Urban Canopee aims to make cities cooler and more pleasant places to live | Photo source Urban Canopee

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MAKING CITIES MORE LIVEABLE AND ENJOYABLE THROUGH URBAN REFORESTATION

🇫🇷 ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

A startup deploys plant canopies to tackle 'urban heat islands'

Spotted: Cities that replace natural land with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other hard surfaces absorb and retain heat. This, in turn, increases energy costs, air pollution levels, and the number of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

In a bid to cool our cities, French startup Urban Canopee has come up with an innovative solution — deploying plant canopies at key locations in urban areas. These canopies combat heat, restore urban biodiversity, fight air pollution, and improve the quality of life for citizens. Their deployment is especially valuable as the world faces more frequent extreme heat as a result of climate change.

The canopies—which are made of a hi-tech material that enables plant growth—are designed to be installed in public spaces such as parks and squares. They provide much-needed respite from summer heat, while also purifying the air and creating habitats for local wildlife.

Available in a range of sizes and specifications, the canopies have been deployed in multiple cities across France, including Toulouse, Marseille, Reims, Saint-Denis, and Paris. They are also used by private companies throughout Europe.

Other innovations tackling urban heat spotted by Springwise include a platform for assessing urban heat islands, a temperature map for Vienna, and a rickshaw kept cool by a 'rooftop garden'.

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Takeaway:

In the face of global warming, the need for more green spaces has never been greater. Urban reforestation can play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change, as well as providing numerous other benefits for city dwellers. Studies have shown that green spaces help to improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, and provide a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. They also have a positive effect on physical and mental wellbeing, helping to reduce stress levels while promoting a sense of calm.