

CASE STUDY

Full Car Park Refurbishment Living Wall & Welcome Project

MAKERS

...makes the difference

PROJECT

Intu Milton Keynes Shopping
Centre Car Park

STRUCTURE

Multi-storey Car Park

CLIENT

Intu Retail Services Ltd

CONTRACT



The refurbishment of the car park provided the opportunity to reconnect with nature by creating a real living wall and reviewing not only the operation of the car park but the processes and infrastructure within it.

Whilst many would consider the terminology as 'Green' Intu's thought process went much deeper, recognising the benefits to the human spirit through the advocacy of Biophilia from studies of the eminent entomologist Edward O. Wilson.

Mr Wilson advocated that the human mood and spirit is improved if surrounded by plants and nature.

Makers were engaged to refurbish the car park but with a view to adopting Intu's design brief of 'project welcome'. With an agreed start date and an outline project programme of 43 weeks.

'Project Welcome' was a concept design considered back in August 2017. A desire to improve the parking experience was at the heart of the idea, based on the understanding that for many customers, the car park is the 1st physical touch point they have with the centre.

The current entrance was rather nondescript and seemed to blend in to the rest of the facade and didn't really accent the entrance of the Intu experience. The entrance was cluttered with an array of signage that detracted and distracted the entering drivers.



Before



After

T : 08458 994444
F : 01543 480676
E : enquiries@makers.biz
W : www.makers.biz

Makers Office Building 4,
Shenstone Business Park
Lynn Lane, Shenstone, WS14 0SB

Registered in England No: 6348341 Registered Office as above

Association Membership



Accreditations



CASE STUDY

MAKERS

...makes the difference



After



After



After

Makers having been appointed had to investigate the possibility of creating a striking entrance that would provide a beacon to shoppers, inviting them into a new experience that also very clearly welcomed them to 'Park Here'.

There is only one access point to the parking facility which had to remain live during shopping hours, so a special scaffold platform had to be erected to allow the living wall installation. A 'modular hybrid hydroponic' medium which was launched at Ecobuild by Biotecture Systems was used for the entrance.

The drive through the car park entrance ramp was described as bland and boring, a series of 30m long ramps taking drivers from street level to parking on levels 2 and 3. The prospect of creating a more interesting and calming environment and backdrop could translate into slower speeds of driving, providing a safer environment.

The 'Biophilia' aspects were fully understood and highly significant in this section of the car park. Whilst the area was dark and dull, the desire to create a "living corridor" was both unique and challenging, especially as there wasn't any degree of natural light available.

Living walls require access to natural light, either being on the external facades of buildings or internally sited and supported by atriums or glazed screens. The ramps at intu proved a difficult proposition given natural daylight only occurred once you were near the top of the exposed roof top deck.

A cassette installation system was considered but given the gaps between the ramps and the position of the required artificial lighting it was decided that the provision of waterproof troughs would provide the container to hold the growing medium and train growing climbers to form a screen.

"...we attract visitors from all over the world and we want to showcase Milton Keynes as an incredibly forward-thinking City,.....Milton Keynes is often associated with concrete and having no soul, which is why we are bringing one of the busiest parts of the City centre to life with a living breathing wall..."

Shelley Peppard, General Manager, intu Milton Keynes



After



After



After

T : 08458 994444
F : 01543 480676
E : sales@makers.biz
W : www.makers.biz

Association Membership



Accreditations



Makers Office Building 4,
Shenstone Business Park
Lynn Lane, Shenstone, WS14 0SB

Registered in England No: 6348341 Registered Office as above