

Chelsea Flower Show Garden Inspired by Experiences of Homelessness

- RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden, inspired by people with lived experience of homelessness, showcases Pathway charity's work to help people move out of homelessness by accessing the right healthcare
- Innovative mycelium structures represent Pathway's expert networks that support health
- Designed by award-winning design studio, Modular, in partnership with Pathway, the UK's leading charity for homelessness and health, the garden will be relocated to the Shekinah Centre, a community homelessness support centre in Plymouth
- The Pathway Garden has been sponsored by grant-giving charity Project Giving Back

A thought-provoking garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show draws its inspiration from people with personal experience of homelessness and the work of the UK's leading charity for homelessness and health. People with lived experience of homelessness have been closely involved in every aspect of the garden's creation, working hand in hand with the designers to bring this vision to life for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The Pathway Garden showcases the supportive networks and specialist hospital teams created by the charity, which are essential to improving access to better healthcare for people experiencing homelessness.

The garden, designed by Allon Hoskin and Robert Beaudin from the award-winning design studio Modular, expresses a journey out of homelessness to health and features a unique centre-piece created from mycelium grown from waste reclaimed from last year's RHS shows.

Mycelium is a natural fungal network that supports healthy woodland ecosystems by releasing nutrients from the soil, forming networks within the root systems of plants and trees to support growth – just as Pathway creates life sustaining networks for those affected by homelessness.

Gareth M, a Pathway colleague with a lived experience of homelessness, said: "Like a person, a garden with the right TLC can become a space of creativity and expression. It can be much more than its visual appeal, beneath the foundations can be a way of supporting diversity, improving the quality of a day and bringing joy to others."

Allon Hoskin, MD of Modular and one of the garden designers, said: "This garden is about sustainability at every level, from the reclaimed, recycled and upcycled materials, to the mycelium networks embedded within its construction. We are thrilled to be able to help Pathway raise awareness of their work to create sustainable changes in healthcare for people facing homelessness."

Alex Bax, CEO of Pathway, said: "Gardens have always been spaces for healing and recovery, whether for individuals or entire communities. We want to use The Pathway Garden to remind people of the profound health inequalities faced by people experiencing homelessness, as well as the opportunities that exist to create sustainable solutions to this problem. Given the crucial role they can play in helping people to get their own lives onto better pathways, our NHS partners are key to this endeavour, and our garden is also a tribute to them."

As visitors enter the garden, an obscured view, and obstacles along the path suggest a difficult start to a journey and reflects the isolation, exclusion and stigma faced by people experiencing homelessness. The path opens up and widens reflecting possibilities and space for recovery. All elements are built, created and grown from recycled and upcycled materials, reiterating the need for sustainable changes in improving health outcomes for all.

After the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, the entire garden is being relocated to the Shekinah Centre in Plymouth. The Shekinah Centre provides support for people experiencing homelessness and the garden will form part of the nurturing care and support provided by the Pathway team.

Ends

About Modular

Modular creates award winning gardens and landscapes for private and commercial clients. Delivering high quality bespoke projects ranging from large residential and commercial to smaller urban spaces.

About Pathway

The UK's leading charity for homelessness and health, Pathway, builds connections in the system between people and healthcare providers to strengthen a collective response to homelessness.

About Project Giving Back

Project Giving Back (PGB) is a unique grant-making charity that provides funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. PGB was launched in May 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating effects on UK charitable fundraising - effects that have since been exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.

Find out more at www.givingback.org.uk.

Media contacts

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