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PRESS RELEASE

Biophilia makes your building more desirable to clients and their staff
plants@work Leaf award winners show how it's done

Biophilia has been a buzz word for sometime but it comes with evidence that it makes a difference to the occupants of your building. The definition of this word ensures our innate contact with nature is fulfilled and includes plants, views of nature outside, good natural light and other natural materials.

In particular, clients concerned about health and wellbeing can immediately see the benefits as plants help reduce absenteeism, clean the air, reduce stress and improve productivity.

Leaf Awards of Excellence

plants@work's Leaf award winning companies understand how to add biophilia to premises large or small. As evidence, last Thursday a new batch of 40 Leaf awards were awarded for installation and maintenance planting projects at various sites around the UK. These varied from office buildings to hotels and shopping centres.

Best in Category

This year three 'Best in Category' additional awards were made. These were made for the Best Design & Installation Interior Project, the Best Green Wall Design & Installation (outdoor) Project and for the Best Maintenance Project.

Best Design & Installation Interior Project

This was won by Indoor Garden Design for their design and installation at Kobalt Music. The installation was a mixture of matching floor-standing and desk-top containers in neutral shades: natural, anthracite and grey. Large architectural plants filled the floor-standing pots while the desk-top bowls were filled with mixed complementary planting.

Judge Greg Redwood commented that the design was stylish and exceptionally well executed including matching plants to planters.

Best Green Wall Design & Installation (outdoor) Project

This was awarded to Biotecture Ltd for their green wall installation at Veolia RERF in Leeds. The green wall, made from 6,500 wall panels, varies from 14m to 26 m in height. The planting provides a significant contribution to the local biodiversity of the surrounding landscape. Native, wild-life friendly planting to the tune of 110,000 plants, many of them evergreen, give year-round coverage. The wall also houses habitat boxes for wild life.

Rob Sterling, the visiting judge, commented that the scale of this wall is breathtaking. It perfectly reflects the eco-friendly function of the recycling and energy recovery centre that it covers.

Best Maintenance Project

This award was also won by Indoor Garden Design for their care of the planting at UBS where there is over 100 metres of planting over 12 floors. Caring for this site requires one technician to be in attendance here six days in every fortnight.

Again judge Greg Redwood found the project in immaculate condition with all plants looking very healthy and clean.

plants@work members once again lead the way in interior planting and green walls to bring the outside in and to create great biophilic spaces.

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Editor's notes

plants@work Ltd (formerly efig Ltd) is a not-for-profit membership organisation for interior landscapers.

The plants@work Leaf Awards are presented annually for excellence in Design & Installation, Maintenance, Special short-term projects, Christmas design and technicians. The entries are considered and inspected by a panel of independent judges.

About the judges

Greg Redwood has a wealth of experience in horticulture and is currently Head of Great Glasshouses and Horticultural Training Section at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens. He is responsible for the Kew Diploma, Kew Apprenticeship & Traineeship, horticultural interns and all horticultural training, as well as the running of the glasshouses. Greg is also an RHS judge, and chairs the tender stand judging panels at the RHS shows.

Nicola Bristow has 30 plus years of horticultural experience working in the UK, Australia and New Zealand in garden centres and in both interior and exterior maintenance of planting. She now works as a Horticultural Advisor. Nicola comments that working in customer service roles for the majority of her career, makes her highly aware of customer expectations.

Rob Stirling trained in garden design in 1998 and ran his own practice for a while. He joined the RHS in 2003 and was responsible for the weekly purchasing of houseplants for the plant

centre as well as for the visual merchandising of the houseplant and conservatory sections. Since 2012 he has been a horticultural advisor with the RHS and helps answer approximately 70,000 members gardening enquiries each year with a small team of other advisors. He also regularly writes for gardening magazines, the national press and podcasts. His specialism is in tropical plants, particularly orchids and the genus Hoya.

Bill Peebles

Bill, who is an ex-chair of BALI, visited installations in the north. His horticultural career is long and varied; now 'retired' Bill still continues as a judge for the National Landscape Awards and has been a director of the Scotland Garden Show.