



The planters and log seats spread across the installation will eventually be covered by fungi | Photo source Damir Omerović, Unsplash

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## TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION BRINGS REWILDING TO THE HEART OF MILTON KEYNES

 ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

### Designed on a grid, the installation supports nature and encourages creativity

**Spotted:** London studio Hayatsu Architects and Danish artist Tue Greenfort have commissioned a temporary public art installation in Milton Keynes to revitalise Station Square. The installation—named “The Modernist Glade”—is an experiment in urban renewal underpinned by a symbiotic relationship with nature.

In a twist on Milton Keynes’s 1960s town plan, the architects divided the square into a grid of four smaller spaces, each of which features different activities and ideas. The centrepiece of the installation is a wooden “pavilion” – a square structure with various mushroom bags hanging from the ceiling. A canvas stretches over the roof and the walls. This can be removed to make the pavilion entirely open.

The square also includes two lawns that have been “rewilded” with flowers, plants and fungi, which will hopefully attract endangered pollinators. One of the lawns has a timber screen and canopy for screenings, while the other will contain a beehive.

Creativity and collaboration are key elements of the project. Tue Greenfort [comments](#), “We see this pavilion as a laboratory where you can come together and make things”.

Eventually, fungi will cover the planters and log seating spread across the square. Their roots—known technically as mycelia—create an underground network through which nutrients are shared. This is poetically symbolic of the spirit of mutual aid which the installation hopes to foster over the

next two years. It poses a crucial question: how can we cohabit with other species and live harmoniously alongside them in the urban world?

Springwise has tracked a number of rewilding innovations. These include a [fold-out urban garden](#), and a rewilding project that [cleans and cools](#) city air.

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## **Takeaway:**

Mutual aid and symbiotic relationships allow species to cohabit in harmony, while also being beneficial to the livelihood of individual creatures. Connections like these have contributed to the success of many species, yet current practices have led to abuse of such relationships. This has led to imbalances in the natural world, manifested in [biodiversity loss](#). We hope that *The Modernist Glade* provides a strong reminder of the importance of connections with nature.