore the wonders of urban gardening, making use of the outside learning space and new made class room.

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

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