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EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

The pandemic has allowed us to enjoy our **outdoor spaces** with an increased awareness of their value, and we have learnt that no green patch is too small for consideration. Our September newsletter focuses on how we have created, improved and increased landscapes across different projects. We are also celebrating a British National Landscape Award for the roof gardens of UCLH's Grafton Building, London's first NHS Proton Beam Hospital. From the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital's 'village green' for the community, via a London residential block where we transformed a soggy roof top distribution area into a roof garden, to lavender filled landscaped courtyards instead of a bleak car park in our sustainable residential development in north London, to a seamless connection to the outside from our Paddington mews house refurbishment, we have found many ways to help people enjoy more time out of doors. Meanwhile, looking skywards, we have been designing and installing new roofing systems that will keep the worst of the British weather firmly outside!

Grafton Way Building wins a British National Landscape Award



View of the landscaped roof terrace.

Edward Williams Architects, in association with Scott Tallon Walker, are delighted that the Grafton Way Building has won a British National Landscape Award.

This is great news; The Grafton Way Building creates an impressive, technologically advanced, hospital building for University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust within a central urban location while at the same time providing central roof top gardens and planting for users and adjacent residents alike. Many congratulations to all those involved.

Link to article [here](#).

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital - the green, the wildlife garden, the community garden



Artist view of the green from the fifth floor winter garden.

We are approaching the final stages of construction at the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, and we are looking forward to seeing the landscaping around and on the building being installed. Areas of the building are already being prepared to receive the brown roofs, and this autumn the contractor will start construction of the large green in front of the entrance.

The innovative biophilic design is conceived to provide spaces that are healthy, supportive, sustainable, beautiful, welcoming and uplifting: a natural world designed for people and their wellbeing. The large 'village' green is surrounded by a necklace of trees and a rain garden, to protect the open space, manage rainfall and water run off, and prevent vehicular intrusions. The green is an important element of the masterplan; it allows the local community to use this space in multiple ways and, by doing so, embeds the regenerative impact of the hospital development directly into the heart of the community.

Wildlife terraces, wetland habitats, cycle paths, canal-side habitats and trees in the winter garden and terraces surround the built environment on multiple levels. We collaborated closely with Grant Associates to develop this design and look forward to its long term growth and development.

Lean more about the project [here](#).

Allen Mansions - The roof garden



View of the roof herb terrace towards the main residential block and the walkway to the back block with the maple trees.

In addition to an extensive refurbishment this project was about the creation of a new beautiful garden space and a renewed street image in the heart of Kensington, London. The internal and external common parts of a significant old Kensington brewery that had been converted into residential units just off High Street Kensington in central London were tired and in need of a significant upgrade.

The refurbishment created an opportunity to improve an external courtyard situated at first floor level over the garages below. Used as distribution space for access to the rear residential blocks, it has been transformed from a dull grey waterproofing expanse into a beautifully elegant landscaped garden.

The new courtyard is a delicate composition of decked walkways, green planted ground cover and specimen plants in ornamental bark on three levels which creates a contemplation garden to the north, a garden to walk through in the centre and a leisure garden to the south for people to spend time reading, socialising or simply enjoying the sun. The contemporary courtyard landscape design creates a valued tranquil space in the heart of Kensington and at the centre of the residential blocks.

See paired images to record "before" and "after" [here](#).

Chobham Road Development - the two courtyards



Artist's view of the west courtyard.

Adding new homes in a variety of configurations into this constrained site required a particularly efficient and compact design. We turned a car park into a beautiful, liveable community. Both the existing and new homes will enjoy common spaces activated by modern design and landscaping.

We inserted four new buildings into the car parking area of an existing development of 39 homes to create a landscaped, mews-style development providing a quiet, green and secure environment for all the residents, both existing and new.

The new landscaping and planting will provide a leafy green outlook for residents, at the same time as increasing privacy, providing rainwater run-off management and enhancing biodiversity. The extensive landscaping includes green hedges and rich borders, providing a buffer between ground floor windows and parked cars, plus covered bicycle storage and new bin storage on the street side. Birch, magnolia, maple, and cotinus trees will be planted in the lawn to add rich colour. The landscape was designed closely with Meeuwsen Muldoon landscape architects.

Lean more about the project [here](#).

Paddington Home - Mews life



View of the mews from the ground floor living space

In a quiet mews with one of the last working stables in London, this major refurbishment provides a strong and clear link between internal living spaces and the mews itself. With a fully opening façade, that has the flexibility of partial or full opening, the mews becomes an integral part of the house and community living adds to the amenity value of this home. The design borrows the outside and brings it in.

Mews houses hold a unique, historic character; their footprints are often small and nestled between adjoining properties on 3 sides, offering minimal opportunities for natural light penetration into the heart of the building. Our project converted a 87sqm Mews property into a 131sqm modern home with a striking series of permanent brick-formed structural concrete arches with an exposed, bespoke steel and timber roof. Hidden behind the only façade that has windows, the design provides an innovative solution for the client by introducing top-lit lightwells that puncture the plan from roof to basement level, pulling light into the heart of the house.

Lean more about the project [here](#).

Earls Court home - reconnecting the house to the garden



View of the new conservatory towards the garden and the snug.

This refurbishment house project for a friend and her family offered us the opportunity to improve the functionality, sustainability and ecology and biodiversity of the house

We wanted to create a stronger connection between the house and the garden, so we designed a series of open timber steps and platforms that allow light into the basement and provide access to the open timber decked terrace that is surrounded by soft landscaping and a large tree, and maintain the beautiful climbing rose. The decking includes timber hatch accesses to the basement entrance and the undercroft.

We moved the kitchen to the centre of the house, turning the old kitchen space into a study snug, and we rebuilt the conservatory to deliver a modern, better insulated space that protects the house owner's privacy, both from a view of the tall buildings on the other side of the garden and being overlooked by neighbours.

The result is a gorgeous glide through the house – living-kitchen-dining-conservatory – interconnected as a sequence of spaces, and linked to different colours seen in the long view through the house from front façade to the garden.

Lean more about the project [here](#).

WE HAVE MOVED

Grand Union Studios
332 Ladbroke Grove
London W10 5AD

Our new Studio in North Kensington has an expansive view of London to the west, and a beautifully landscaped central garden. It is full of light from the large windows, from which we enjoy beautiful long views and warm light reflects on our newly installed amazing orange floor.



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Grand Union Studios, 332 Ladbroke Grove,
London, W10 5AD, UK
+44 20 7985 0540

[Unsubscribe](#)

enquiries@edwardwilliamsarchitects.com
www.edwardwilliamsarchitects.com

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Edward Williams Architects · Newcombe House · 45 Notting Hill Gate · London, W11 3LQ · United Kingdom

