

Beautiful thinking

A biophilic tour of London

Biophilia describes our innate attraction to nature and the many benefits, including improved well-being, which stem from this connection.

As part of Interface's Beautiful Thinking campaign, this guide presents a collection of outstanding examples of nature-inspired design in London. From pocket-parks to offices, shops to hotels, exploring any one of these beautiful nature-inspired spaces is guaranteed to relax and re-energise.

The spaces have been chosen by the readers of RIBA Journal and curated by: architect, interior and biophilic design expert, Oliver Heath; Chief Executive at Open City, Rory Olcayto; and Interface.

Please check accessibility and opening times before visiting any of the spaces as this may vary.

1 Anthropologie



Designed by Biotope, the 160m² living wall at Anthropologie's Regent Street Store is a great example of bringing nature into a retail space.

158 Regent St, W1B 5SW
anthropologie.com

2 Bankside Urban Forest



Bankside Urban Forest's range of green pockets aim to reconnect people with nature within an urban environment.

Bankside Community Space,
18 Great Guildford St, SE1 0FD
betterbankside.co.uk/buf

*Members only access

† No public access

3 British Museum



The British Museum is home to Europe's largest covered public square, and demonstrates how biomimetic design can be used to create an inspiring, popular space.

Great Russell St, WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org

4 Burntwood School



Large windows maximise natural light and offer well-framed views of the surrounding greenery to create a more peaceful learning environment.†

Burntwood Lane, SW17 0AQ
architecture.com/StirlingPrize/
RIBASTirlingPrize2015.aspx

5 Camley St Natural Park



Created from an old coal yard, the two acres of wild green space offer an escape from the streets of the city.

12 Camley St,
King's Cross, N1C 4PW
wildlondon.org.uk

6 Chelsea Physic Garden



Chelsea Physic Garden boasts a unique collection of edible, medicinal and historical plants, creating a peaceful but functional green oasis.

66 Royal Hospital Rd,
Chelsea, SW3 4HS
chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

7 Dalston Eastern Curve Gardens



Created on the old Eastern Curve railway line, unique wooden pavilions allow visitors to use the gardens all year round.

13 Dalston Lane, E8 3DF
dalstongarden.org

8 Greenwich University Stockwell St Building



This design provides a modern, inspiring environment for its students. A crucial part of the development are the 14 landscape rooftops.†

10 Stockwell St, SE10 9BD
stockwell-street.gre.ac.uk/

9 Greenwood Theatre Pocket Park



This pocket park brings much needed greenery to an urban area, reinventing a cultural hotspot and creating another design landmark where people can relax.

55 Weston St, SE1 3RA
cityscapes.org.uk/gallery/
greenwood-theatre

10 Grosvenor Estates Parklet



This pocket-garden provides a nature-inspired resting place that brings residents, shop owners and visitors together.

Pimlico Rd, SW1W 8LP
grosvenor.com

11 Ham Yard Hotel



Inspired by the natural world and housing an open rooftop terrace, the Ham Yard Hotel is a welcome retreat in the heart of Soho.

1 Ham Yard, W1D 7DT
firmdalehotels.com/hotels/
london/ham-yard-hotel

12 King's Cross Pond Club



King's Cross Pond Club is the first ever man-made, freshwater bathing pond. Its surrounding landscape emulates the seasons to keep pace with the natural world.

20 Canal Reach, N1C 4BE
kingscrosspond.club

13 Kyoto Garden



Kyoto Garden offers a rich array of colourful and unusual shrubbery alongside water features to create a unique, restorative outdoor space that stimulates the senses.

112-114 Holland Park Ave,
W11 4UA
rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-
culture/parks/holland-park

14 Maggie's Centre



Like all Maggie's Centres, the human instinct to protect what is most precious inspires the design, reflected throughout its green spaces.†

Charing Cross Hospital,
Fulham Palace Rd, W6 8RF
maggiescentres.org

15 Natural History Museum



The Museum's ceilings display delicate tiling decorated with an array of plants and flora, creating a visually stimulating and rich environment for visitors.

Cromwell Rd, Kensington,
SW7 5BD
nhm.ac.uk

16 Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden



With stunning riverside views, wildflower meadow, mini allotments and woodland garden, the rooftop is an enduringly popular space with revellers escaping the city bustle.

Southbank Centre, SE1 8XX
southbankcentre.co.uk/
venues/Queen-Elizabeth-Hall-
Roof-Garden

17 Second Home



The natural world isn't uniform, so its designers used curvatures and complex shapes when creating Second Home as a work place.*

68 Hanbury St, E1 5JL
secondhome.io

18 St Dunstan -in-the-East



Originally the site of a church, St Dunstan is now a popular and magical garden retreat on the edge of the city.

St Dunstan-in-the-East,
St Dunstan's Hill, EC3R 5DD
gardenvisit.com/gardens/
st_dunstan_in_the_east_
church_garden

19 The Barbican



The Barbican Complex, home to the impressive Barbican Conservatory, was designed as a self-contained utopian living and leisure space.

Silk St, EC2Y 8DS
www.barbican.org.uk

20 The Forge



The Forge's 6.5 metre living wall brings the benefits and beauty of nature from the outside, inside.

3-7 Delancey St,
Camden, NW1 7NL
forgevenue.org

21 The Impact Hub



Created to foster innovation, inspiration and collaboration, these principles are all promoted through the Hub's design, incorporating natural materials and design.*

34b York Way,
King's Cross, N1 9AB
impacthub.net

22 Tooley St Parklet



The parklet module incorporates planting, seating and an air quality monitoring station to create a greener and more pedestrian focused London Bridge.

110 - 112 Tooley St,
London Bridge
teamlondonbridge.co.uk

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Beautiful thinking

A biophilic tour of London

Retreat from the bustle of the city by discovering some of the capital's **most nature-inspired spaces.**



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Biophilic LONDON

Discover some of the capital's best nature-inspired spaces.



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|---|--|
| 1 Anthropologie | 12 King's Cross Pond Club |
| 2 Bankside Urban Forest | 13 Kyoto Garden |
| 3 British Museum | 14 Maggie's Centre |
| 4 Burntwood School | 15 Natural History Museum |
| 5 Camley Street Natural Park | 16 Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden |
| 6 Chelsea Physic Garden | 17 Second Home |
| 7 Dalston Eastern Curve Gardens | 18 St Dunstan-in-the-East |
| 8 Greenwich University Stockwell Street Building | 19 The Barbican |
| 9 Greenwood Theatre Pocket Park | 20 The Forge |
| 10 Grosvenor Estates Parklet | 21 The Impact Hub |
| 11 Ham Yard Hotel | 22 Tooley Street Parklet |
- For further details about these biophilic locations, please see overleaf.

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