

Urban Agriculture in Disused Spaces

Growing Food in Unlikely Places

Cities around the world are starting to reintroduce agriculture into their communities. In this photo essay, **Naufal Khan** looks at the ingenuity of urban communities that have used unlikely places in cities to grow food for themselves and to enhance public spaces.



Community Garden Builders partners with other non-profit organisations, who would sponsor these temporary farming spaces. Together, they aim to build communities around agriculture.

Vancouver, Canada

Temporary farms attuned to growing seasons

Capitalising on vacant land that is changing hands, Community Garden Builders, a registered charity co-founded by Environmental and Resource Studies graduate Chris Reid, transforms vacant spaces into temporary community gardens and growing spaces in British Columbia, Canada.

Community Garden Builders partners with other non-profit organisations to sponsor farming spaces and build communities around growing seasons.



Tokyo, Japan

Promoting edible offices

To promote employment in Japan's agricultural sector, the Pasona Group Office greened their façade and converted part of their headquarters into an urban farm. This unique environment was set up to encourage employees and job-seekers' to consider farming as a career, through provoking thought and discussion.



The office farm instills a sense of community among employees centered around gardening, and allows them to grow and harvest their own food. Besides improving air quality, constant interaction with plants enhance employees' mental health, productivity, and relaxation.



London, United Kingdom

Converting barren tubes to green shoots

Located 33 m underground, air-raid shelters unused since WWII have been given a new lease of life. Growing Underground uses abandoned tunnels to grow edible greens and fungi.

This underground farm stretches for around 1 km from Clapham North to Stockwell underground tube stations.



Due to shorter farm-to-fork distances, the freshness and high quality of the produce is popular with discerning local restaurants and organic shops in London. This has led to a healthy demand for Growing Underground's microgreens.

Their success has motivated other like-minded individuals to start their own eco-business ventures.

Berlin, Germany

Reclaiming barren land

Prinzessinnengarten is an initiative started in 2009 by Nomadic Grün and people within the neighbourhood. A 60-year-old 6,000m² barren plot of land at Moritzplatz has been transformed into an ecological and community garden.



Sao Paulo, Brazil

Low-cost expansion of green spaces

With the city running out of cultivable garden space, Marcos Victorino, a local agricultural technician, led an initiative to transform concrete urban spaces into green gardens through the use of inverted porous roof tiles as troughs.

The raised farming beds in accessible urban spaces allow everyone in the community, young or old, to be comfortably involved in and exposed to gardening benefits – increasing the project's chances of success.

The garden, run by volunteers and gardening enthusiasts, features spaces for learning about climate action and organic produce, as well as a communal gathering area for members to interact. It also offers gardening sessions and workshops on urban farming.



Hangzhou, China

Fertile, flat roofs for food

A collaboration between Pujia Primary School and the Zhejiang Province Agricultural Academy has led to a farm emerging on the rooftop of the primary school. By incorporating the idea of a rooftop farm from the outset, the structure of the school is designed to be able to support a 2,000 m² farming plot to bring agriculture closer to students' daily lives.

Produce grown and collected from this rooftop farm are sent to the school's kitchen for the students' consumption.