



SUMMER



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EDITORIAL

Summer has officially arrived in the northern hemisphere, so we thought we'd treat you to a refreshing read to while away an afternoon in the sun.

Since RESET's first issue, many developments have taken place coupled with the emergence of some exciting new partnerships. This issue will give you a taste of what RESET has been up to, as well as a glimpse of what is in store over the coming months.

Particular highlights for RESET have been catching up with friends, colleagues and health and safety officers at Ecobuild; donning a creative cap with livingroofs.org and CIRIA to bring you the Integrated Habitats Design Competition and 'The Future of the World in a 100 Objects' exhibition; making connections with SusCon Gateway to Construction and the Schumacher College, to deliver new CPD training courses; working with community groups to support ecological building design; and, getting one step closer to facilitating the project on cyclone and flood-adapted, affordable housing with partners in Bangladesh.

In addition to all of this, RESET has moved office. The RESET hub is now located in the old Reeves Building in Dalston. Visitors are always more than welcome to call in, and to tempt you our host Bootstrap Company has been creatively cultivating a fruit and vegetable roof garden.

It has been a fertile few months, but none of it could have been achieved without RESET's supporters, so a BIG thanks to all of you! As a volunteer-run charity, reliant on membership fees, income from training and donations your continued support is gratefully received.

But for now, slap on some sun cream, sit back, and enjoy...

Amy Clancy, Editor

Newsbite



Real Ecobuilding with RESET

Although our stand had been tucked away in one of the small (4.5m x 4.5m to be precise) corners of Earls Court, we still seemed to attract most of the 40,000* visitors at some point during the 3 day show (so big were the crowds that we were forced to ask people to move away for fear of creating a fire hazard!). OK, I admit this may have been partly due to the 'follow the bread crumb' trail of straw we had left on the luminous green carpeting...and the small earthquake produced by ramming earth.

But, as the feedback and reviews testified, among all the greenwash and commercial product pushing, RESET was one of only a hand-full of stands really promoting what I think most people would imagine a real 'ecobuild' to be. One passer-by commented "I knew if I looked hard enough, I'd find some real ecobuilding going on".

With the help of some amazing RESET volunteers and our wonderful partnering organisations, **Amazonails**, **The Grass Roof Company** and **RamCast**, we were able to create an wonderful stand as well as run exciting, hands- on workshops throughout the show. I would like to thank everyone who was involved as RESET couldn't have done it without such brilliant support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the very generous, anonymous £300 donor, who entitled their transfer 'Great Ecobuild stand'. I really can't tell you how very grateful we are, not only for the donation, but for the encouragement that such kind gestures give us to keep on doing what we are doing.

"I knew if I looked hard enough, I'd find some real ecobuilding going on."

Ecobuild Passer-by

If there was one word that would best describe the RESET / Ecobuild experience I think it would be 'memorable'. It certainly was memorable for us (both exciting and challenging), hopefully memorable for those who visited (in a positive way) and I know it was certainly memorable for the Earls Court health and safety officers!

*Specific numbers of RESET stand visitors is unknown, but it felt like at least 37,000.

Nikki Linsell

Crowds flock to the RESET stand.

Photograph:
Nikki
Linsell



Disaster Risk Reduction, Bangladesh



Devastation caused by flooding last October in Bangladesh
Photograph: Blanche Cameron

Last year, on behalf of RESET, Nikki Linsell and myself visited the south-west region of Bangladesh and saw for ourselves the devastation left in the wake of cyclones Sidr (November 2007) and then Aila (May 2009). As a result, RESET developed partnerships with **Practical Action Bangladesh, BRAC University Architecture, Landscape and Disaster Management Departments, the Self Help Promotion Network and Architecture for Humanity Dhaka**. RESET together with these partners have been busy developing a project to support and promote increased knowledge sharing, testing and community capacity building of improved disaster mitigated and climate adapted shelter designs, while at the same time being as affordable and as low carbon as possible.

We are still waiting to receive final confirmation of funding for the project, which consists of an expert symposium in Dhaka, followed by a three-week community construction training programme, to build proto-type housing in Satkhira district - to be monitored and evaluated through the cyclone and flooding season. We look forward to telling you more as the project takes off.

Blanche Cameron

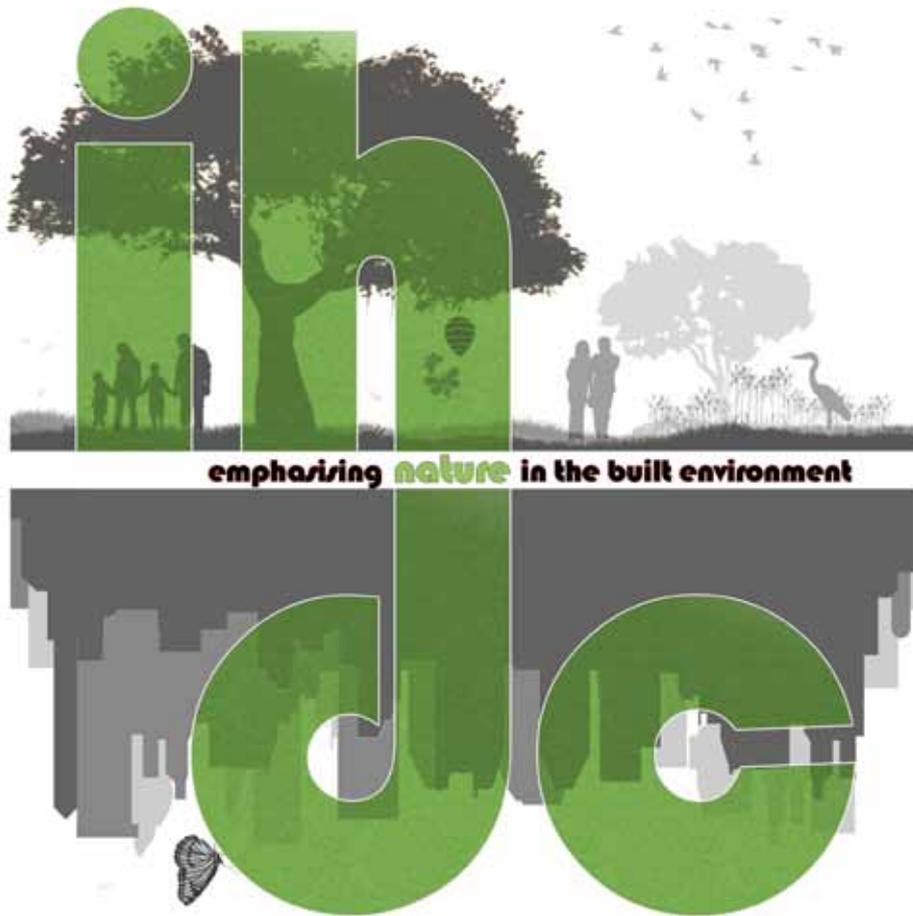
Putting People First

There's been a lot of debate recently in the post-disaster/development sectors on what exactly the role of the Built Environment Professional (and I use the term 'professional' very loosely in this context) is in post-disaster reconstruction during the emergency, transitional and reconstruction / long-term development stages; most notably, David Sanderson's recent article entitled 'Architects are often the last people needed in disaster reconstruction' published in The Guardian (03.04.10). Sanderson argues that 'most of them focus on building rather than people' and I couldn't agree more.

In fact, that is why RESET is continuing to develop our international advocacy and training programme, to help support, develop, and most importantly, promote the skills and capacity of the people in country, and not the other way round.

Nikki Linsell

Integrated Habitats



14/09/10

Exhibition Opening
at the NLA
Building Centre

15/09/10

Awards Ceremony
at CIRIA's
Greenroof Congress

16/10/10

Exhibition Closes

Integrated Habitats Design Competition

The IHDC follows in the footsteps of the international competition organised by Tom Liptan and the City of Portland, Oregon in 2007 to promote design for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

RESET is running the competition for the first time in the UK in partnership with livingroofs.org, the international ecologist and masterplanner Gary Grant and CIRIA, and is supported by Natural England and Kier London.

Our aims?

- To raise awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity and the natural world
- To encourage intra-disciplinary working between ecologists, architects, engineers...
- To create a body of work for good design of the built environment for biodiversity.



www.ihdc.org.uk

A Future of the World in 100 Objects

THE RESET MANIFESTO // A Manifesto for the Future: a commitment to maintaining and supporting our world's habitats and resources by realising a world beyond oil.

RESET invites YOU, our members, supporters and partners, to participate in developing our RESET Manifesto...

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

In a forward-facing version of the BBC's and British Museum's 'History of the World in 100 Objects', RESET is asking you to propose an 'object' to illustrate the manifesto and challenge convention on our built environment. We invite you to be as visionary, courageous and thought-provoking as possible.

Feel free to interpret 'object' in whatever way you like - process, system, component, practice - as long as it can be physically represented, easily transported and displayed in a public place, for at least 5 weeks!

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY

- To take part in an exhibition at the NLA Building Centre, London. (These objects will accompany the exhibition of RESET and livingroofs.org's Integrated Habitats Design Competition);
- To promote what you think is important, under RESET's umbrella, to a discerning and influential audience;
- To reach world-wide audiences, through a dedicated website: www.futureoftheworld.org.

HOW TO TAKE PART

Email the following to Jane Monahan: jane.monahan@reset-development.org.uk

- Your name and contact details
- A photo of your 'object' (max 500KB)
- 100 words on what it is and why it is important to the future of the world
- The object's size and weight (if it is too big to display, suggest another way it can be represented)

ENTRY IS FREE / ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

THE DEADLINE

Proposals must be received by midnight on 6th August 2010.

The first 100 entrants will then be contacted and asked to send or deliver their object to RESET, by 16th August, for display.

We look forward to receiving your proposal!

www.futureoftheworld.org

The Tension between Ecology and Architecture



Blanche contextualises the debate

Photograph: Charlotte Claughton

On 2nd June, RESET organised a debate, hosted by Building Design Partnership, London, to discuss the tensions between ecology and architecture. The debate was introduced with reference to the recent explosion of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, and how this highlights the way in which our oil addiction continues to impact tragically on our fragile, life supporting ecosystems. The introduction emphasised the need to design for weather that threatens to be simultaneously hotter, wetter and more extreme.

Dominic Coath (green infrastructure planning in the South East with Natural England), opened the evening's presentations with a look at the Capital's policies for green infrastructure and 'natural development' to act as a natural health service. Gary Grant, international ecologist and masterplanner, followed on to explain ecosystem services and their value as an approach to design that supports nature and natural processes, such as passive cooling and ventilation, solar shading and good water management. Cath Basilio, lecturer at Sheffield Hallam's Architecture Department and architect at Sheffield City Council, took us through the design of Sharrow School. She showed how it has been possible to overcome 'bio-prejudice',

and incorporate exemplary biodiverse green roofs as habitats for nature, as well as additional educational and amenity space for the school. Sharrow School now has the UK's first nature reserve on a roof and Cath has won three RIBA awards for her work on it.

Thanks goes to all the speakers, including Dusty Gedge of livingroofs.org who legged it over from the pocket habitat event at Arup to participate in the discussion. It was also great to hear some of the issues that people in the audience are facing in their design work when trying to incorporate nature, biodiversity, water, energy and climate change adaptation.

As always, there was plenty more to discuss... How do we get more integrated approaches taught in architecture, engineering and other courses? How do we empower designers to overcome the barriers to incorporating ecological design approaches? And, how can we talk about these issues in a down to earth way?

Blanche Cameron

In the Community



Everyone gets involved at Spitalfields City Farm workshop.

Photograph: Blanche Cameron

Community-led Ecological Building Design

Undertaking a building project can be a big challenge for community groups, especially when a group decides to aim for a sustainable and resilient building. As more and more people recognise the need to build differently, RESET aims to support communities who wish to take this step.

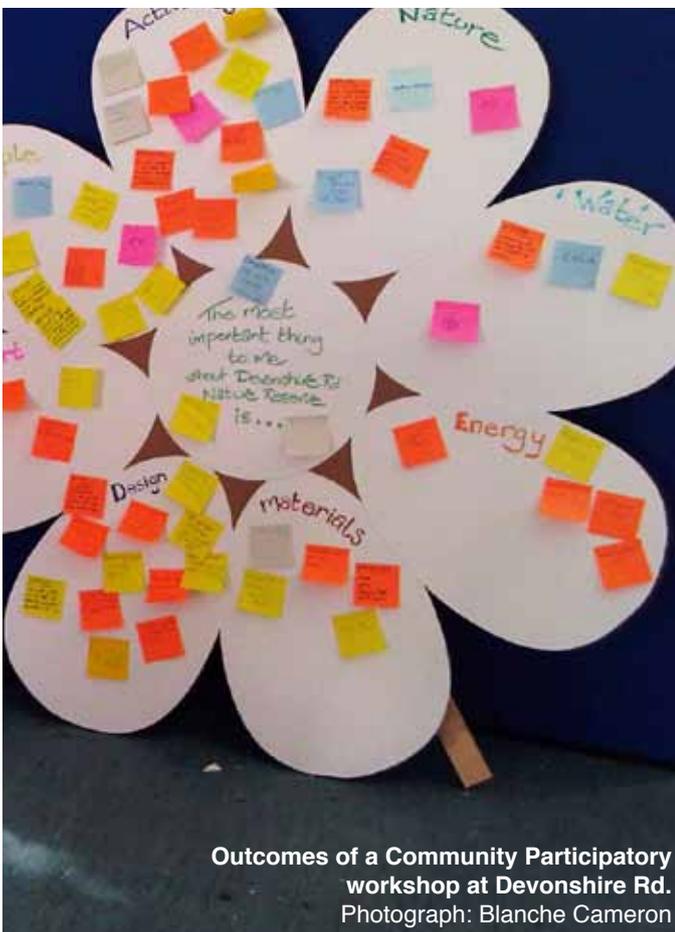
From initial formulation of an idea to build, right through to the construction of the building, there are many points along the way where communities can struggle to achieve a sustainable building, for which RESET is developing guidance, support and training.

Securing funding can be a long and complicated process, but having clear aims and an appropriate organisational structure from the outset can both simplify this process and increase the likelihood of success. Understanding the principles and techniques of sustainable construction from an early stage can help throughout the process, from developing strategies to finding funding, to developing the brief, to involving the rest of the community.

As community projects are normally driven by a core group - but ultimately destined to serve a community as a whole - ensuring that the needs and opinions of all users are recognised is hugely important. Empowering community groups with the skills to communicate effectively both with their community at large and with design professionals, enables them to develop a stronger brief and, ultimately, achieve a better building or use of space.

Anna Kerrane

RESET's Community Training and Support



Outcomes of a Community Participatory workshop at Devonshire Rd.
Photograph: Blanche Cameron

Recently, RESET has been working with the Friends of Devonshire Road Nature Reserve (FODRNR) in Lewisham and Bootstrap Charitable Company in Dalston on their respective community development projects. RESET has also been engaged with the Glass-House Trust (www.theglasshouse.org.uk) on working with the Spitalfields City Farm steering group to develop a brief for an ecological centre for the farm.

These projects have certain things in common, most visibly, a dedicated and inspiring group of people who are committed to providing facilities for the community and enhancing the ecological value of the area.

RESET has been inspired working alongside these groups and looks forward to supporting them as they develop their projects and bring their ideas to fruition. More on these projects over the page and in the next issue as they progress.

Blanche Cameron

Devonshire Road Nature Reserve

Walk along Devonshire Road, Forest Hill, Lewisham and you cannot fail to notice a set of beautifully crafted iron gates. Behind them lies a great local treasure - 7 acres of biodiverse wilderness, entered via a communal garden where ponds, raised beds, bee hives, and a myriad of natural habitats provide an ecological haven for wildlife.

Sadly, opportunities for the public to access the site are currently limited to open days and occasional gardening and ecology group visits, due to a lack of adequate built facilities. However, Friends of Devonshire Road Nature Reserve (FODRNR), who have managed the site since 1998, recognise the huge potential to expand their ventures. The vision is to provide an ecological community centre with facilities for education and community activities. This would be a new building that satisfies the local community and planning requirements, as well as providing an exemplar demonstration of the potential for environmentally sensitive, low impact, community-led design.

In January, RESET was invited to help manage this process and we have been working with FODRNR to develop a strategy and to support its implementation. The overall development plan is divided into (1) Community Consultation and design to outline planning permission (OPP), (2) Seeking and securing capital grant funding, (3) Construction and completion of building works.

We are currently working on the community consultation process (1) with training to develop a brief for the building. A series of events have been taking place to gauge community needs, such as their Open Day and the Moth and Bat night in Spring. Further ways to engage the community are being planned, including workshops geared to the environmental impact of buildings for example.

Brigid Clarke

Dalston Roof Park

RESET is also assisting in project facilitation during the feasibility stages of the Dalston Roof Park project. The project itself is being coordinated by the Bootstrap Company, the owners of 'The Print House', the historic

Reeves building on which the roof park will be sited. The focus of RESET's work is on assessing community needs for green space in the area, specifically what approach local people would like to see taken for the design of the roof. In contrast to FODRNR, Dalston - despite having a thriving diverse community with a tradition of small local businesses - is currently the second most deprived council area in England, and inhabitants have very little access to green space.

The Roof Park project has been accepted as part of the Mayor of London's "Great Spaces" initiative and its realisation will provide the opportunity for Dalston to gain some much needed green space, which can be used to engage and inspire the local community about ecology, healthy eating as well as other sustainable living techniques. The creation of the roof park will be an illustration of the benefits of green spaces at roof level assisting in climate change adaptation. It will also, most importantly, give the residents of Dalston a public social place for relaxing, education and exploration.

Marko Kalik

The Glass-House

The Glass-House is a registered charity that supports and encourages better working partnerships between communities and professionals who cooperating to improve the quality of a neighbourhood. The Glass-House works nationally, offering design advice, training and project support to projects focusing on neighbourhoods, housing, public space, community buildings, play areas and facilities for young people.

The Glass-House supports a community-led design process that ensures regeneration is happening with and for - not to - local people.

I have been working with Spitalfields City Farm steering group through a series of workshops, guided tours and community events to draw out the principles of approach for the new building, and how the project might be designed, managed and potentially even built by the community.

www.theglasshouse.org.uk

Blanche Cameron

Many Hands

Brining Projects to Life

RESET relies on a dedicated team of volunteers and interns to carry out its work. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a few people currently offering their valuable time, enthusiasm and experience to support RESET's advocacy work, communications and community projects.

Marko Kalik

Marko is RESET's representative on the Dalston Roof Park project working as Community Project Co-ordinator. The role involves co-ordinating the community consultation.



Marko recently completed an MSc in Urban Sustainability where he covered a range of issues combining social and environmental approaches to community in an urban setting. One of the main focuses of the course was community participation in driving change in our urban environments. It is from this perspective that Marko is approaching the Dalston Roof Park project and brings, knowledge and enthusiasm to the project.

Marko has experience of dealing with deprived and socially excluded groups having spent last summer researching the refugee communities of Belgrade, Serbia. There he realised the importance of discovering the needs of a community, from the community itself, before working towards a best solution to their problems - working from the bottom up, rather than imposing solutions from the top down.

Jane Monahan

Jane is a retired architect who studied at the Architectural Association and worked for three firms including Energy Conscious Design, mainly on schools and public housing. She co-authored the 'Handbook of Environmental Powers' for the Architectural Press and set up an architectural education programme for schools at Sir John Soane's Museum. In her local borough (Camden) she was founding chair of the Friends of St George's Gardens and governor of two schools - St. Leonards and St. Albans. Jane joined RESET to learn more about health-ier buildings for healthier communities in a healthier environment - and to make a difference.



Amy Clancy

Amy is working on the development of a communications strategy to promote RESET and support its diverse projects.



Amy is a graduate of International Development and has an acute awareness of the need to reconsider the concept of 'development' and the nature in which knowledge from experience is shared.

Amy has a background working on policy and communications for environmental NGOs, particularly in relation to low carbon transport and communities. She has a particular interest in exploring the potential for urban sustainability, and is currently studying the MSc: Architecture: Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies at CAT's Graduate School of the Environment.

Anna Kerrane

Anna is an architecture graduate, very interested in the public realm and engaging communities with design. Her studies investigated these ideas alongside themes such as urban agriculture, markets and local economics and education buildings.



Anna has previously designed and led a consultation process on the regeneration of a number of public spaces in Tower Hamlets and at RESET is researching the support available to community groups who wish to undertake a sustainable building project.

Anna also works for London Wildlife Trust developing a community project for several sites along the River Crane in West London and sometimes runs education workshops for children exploring architecture and design.

Brigid Clarke

Brigid qualified as a Chartered Accountant before specialising in management consultancy and project management. Consultancy, which eventually led to 10 years as shareholder Director of a communications group working on public relations, lobbying and advertising and design.



Over the last 10 years Brigid has become increasingly involved in local community participation and building projects. She is a member of Transition Town Brixton, Buildings and Energy Group, and Sustainable Streatham. She is also co-convenor of Telford Park Climate Action Network, a local group of residents promoting carbon reduction and community issues and studying the MSc: Architecture: Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies at CAT. She has been a RESET member since 2008, and is now intern for the Devonshire Road project.

Tim Spicer

Tim is our newest intern working on research and marketing. The role includes producing a contact database of key target audiences, researching existing providers and producing a report documenting any gaps in the market and identifying need.



Tim comes from a geography and environment background taking a special interest in palaeoecology and reconstructing climate during his degree in geography at the University of Southampton. Since graduating Tim has had work experience in the building trade, gardening and bar work as well as spending 10 months backpacking and exploring Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. Tim now hopes to expand his environmental knowledge to the built environment and develop a career in the environmental sphere within the charity and research industry.

Get Involved!

RESET interns play a valuable role supporting our work and we are regularly looking for individuals to join the small RESET team in our lovely new Dalston office.

We offer rolling positions for Graduate, Editorial and Communications interns.

The latest opportunities are listed on the RESET website: www.reset-development.org.uk.

Please contact us with a CV and a covering letter if you are interested.

We will also be looking for some volunteer assistance for some of our upcoming events soon. These opportunities will be promoted via our mailing list.

Training



Hard at work on a RESET Living
Roofs Training Course

Photograph: Nikki Linsell

New CPD Training Courses

We face an unprecedented challenge to develop processes that work with nature to increase our resilience to climate change.

As part of a new series of CPD courses aimed at built environment professionals, Spring saw RESET run some very well received courses on Living Roofs & Ecosystem Services. A 2-day masterclass was led by the internationally recognised living roofs and urban ecology expert Dusty Gedge and the chartered ecologist, environmentalist and masterplanner Gary Grant.

Ecosystems thinking needs an intradisciplinary approach to working with nature. This course invites people from all backgrounds to participate. It explores designing with nature, via case studies, workshops and a guided tour of an area to assess and redesign with biodiversity and climate change in mind. The aim is to provide better public spaces and buildings and to increase resilience to floods and the 'urban heat island' effect while also improving local biodiversity.

We are also working with Dartigton Trust/Schumacher College and SusCon Gateway to Construction to develop other courses to support biodiversity and help with the adaptation of our built environment to climate change.

Working in Partnership

Low Carbon Trust and Brighton Permaculture Trust

The Low Carbon Trust and Brighton Permaculture Trust have recently joined forces with RESET to run sustainable building courses and events at our award winning Earthship project in Brighton. In the last year, we've trained over 180 people on our earthship, photovoltaic and rammed earth courses.

Working with RESET is a fantastic opportunity to reach out to wider audiences and also provide continuous professional development accreditation (CPD) for the courses. This means that people working in the construction industry can get out of the office and get some hands-on experience building with low impact materials and other technologies that can be used all over the world.

Self-building an Earthship

This training course is a three day course due to take place in association with RESET, in October. It is for anyone thinking about building their own home or anyone interested in learning about Earthships. It is suitable for complete beginners, as well as those who are familiar with eco-building and want to know more. The course covers how a building can use the sun instead of central heating, natural building materials, renewable energy, and rainwater harvesting and recycling. There are practical workshops on ramming car tyres that make up the walls of an Earthship, an earth rendering workshop and a glass bottle brick workshop.

Mischa Hewitt

For more details of all courses and events see:
www.lowcarbon.co.uk/events

Upcoming....

RESET is providing the following training for built environment professionals, community groups, students and NGO's working in the UK and abroad. If you are interested in a specific topic or have a project or group that may require tailor-made training, please do get in touch.

RESET Drinks

4th AUGUST 18:30 - 20:30

Waterhouse Restaurant, London

EVERSHEDS AUTUMN ONE-DAY SERIES

9th SEPTEMBER - Living Roofs & Ecosystem Services

8th OCTOBER - Renewable Energy for London

2nd NOVEMBER - Water in Building Design

2nd DECEMBER - Passivhaus in the UK



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