

Press Release February 2013:

Scotscape and DesignWild to pool their expertise

Scotscape Landscapes and Building, and DesignWild Associates are delighted to announce that they will be collaborating on projects that will pool their expertise. Scotscape specialise in living walls and roof gardens and DesignWild have extensive experience of contemporary design for biodiversity. With creativity and thought gardens and public spaces can be designed to benefit both people and wildlife.

Living walls provide huge benefits for people in improving air quality and acoustic interference, as well as bringing beauty and interest to urban areas. They also have great potential for increasing the available habitats and food sources for birds, butterflies, and bees and other insects. Roof gardens and green roofs are often areas of peace and calm where people can meet and relax, yet they can also provide much-needed habitats and corridors for wildlife. The planting of small areas of land between buildings can be designed to maximise diversity, giving colour and interest throughout the year.

The urban realm, and particularly commercial city centres may be very limited in their capacity to support wildlife. Introducing suitable vegetation makes possible a range of feeding sites, and niches for nesting and roosting. Further interventions such as swallow bricks, nesting boxes and bee homes will encourage a broad scope of possible animal visitors or residents. Placing those opportunities off ground makes them more visible and accessible to animals in flight.

Attention paid to landscape management systems with regard to substrate, nutrients and water supply, and skilled maintenance, will help to create places where birds and insect will be drawn to alight. Scented flowers and bright colours alert them to an oasis above the ground and are appealing to people. Moths are particularly drawn to lit buildings at night, and need to be provided with food and places to hide away in daylight hours.

Scotscape MD Angus Cunningham says "having DesignWild as partners will bring us new opportunities to maximise the benefits of living walls and roof gardens. We are delighted to be able to improve the ecosystems of those places where wildlife struggles to get a foothold"

The DesignWild designers Catherine Heatherington and Alex Johnson see collaboration with Scotscape as bringing to fruition ambitions for biodiversity in contemporary settings, and are very excited about engaging with new dimensions!

www.designwild.co.uk

www.scotscape.net