



Landscape Design

Project

Yate Shopping Centre Refurbishment

Client

MEPC Investments Limited

Background

Yate is a large town to the north of Bristol which has experienced considerable growth over recent decades. The main shopping centre was built in the 1960s to a spacious but uninspiring design. The owners of the Centre, MEPC Investments, resolved to create a more 'user friendly' shopping area and embarked on a major refurbishment project.

As the Centre was surrounded by large and often redundant open spaces, considerable emphasis was placed on the landscape treatment. Landmark adopted an ecological approach to the landscape design, in line with its general philosophy that new landscapes should have wildlife value as well as visual quality.

Description

The project was a challenging one for Landmark. Very few ecologically based schemes had been successfully implemented in such an urban and public place. Apart from being of value to wildlife, it needed to look attractive and be resilient to public pressure.

Landmark's solution was to base the design around extensive beds of densely planted, indigenous trees and shrubs to provide an 'ecological backbone' to the scheme. These were supplemented by exotic species in more formal arrangements to provide seasonal colour and variety. Bold architectural railings and tree guards were used to provide a strong design element and to deter accidental damage. The overall effect is simple, cohesive and striking.

Client benefits

An imaginative and cost-effective approach to creating a modern image for a 1960s development.