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MEDIA INFORMATION

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ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY GARDEN WILL LIVE ON AFTER RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW AT IQL STRATFORD AS AN INSECT SCIENCE TEACHING AND LEARNING GARDEN

**The Royal Entomological Society Garden**, designed by Tom Massey and supported by [Project Giving Back](https://www.givingback.org.uk/), will be unveiled at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023 (23 – 27 May) before being relocated as a publicly accessible teaching garden and long-term opportunity for urban insect study at IQL Stratford in East London. From summer 2023 onwards, it will form a permanent part of Lendlease’ sustainable mixed-use neighbourhood at the gateway to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The garden is designed to show how remarkable and valuable insects are and allows insect study to take place in the unique outdoor laboratory, that is inspired by an insect eye, at the heart of the garden. The RES Garden at IQL Stratford will be a place for ongoing education, engagement, and research into the role that urban green spaces, including brownfield sites, have in providing food and habitat for the creatures that all life on our planet relies on.

Research into pollination, food security and vector borne diseases is widely accepted as critical to our survival in a changing world but despite their crucial role in ecosystems across the planet, insect conservation and study is often undervalued when compared with mammal and bird science.

Tom Massey has previously worked with Lendlease on two projects at IQL Stratford: the Hothouse, created for London Design Festival 2020, and the IQL mobile orchard. Speaking about the garden, and his wider collaboration with one of the world’s leading insect science organisations, designer Tom Massey says:

“The vast majority of the UK’s population lives in an urban area with demand for housing and built infrastructure running at an all-time high. IQL Stratford is a fantastic example of how it’s possible to deliver a sustainable built environment that prioritises benefits for both people and nature and I’m thrilled that the RES Garden is being relocated there after the show. I’m really excited to be working with RES to raise awareness of insects and their importance in gardens - especially in urban settings - the wider UK landscape, and the global environment. Insects are a key species in our ecosystems, but many are suffering mass global decline. We have a vital role to play in their recovery and survival, just as they do in ours.”

RES exists to advance insect science through research and global scientific collaboration and to increase public understanding and appreciation of insects and the diverse and important roles they play in our global ecosystems.

Simon Ward, CEO at RES, said: “The future of our planet hangs in the balance and better understanding of insects could provide the answers to many of our climate and biodiversity crisis questions. We are hugely grateful to Project Giving Back (PGB) for gifting us the opportunity of a garden at RHS Chelsea. Our partnership with Tom and PGB has allowed us to forge an exciting new partnership with Lendlease and to establish a permanent home for the garden at IQL Stratford. We can’t wait to spotlight the wonderful world of insects for IQL visitors and, we hope, to inspire insect scientists of the future.”

The garden highlights biodiversity in brownfield sites which are often rich in wildlife and includes a range of habitats including a dead tree sculpture, rammed earth floors and walls, hoggin pathways and piles of dead wood, piles of rubble, sand and gabion walls. The planting has been chosen to encourage insects and provide a wide range of food sources for pollinators and other beneficial insects. It includes common plants that are often considered weeds such as dandelions, clover, vetch and knapweed, as well as trees that are also very important for supporting insects including hawthorn, silver birch, Scots pine and hazel.

Bek Seeley, Lendlease’s Managing Director for Development in Europe, said: “Sustainability, innovation and collaboration run through everything we do at Lendlease, so bringing a slice of the iconic RHS Chelsea Flower Show east across the city to IQL Stratford is a perfect partnership.  It is the latest example of a momentum eastwards across London, which includes cultural heavyweights such as the V&A and world-leading academic institutions like UCL.

“This superb new garden will not only promote biodiversity and local wildlife in Stratford, but will be a shared resource for education and research and support our wider aims to foster skills in our local communities. It will only add to what makes IQL Stratford one of the best connected and most exciting destinations for forward-thinking organisations in the UK.”

For further information about the Royal Entomological Society Garden visit [www.royentsoc.org/chelsea](http://www.royentsoc.org/chelsea). For further information about IQL Stratford, visit [www.internationalquarter.london](https://www.internationalquarter.london/).

Tickets for RHS Chelsea Flower Show, which runs from 23 – 27 May 2023, are available via the RHS website [here](https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show).

**ENDS**

For more details about the Royal Entomological Society Garden, visit [royentsoc.org/chelsea](https://www.royensoc.co.uk/chelsea/)

For media enquiries about the Royal Entomological Society, please contact Jennie Spears or Clare Johnson at Bloom PR & Communications at [hello@bloom-pr.co.uk](mailto:hello@bloom-pr.co.uk)

For media enquiries about IQL Stratford, please contact Harriet Marson at [hm@londoncommunications.co.uk](mailto:hm@londoncommunications.co.uk)

For more information about or images from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, please contact the RHS Press Office at [showspr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:showspr@rhs.org.uk)

**NOTES FOR EDITORS**

**Entomology** is the study of insects. More than one million different species of insect have been described to date. They are the most abundant group of animals in the world and live in almost every habitat. Insects have lived on earth for more than 350 million years. Entomology is crucial to our understanding of human disease, agriculture, evolution, ecology and biodiversity.

**Entomologists** are people who study insects, as a career, as amateurs or both.

**About Royal Entomological Society**

The Royal Entomological Society (RES) is devoted to the understanding and development of insect science. It is one of the world’s leading authorities on insect conservation and control, supporting international collaboration, research and the publication of insect science discoveries and understanding. RES aims to show every person how remarkable and valuable insects are and wants to enrich the world with insect science. It funds, organises and supports events and activities for anyone that wants to learn more about insects and entomology through its outreach and education programmes.

Find out more and become a member at [www.royentsoc.org](http://www.royentsoc.org)

**About Project Giving Back**

Project Giving Back (PGB) is a unique grant-making organisation set up with the sole purpose of providing funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. PGB was launched in May 2021, with funding from two private individuals who wish to remain anonymous, 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.

The RES Garden is one of 15 gardens funded by PGB at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. It is a requirement of PGB funding that gardens are relocated to a permanent site after the show, so that they can continue to benefit the charities they have been inspired by for the long term.

PGB will fund up to 42 gardens inspired by a range of good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Find out more at [givingback.org.uk.](https://www.givingback.org.uk/)

**About IQL Stratford**

* Since the 2012 Olympic Games, IQL Stratford has been leading the move East as a flourishing neighbourhood of forward thinkers, innovators and creators.
* With sustainability, wellbeing, and innovation imbedded its design from day one, once complete in 2030, the nine-hectare site will include 2.6m sq. ft of quality office and commercial space, c.650 new homes and 8,000 sq. m of retail space.
* Lendlease is halfway through delivery of the masterplan and has now let over one million sq ft of completed workspace at IQL Stratford, with world-leading organisations already choosing the neighbourhood as their home including Transport for London (TFL), Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), British Council etc.
* Lendlease has now started construction on its landmark 22-storey office building – the Turing Building – which will be home to 350,000 sq ft of Grade A office space, roof terraces, event and co-working spaces and retail.  It was recently announced that boutique cinema brand Everyman has been signed as the first tenant in the Turing Building when it launches in summer 2024.

**About Lendlease**

* Lendlease is a global real estate Group with operations in Australia, Asia, Europe and the Americas, headquartered in Sydney, Australia, and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.
* Lendlease’s core capabilities are reflected in its operating segments of Development, Construction and Investments. The business has approximately 9,500 employees internationally and 23 major urbanisation projects located across 10 global gateway cities.