

# Best practice at BDU & SSP Bermondsey's Recycled Garden



## Introduction

Employees at Skanska's Bermondsey Dive Under project have recycled and re-used materials from site to create a break out area & garden at the project offices.

### The challenge

At BDU, the site and offices are on the land which was once two waste management facilities sandwiched between railway viaducts and industrial estates.

The offices had nowhere for staff and contractors to sit and relax during breaks. The area was very drab.

water, this is being used to water the plants and vegetables.

Beside the pedestrian walkway and perimeter fence indigenous wild flowers were sown and are now in full bloom and are being enjoyed by the passing commuters to the train station that is located next to our offices.



### What we did

Two members of the project team took up the challenge of brightening up Skanska's compound turning a space we had available to the rear of the offices into a place where staff from office, site and contractors could sit and unwind.

The plan to plant flowers, vegetables and herbs and have somewhere to sit.

We embarked on our own green journey to re-use and recycle materials that would normally have been segregated and disposed of.

Planting troughs were made using old scaffold boards that could not be used on site anymore, even the nails used for the construction were recycled from used form work and hoardings. Following a project PPE amnesty we turned the old PPE into planters too, hard hats made hanging baskets and boots into flower pots.

Old wooden cable drums left behind by previous owners were cleaned up and made into tables, the chairs and benches came from past projects that we had stored under one of the railway arches.

Water butts were piped into the downpipes of the offices gutter system to harvest

### Benefits

Through following the waste management hierarchy of the 3 R's the BDU project team have an area to sit, relax & enjoy work colleagues have all been caught up in our green journey with many bringing vegetable plants, flowers & off cuts to plant.

Our planting has encouraged an increase in small insects, particularly butterflies and bees.

Here at BDU we have led the way, with other TLP contractors taking inspiration and planning their own green areas at their sites. Network Rail's James Forbes House offices have opened their own garden following our inspiration.

Plans are in place for our educational garden to be a 'fun-cation' for schools in the community to visit.