

# Great community gardens



The SGD are calling for public entries in the new 'Designing for Community Space' Award



Residents of the UK have depended on community gardens as a source of food for hundreds of years. The community allotments set up in urban front gardens and spare inner-city sites during the Second World War are just one example.

Today, the contemporary community gardening movement has grown from strength to strength and now the scope of what community gardens can achieve varies widely. No longer just a provision for providing fresh fruit and vegetables, they can offer a haven for wildlife, provide improved play areas and outdoor classrooms for children or simply be a safe public space that is well-maintained by the local community.

## Designing for Community Space Award

As part of the SGD Awards 2013, the Society is launching a new

'Designing for Community Space' Award. It is the only category in the 2013 Awards **open to non-members of the SGD** and invites members of the public to submit entries for a community space, of any size, that is owned by, used by, or designed by the local community. The spaces may

be temporary or permanent and do not necessarily have to involve the community within the design or construction process. The category is wide open with the judges looking for tiny artistic plots, innovative or experimental use of green space or even green space installations and pop-up gardens. The only stipulation is that the

garden must be funded by a charity to qualify as a community garden. As this is a design award, the Society is ideally looking for entries from the garden designer. However, if no designer was involved in the project the SGD will welcome applications from the garden

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curator; the chair of the garden committee, a Friends group leader; or anyone representing the garden. Judges will be looking at the many factors and circumstances that have dictated the design of a garden and how the garden design has affected the community who use it. Many community gardens offer huge health and social benefits and are an immensely valuable resource to neighbourhoods across the country. Many provide healing centres for people with mental and physical disabilities or create opportunities for recreation and exercise or simply offer a place to grow organic food.

Get involved

If you are a designer who has helped transform a vacant site into a vibrant green space or if you

know a community garden that you think is worthy of winning the 'Designing for Community Space' Award then consider nominating the designer, encouraging them to enter or getting the community group behind it.



To find out how to register your interest in entering the 'Designing for Community Space Award' or to find out more about the SGD Awards 2013, visit the website [www.sgdawards.com](http://www.sgdawards.com). Early bird entry fees apply to all applicants who enter before **8 July 2013** and the final deadline for submissions is **12 August 2013**. The winners will be announced at the SGD Awards ceremony in January 2014.

**1** The Dalston Eastern Curve Garden  
Photo: Sarah Blee

**2** The Community Garden at Tate Modern.

**3** The Urban Physic Garden  
Photo: Mike Massaro

