

1.2 The benefits of vertical greening

1.2.1. The benefits of external living walls

Urban green infrastructure is the network of green spaces, water and other natural features within urban areas. A green infrastructure approach uses natural processes to deliver multiple functions, such as reducing the risk of flooding and cooling high urban temperatures. Urban green infrastructure includes parks, cemeteries, playing fields, private gardens, allotments, green roofs, green facades and living walls [1, 2, 3]. Whereas roofs are not always a visible feature, especially in the inner city, we are constantly aware of and guided by the presence of walls in our towns and cities. Many of these are often blank and featureless, and provide an opportunity for creating living walls. Living walls utilise plants to derive benefits not only in visual terms, but also with regards to amenity, biodiversity, thermal efficiency and amelioration of pollutants, all for a very small ground level footprint [4].

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