

Intern's Rhubarb Tea Bar design shortlisted for Fresh Air Squares competition

3 June 2015, by Elizabeth Henry, *Be the first to comment*

An intern landscape architect at Petherick, Urquhart & Hunt Landscape Consultancy has won the student category of the 'Fresh Air Squares' design competition.



Rhubarb. Image: MorgueFile

Emma Steen Caporal's design for a Rhubarb Tea Bar is now on a shortlist of four designs to be developed further and possibly built in London.

The competition is run by Team London Bridge and partners TfL, King's College London, CJS Plants and Vauxhall One to deliver 'Fresh Air Square' parklets in London Bridge and Vauxhall.

Fresh Air Squares will be modular, portable micro-parks (parklets) that replace London car parking spaces for a period of one week to a year in London Bridge and Vauxhall, to improve the local environment and to raise awareness about air quality issues. They have been designed to incorporate planting, seating, an air quality monitoring station, specialised plant species to mitigate air pollution and sustainable urban drainage.

Steen Caporal's parklet invites people passing by a street to stop and relax in a peaceful lush and quirky green space in the middle of the city. The design is for a place to drink hot or cold tea including rhubarb tea in the heart of London. It uses a bold architectural palette of plants such as rhubarb and bamboo and modular construction using hay bales, soil and stone-filled gab ions.

The four successful shortlisted practices will be showcased at a design 'Crit' at London's Living Room, City Hall on 24 June as part of the London Festival of Architecture and then the designs will be developed for potential construction in September 2015.

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