

Design

News and sourcebook



RAISING AMBITIONS

The Governor of New York City has revealed a vision that will add two new extensions to the city's elevated public park, the High Line. The first phase, shown here in a rendering by architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro who collaborated with James Corner Field Operations and Piet Oudolf on the original design, would create an eastern extension, connecting the High Line via an L-shaped walkway to the Moynihan Train Hall, a recent addition to New York's famous Penn Station. The second phase extends the High Line westwards to Hudson River Park, creating a new means of accessing the four-mile riverside park. thehighline.org



News

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① PARADISE REGAINED
 Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, has revealed an ambitious €250 million plan to transform the Champs-Élysées, the famous avenue that links Place de la Concorde (above) to the Arc de Triomphe (right), into 'an extraordinary garden' by 2030. The scheme, based on a proposal by French studio PCA-Stream, will introduce rows of trees, planted areas for relaxation and meeting places, food kiosks, and low-noise road surfacing all of which will improve air quality along the 1.9km road. Plans are also in place to redesign Place de la Concorde in time for the 2024 Summer Olympics. pca-stream.com



② GARDENS REVEALED
 Excavations by Wessex Archaeology at the site of the HS2 rail project at Coleshill in Warwickshire have revealed one of the best-preserved, late 16th-century gardens ever discovered in Britain. Coleshill Manor was once home to the Elizabethan courtier Sir Robert Digby, who it's believed rebuilt his house in the modern style, along with huge formal gardens, to show off his wealth and status after marrying an Irish heiress. The outline of the gardens is exceptionally well preserved revealing gravel paths, planting beds, garden pavilion foundations and ornaments organised in a geometric pattern. wessexarch.co.uk

③ BISHOP'S PARK
 The Tywi Gateway Trust has secured a grant of £22,900 from the Welsh Government and National Lottery Heritage Fund to create two new garden areas at Bishop's Park in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire. At the entrance, a circular garden will be planted with a range of culinary and medicinal herbs, and other plants used in the mid 19th century. Espaliered Welsh heritage apples and pears will frame the garden. A new woodland garden will be created at the edge of the main woodland and will be planted with shrubs, small trees and spring-flowering bulbs that benefit pollinating insects and other wildlife. tywigateway.org.uk



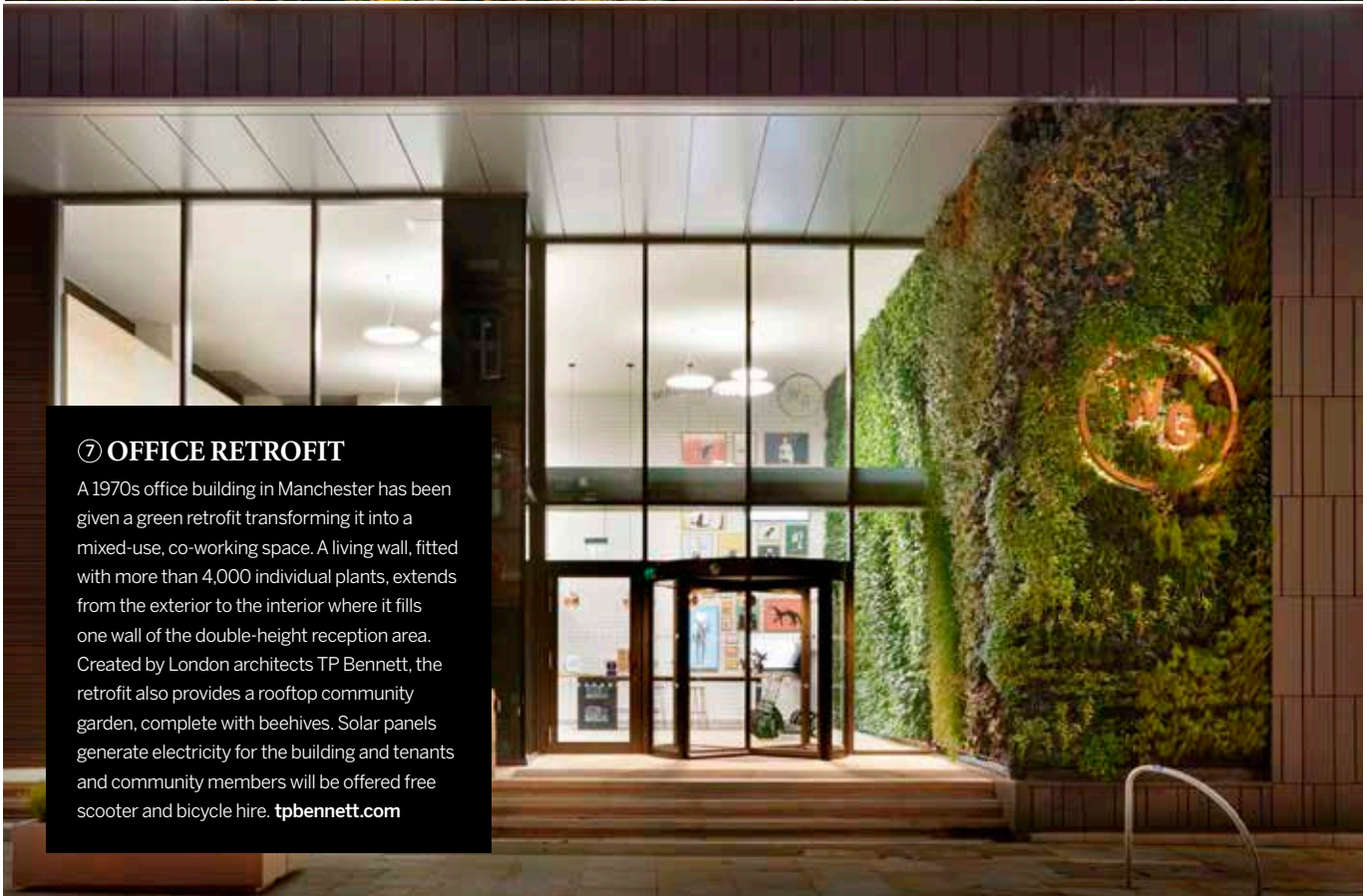
④ CALMING SPACE
 The first of a series of gardens designed by Jo Thompson for NHS hospitals has been completed at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital. Funded by the 11 Foundation, it provides a tranquil space for NHS staff, patients and visitors. Jo developed the design from the existing circular water feature and curving paths. A series of concentric beds are planted with mixes of shrubs, grasses, perennials and bulbs. Scented and aromatic species include roses, lavender and Japanese snowbell. The design for the second NHS Tranquillity Garden, a rooftop garden at Royal London Hospital, is being finalised. 11foundation.co.uk

⑤ PARK LIFE
 The revised masterplan for a housing development at Stainsby, Middlesbrough has been approved by Middlesbrough Council. The plan, by Graddon Architecture, includes a country park of approximately 74 hectares that will be planted with between 18,000 and 25,000 native trees and shrubs and 1.6km of new, species-rich, native hedgerow. It enhances and extends existing habitats, such as Mandale Meadow, and will create a wide range of new ones. More than 1,600 homes will be set within landscaped grounds, with orchards, play and sports facilities, and a proposed community hub and visitor centre. middlesbrough.gov.uk



⑥ EDEN PROJECT NORTH

The Eden Project has secured funding to begin developing its ambitious new site at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire. Plans include a series of pavilions, designed by architects Grimshaw, that are inspired by the shape of mussel shells. The site will offer a mix of entertainment and education, with a focus on health and wellbeing. In one biome (shown) visitors will be able to relax in pods hanging from tree branches, while in another blacked out biome they can dip their toes in a vast rock pool as the moon rises. edenproject.com



⑦ OFFICE RETROFIT

A 1970s office building in Manchester has been given a green retrofit transforming it into a mixed-use, co-working space. A living wall, fitted with more than 4,000 individual plants, extends from the exterior to the interior where it fills one wall of the double-height reception area. Created by London architects TP Bennett, the retrofit also provides a rooftop community garden, complete with beehives. Solar panels generate electricity for the building and tenants and community members will be offered free scooter and bicycle hire. tpbennett.com



⑧ SOUL SPACE

A new garden at St Mary's, Islington, a Grade II-listed church in north London, provides space for quiet contemplation as well as areas for imaginative play and for pop-up events.

Designed by Robert Myers Associates, the garden retains the existing mature trees, mainly planes, and adds shrubs, groundcover planting, ferns, grasses and bulbs for winter and spring interest. The wall of a Neighbourhood Centre that overlooks the garden has been planted with honeysuckles to provide vertical greening and habitat for wildlife. stmaryislington.org



⑨ GREEN PRIZE

The winning design in a competition to develop Milan's Pirellini 39 office tower has been announced. US studio Diller Scofidio + Renfro, working with Italy's Stefano Boeri Architetti, have proposed renovating the existing building, while adding a new residential tower that will be wrapped in 1,700 square metres of planting. The two towers will be linked by a plant-filled glass bridge that acts as an extension of the neighbouring Biblioteca degli Alberi park. dsrny.com; stefanoboeriarchitetti.net