



THE PATHWAY GARDEN PRESS PACK

Chelsea Flower Show 2025

Welcome to the Pathway Garden.

Garden location: **RHW289**

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PRESS RELEASE

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 life, such as 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.

THE PATHWAY GARDEN DESIGNERS

Allon Hoskin



Allon is the co-founder and Managing Director of Modular. Allon has over 35 years in the landscape sector, specialising in construction and technical design. At Modular, Allon oversees and delivers the company's in-house design projects.

A senior RHS show judge since 2015, Allon has chaired garden assessment and judging panels, mainly for and at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Robert Beaudin



Robert contributes over 30 years of experience as a landscape architect. He has worked at various design firms in Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom, and led the design and installation of significant landscape projects: including show gardens, residential, and botanical gardens open to the public. Robert currently works as a freelance landscape architect for Modular, and occasionally for other firms in the UK and Canada.

PATHWAY COLLEAGUES WITH EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

People with lived experience of homelessness have been closely involved in every aspect of the garden's creation. These include:

Manzoor

Originally from Bangladesh, Manzoor has been through many challenges, including homelessness. He is passionate about improving health outcomes for others affected by homelessness. Part of the project team from the beginning, Manzoor believes in a garden's power to create a real sense of belonging.

Ross

Ross volunteers with Pathway to give back to those facing exclusion from healthcare while experiencing homelessness. Following his own turbulent journey, he is now a proud and active member of Pathway: delivering training, speaking at conferences, and helping to shape this RHS Chelsea garden!

Mandy, Pathway Lived Experience Programme Manager with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"After being on the streets, you have a burden of negative experiences associated with the outdoors. We want to create new positive encounters with nature.....through touch, smell, feeling.... awakening."

What Pathway's volunteers say about the charity's Lived Experience programme:

Gareth M, a Pathway Colleague with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"Becoming part of the Pathway lived experience group has changed my life. Being involved in work that may help other people escape a life of desperation has not only given me a sense of pride and purpose it has also provided me with a new lease of life and a brighter future."

Sahar, a Pathway Colleague with personal experience of homelessness, said:

"A huge impact in my life. I gained confidence, skills and felt useful and valued. I contribute as expert by experience, my experience is helping to add value which helps me to overcome my trauma."



PATHWAY

Pathway is the UK's leading homeless and inclusion health charity. They exist to improve the health of people experiencing homelessness and other forms of severe social exclusion.

Pathway's Partnership Programme supports the NHS to set up and run specialist teams to support patients facing homelessness when they are admitted to hospital. The multi-disciplinary teams work with patients holistically, drawing in other services to make sure their stay in hospital goes well, and that they receive support and accommodation on discharge. This helps to end the revolving door of hospital admission, and sets patients on the path to health and stability. The teams reduce patients' rough sleeping by 40% on average.

As well as this, Pathway work alongside partners at every level of the health service to:

- develop, test and share evidence-based models of care across the NHS, like the Pathway hospital teams;
- support specialist homeless and inclusion health professionals, by developing and hosting training and good practice resources;
- influence public policy, commissioning and drive wider system change;
- change attitudes and challenge the stigma people experiencing multiple exclusion face too often when they seek help for their health.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MYCELIUM

Beneath our feet, an intricate and expansive fungal network known as mycelium weaves through the soil, often in close association with the roots of trees and plants. This network facilitates the exchange of nutrients, water, and chemical signals between organisms, playing a crucial role in ecosystem health and resilience. As the living fabric of the soil, mycelium underpins many natural processes and supports biodiversity. By caring for and respecting the soil, we help preserve this vital, living infrastructure that sustains life on Earth.

Mycelium plays a critical role in sustainable material innovation by offering a biodegradable, renewable alternatives to synthetic and resource-intensive products. As a living system that thrives on agricultural waste, it not only reduces landfill burden but also embodies the core principles of the circular economy through its low energy requirements and full compostability.

The Pathway Garden mycelium will be placed as blocks within the garden, with the mycelium networks representing Pathway's work to create life sustaining networks for those affected by homelessness. The mycelium towers were designed by PLP Architecture in collaboration with Opovate and grown in Attenborough, UK by Magical Mushroom Company.



THE PLANTS THAT MAKE OUR GARDEN

***Alnus glutinosa* ‘Laciniata’, or cut-leaf alder**, is a variety of the native species, chosen for the delicate, medium-sized canopy it provides to the garden.

***Corylus avellana*, or hazel**, is selected as a native species and provides contrast to the cut-leaf alder.

Osmanthus burkwoodii is selected to provide structure, repeated throughout the garden.

***Geranium maculatum* ‘Beth Chatto’** is chosen for its ability to meander among coarser, large-leaved herbaceous plants.

***Carex divulsa*, or grassland sedge**, is a native groundcover that blends well with other plants in part shade.

***Polystichum setiferum* ‘Plumosomultilobum’ Group** occurs in the greatest quantity, although it is one of five fern species used. With over 360 ferns in the garden, they form the bulk of the herbaceous planting - chosen both for their suitability to the moist, shaded setting and for their beauty and the contrast they offer to other plants.

Please contact us to receive the full plant list.

“The planting reflects an abandoned, or regenerating, moist garden in the shade of cutleaf alder and hazel trees. The herbaceous planting relies primarily on shades of green and foliage texture but also has subtle colour throughout.”

Robert Beaudin, Garden Designer

This garden would not be possible without Project Giving Back.

PGB will fund 10 gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2025 and intends to fund a total of 60 gardens inspired by a range of good causes from 2022 to 2026.

PGB aims to boost UK-based good causes by giving them an opportunity to raise awareness of their work at the high-profile RHS Chelsea Flower Show, as well as supporting the relocation of the gardens to permanent homes after the show where they can continue to benefit the charities and their communities.