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“ WoodBlocX are consistent in their delivery of high-end service and quality of product. If we need a quick turnaround for designs they are always on hand to get it done for us within a few days which helps us to meet our own client's expectations. Great product - easy to assemble and really reliable.

”



Tom Palfreyman
Urban Planters



The Module

Issue 004 | SUMMER | 2020

CASE STUDY 1

Manchester Infirmary

Client: ENGIE
Designer: WoodBlocX
Installer: Urban Planters
Location: Manchester

CASE STUDY 2

UNITE Stratford One

Client: UNITE
Designer: WoodBlocX
Installer: WoodBlocX/
Urban Planters
Location: London

CASE STUDY 3

Westfield, Stratford

Client: Westfield
Designer: WoodBlocX
Installer: WoodBlocX/
Urban Planters
Location: London



UNITE Stratford One
Designer: WoodBlocX Ltd
Client: UNITE
Location: Stratford,London

Stratford One is student accommodation provider, Unite's flagship site; with extensive views of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park it combines more than 1000 flats with large open spaces for study and relaxation.

The scheme included 700m2 of roof space, various terraces and a podium garden, the design of these spaces needed to reflect the appearance and ethos of the rest of the site whilst providing an attractive and functional area to add planting and seating.

The contractors had originally planned to specify railway sleepers for planters, however

after researching options that would allow for more versatility and longevity in the design, the project management team opted for WoodBlocX.

The design for the main terrace incorporated six large planters in total with wide, angular structures bordering the viewing terraces and exterior walls, plus a smaller narrow planter placed centrally to break the space up. Each design included an element of integrated seating, the scheme include 20 seating areas in total.

Larger WoodBlocX planters feature buttresses every 1.5m with strong dowels holding the structures together, these, combined with the robust pressure treatment of the wooden blocks means the planters can withstand large amounts of force, making them ideal for wide planting schemes such as this one.

Installation of the planters took place at the final part of the build, cranes were used to lift the WoodBlocX components and other materials including paving, plants and soil to the higher floors. Each planter was built directly on top of a porous layer to ensure adequate drainage once planting was in place.

Square paving slabs were used to cover the floor with edges finished with decorative pebbles, the planting included a mixture of easy maintenance small trees, herbs and grasses to provide consistent colour throughout the year.

The WoodBlocX system has been used for numerous roof garden installations over the years, thanks to the ease of build, it being lighter in weight to alternative materials and also because the system doesn't need foundations.

Westfield, Stratford
Designer: WoodBlocX Ltd
Installer: Urban Planters
Client: Westfield
Location: Stratford,London

The entrance at Westfield's flagship shopping centre in Stratford, features a tall and wide cascading staircase and an escalator. Originally the area didn't include any greenery and adding a substantial amount to space was going to be a challenge. The perimeters of the centre also needed a large planting solution to add natural elements around the main walking routes for shoppers.

The main contractor, Westfield, engaged Urban Planters create a design for the space. Having collaborated with Urban Planters previously, the

company approached our design team with a concept for the space that would be in-keeping with the scheme's forward thinking and innovative design to bring much-needed natural planting to a largely concrete space.

The largest planter was designed to utilise some of the space within the large entrance staircase and dramatically cascades from top to bottom. The modular nature of the WoodBlocX system made it the ideal choice for this as the height and widths of the wooden blocks fitted the measurements of the existing steps, making building over them straightforward.

Our installation team worked with Urban Planters to construct the planters around the needs of the busy shopping centre, WoodBlocX pallets were stored away from the general

public and the team worked neatly in sections, using only the materials that were required for that particular section, working within the structure as much as possible to avoid any public risk and minimise disruption.

Large stepped WoodBlocX planters also line the exterior walkways of the scheme and rectangular planters with additional seating have been placed centrally throughout to break up the wider high traffic areas.

Planted with low maintenance plants and small trees the planters add a contrasting touch of nature to the shopping centre.

"The cascading planter is a great example of how WoodBlocX can seamlessly integrate into a challenging space," said Henry Blake, Director of WoodBlocX.

The Stats:
11,300 BlocX used
22 day build time
£42k total project value



Manchester Infirmary
Client: ENGIE
Designer: WoodBlocX Ltd
Installer: Urban Planters
Location: Manchester

Manchester Royal Infirmary is a large teaching hospital for Manchester University's Medical School and is one of the busiest hospitals in the UK. Raised planters had already been installed throughout the site to provide essential greenery to the entrances and public walkways, 20 of the existing raised planters had rotted due to an ineffective wood treatment.

WoodBlocX Landscaping was tasked with replacing the structures using exactly the same footprint as the previous planters to conserve as much of the original planting as possible, and to also ensure that the current paving could remain without disturbance.

In order to create matches for each planter our designers worked to a topographical survey and created CAD outlines for each. A number of the existing planters featured extremely tight angles and to achieve an identical match for the new WoodBlocX planters, our design team needed to modify the corner cuts to accommodate this, cutting the angles by hand to achieve a perfect match.

The build needed to work around the movements of a busy hospital; our installation team was on hand to assist with the build and the project. All WoodBlocX components arrive cut to size, install teams do not need to do cut any wood, nor is any machinery needed on site as the parts are small and lightweight they can be easily moved.

Materials were delivered and

stored in courtyard areas to cause minimum disruption to the busy site and the assembly of the new structures took place during a quick four-week timeframe.

This project paved the way for WoodBlocX to offer designs that allow for bespoke corner angles to match nearly any space. Exclusive to architects and contractors, this feature allows for complete design flexibility.

WoodBlocX director, Henry Blake said: "Manchester Royal Infirmary was a brilliant opportunity for us to showcase how versatile our modular system is by creating a series of bespoke angles. Our brief was to provide a solution that could replace the existing planters without disrupting the planting and hard landscaping that was already in place, and the result was identical to the previous design."

