

THE RUBENS AT THE PALACE AIR QUALITY CHAMPION

Case Study - improving air quality in Victoria

In August 2013, one of London's largest living walls was unveiled on the side of the Rubens at the Palace Hotel in Victoria.

Covering 350m² the wall comprises pollinator-friendly plant species including buttercups, crocuses, strawberries, spring bulbs and winter geraniums.

Rainwater harvesting tanks have been integrated into the scheme and store rainwater collected from the hotel's roof which is used to irrigate the plants, topping-up the mains supply.

The Built Environment

- The plants in the wall help to improve air quality by reducing local air temperature
- The wall itself acts as a huge green filter – trapping pollutants that are harmful to human health that are then washed away
- The wall will also help insulate the hotel
- This will potentially reduce the amount of gas used by the boilers which in turn reduces boiler emissions
- In Westminster, emissions from boilers (commercial and domestic) are a key source of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)



Communications

- The wall has become a photo hotspot for visitors
- Hotel guests learn more about the scheme through an afternoon tea menu that is inspired by the wall's plants, such as wild strawberries and lavender
- Leaflets within guests' hotel rooms explain the value of the living wall

Images courtesy of The Rubens at the Palace