

R7 Kings Cross - 'The worm turns'

Camden, London

Kier Construction Major Projects

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Small scale permanent

Project overview

R7 is a new cinema complex with 12 floors of office space above located in the Kings Cross redevelopment site.

Over the years there have been many temporary and permanent bio diversity enhancements made on site, so the challenge this year was to try to do something 'different'.

Thus 'the worms turns' was created. Kier will remain in Kings cross for the next 5 years so the worm turns was designed with a long term strategy in mind, we can take it to other sites on Kings Cross once the R7 project has finished or we can add the worms into the landscaping at project completion.

12 members of staff including apprentices and students on summer placements were involved.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

The R7 plot has been deemed 'of low ecological value' by our ecologists RPS. The plot was hard



Photo: The worm turns

standing and had been previously used as a bus depot.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

There were no specific conditions that lead to carrying out the works, it was to enhance biodiversity and the general education of site staff, visitors and sub-contractors; we also thought that it would be fun and different thing to do on site.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The worm turns is our view on a team building project using materials that were deemed as waste on site

and had to be reclaimed from the site skips.

The timber frame was put together by new staff members that had little or no building skills; most had never done anything like this before.

The addition of the bird bath on top was an idea from one of our students that found the sink in a rubbish pile. The whole unit is mobile as it sits on a set of casters that were taken from an old broken office chair thus making it movable and lending to the name The Worm Turns.

The produce of the wormery, worm tea, can be bottled and later used either

onsite to enhance the flower beds and planted areas of the permanent building or used on other existing plots with green roofs and planters.

The wormery will be used as a display model for school children from the local community who will visit the R7 site over the duration of the project to learn about construction and the different methods of soil use and regeneration that we will employ here at Kings Cross.

'The worm turns' has been decorated with fun facts about worms. The staff at R7 volunteered to be involved in the idea, the design and the construction of the wormery and birdbath.

There was a real team effort to give something back to the site through the reuse of old materials. The whole project is repeatable by anyone and very easy to do!

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The materials were all sourced on site from the skips even the casters so the unit can be moved.

The timber frame was made to accommodate the sink

unit on top that acts as the birdbath with the Perspex then put on the front to give a window into the life of an Earthworm.

The worm turns is currently located by the entrance hoarding to site, but can be moved about the place depending on the general weather conditions and use.

The bird bath was considered 'a must' as there are plenty of bird species in the general area, sparrows, starlings and robins and we thought that a nice bath was just what was needed.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

We wanted to give something back to site as it was deemed of low ecological value and was covered in hard standing; we also wanted to do something that we thought was fun and educational.