

**GLOBAL
GENERATION**

Building the

PAPER GARDEN

Together



Building the Paper Garden Together...

Over the last few years over 3000 people have been involved in co-creating The Paper Garden. A large part of this community build process has been the construction of our community classroom. This report shows the story of how this amazing space has come together and the people who have helped out along the way!



“Seeing the garden grow makes me feel joyful and curious. It reminds me of how amazing new beginnings are. I get to see plants grow, flowers sprout and trees growing ever so slightly each week. Paper Garden feels like home.”

Leia, age 12

The Beginning...

In 2021 Global Generation took over this site within the Canada Water Masterplan. Originally an empty shed used to store paper from the Daily Mail printing offices.

Over the last two years, as part of the Canada Water Masterplan, we have been co-creating this space with the help of volunteers, community members and our project partners.

The photo on the right shows how we received the site in 2021.

The aim of the Paper Garden build has been to embody circular economy techniques. Reusing and reclaiming materials wherever possible.

Therefore, the project started by reusing the slab and structural frame of the original shed.



Building the structure...

The first step to making our classroom space was to cast the concrete plinths and create the structure for the cordwood walls out of the railway sleepers donated from network rail sites. Here you can see the sleepers forming the framework and infilling the existing structure.



Stripping the logs...



We then worked with a number of volunteers and our partner YES make to strip logs from felled timber donated from Epping Forest. This formed a key material to make the cordwood walls that would infill two sides of our classroom space.



Building the Cordwood walls...

The most time consuming element of the build was creating the two storey cordwood walls. Together with local young people, volunteers and young apprentices we used this traditional technique to create the walls of our classroom.

The Paper Garden classroom is now the first ever two story cordwood building in the United Kingdom.



“I always leave feeling a sense of energy well spent and that my time has been worth something. I hope that the new Paper Garden will do the same in making a difference to our community. Often we feel trapped in this urban sprawl and feel that this is the only way to live. I hope the garden is more.
Maria, age 14

Building the Cordwood Walls...



Cordwood is a traditional, natural building craft in which short logs are stacked on top of each other and then held together with lime mortar. Through this building technique we were able to involve people of all ages and abilities in the construction process.



Circular Economy Materials...

The other two walls of the classroom space are made from recycled windows kindly donated by NorDan. These were constructed with the help of a number of partners working on pro-bono rates. Special thanks goes to Wates & Mace who have helped to manage the construction and have helped us partner with sub contractors for the more trickier elements of the build.



Stripping the Reclaimed Doors...

Over the last few months we have been hosting regular volunteer days at the garden to help build the classroom. Key tasks have been stripping our reclaimed doors of all of their ironmongery ready to be installed as our classroom flooring. Together with volunteers we have prepped over 160 doors that will be used for flooring.



Corporate Volunteer Days...



Our volunteers have enjoyed getting their hands dirty and were rewarded by some amazing lunches in the garden provided by our community chefs. Our volunteer days use reflective practice and here you can see volunteers writing letters to our Generators to tell them about their experience at The Paper Garden.





Everytime I come here there's something new and fun to do, something new to try. It's changed in so many ways, visually, but the values and identity have stayed the same. What I do becomes part of the garden we are designing. When I think and imagine the future, I imagine more community spaces like the Paper Garden.

Andras, age 15

Interior works to the classroom...

In March - April 2023 the build has been helped by a number of sub-contractors starting work on the classroom. In March, the ceiling went in and throughout April the mechanical engineering and joinery works to the mezanine have commenced. The classroom is really starting to take shape and we are excited to be open by the end of June.



Growing the garden...

As well as constructing our new classroom our garden team have been busy co-creating our new garden space, whilst the classroom is being built. We have co-created the garden space together with the help of our various youth programmes. So far we have;

- Created hugel mounds to create above ground soil structures and nutritious growing environments.
- Used recycled pavers from the Canada Water Masterplan to create a pond space in the garden.
- Built a 'Chicken Palace' in collaboration with YES make and corporate volunteers.
- Installed and fitted out our polytunnel with our various youth programmes and volunteers.
- Installation of pallet planters for community growing beds
- Built compost bays with corporate volunteers
- Installed a rainwater harvesting system with reclaimed IBC containers.



We would like to thank all of our project partners...

British Land

Mace

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Wates



And a huge thank you to all of those who have supported the classroom being built...

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OFR

Lucas

Galldris

EPS Group

Capital Dry Wall

BRCS

NorDan

Benchmark

Alandale

Epping Forest

Sweco

KM Eco

Bridgegap

Parkrose

Rickabin

YES make

Network Rail

Brogan Group

Swift Group

SEC

Ecoright

Getjar

Atlantic Contracts

Leyton Group

GKR

Overbury

Trident

The Timber Group

Specialist Group

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Thank you.