

WILD CITY

London's urban agriculturists are on a mission to reduce the distance from farm to table

Growing Underground

A network of forgotten air-raid tunnels 33m below Clapham Common has been converted into a year-round salad factory. Hydroponic technology and LED lighting coax forth trays of pea shoots, rocket and coriander in a pesticide-free environment. These greens are sold to Borough Market suppliers and Michelin-starred restaurant La Gavroche, as well as through online food delivery service Farmdrop. The farm aims to reduce food miles, spoilage and the dependence on imported, preservative-laden food. growing-underground.com



The GrowUp Box

Part greenhouse, part upcycled shipping container, The GrowUp Box features an aquaponic ecosystem. This is a prototype for future sustainable urban farms, which co-founder Kate Hofman stresses will become even more important as the climate changes and cities expand. growup.org.uk



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The Skip Garden

Apple trees and flowering leeks look right at home sprouting from a row of dumpsters on a King's Cross construction site. Flanked by beehives, chicken coops and a greenhouse built using recycled sash windows, this community allotment is largely self-sustaining. kingscross.co.uk/skip-garden



Spitalfields City Farm

Local residents opened the farm in 1978, when their garden allotments were demolished by developers. Today, the site is filled with herbs, produce and a butterfly garden brimming with flowers. Visitors can purchase kale, Jerusalem artichokes, eggs or whatever is in season. spitalfieldscityfarm.org



Surrey Docks Farm

This education-focused, non-commercial farm has an orchard, an edible permaculture garden, a livestock yard and an apiary. Coriander, mint, rosemary and other aromatics are grown in the herb garden that's also a habitat for grasshoppers, ladybirds and snails. surreydocksfarm.org.uk