

PORT  
LOOP

Making Port Loop:  
a new neighbourhood  
from the ground up.  
The blue green issue

1

**What is Port Loop?**

Port Loop is a new neighbourhood with potential for over 1,150 new homes. Phase 1 is on sale now and the first houses will be completed soon.

2

**Blue mind**

Living near water is good for your mind but also for your body, with the canal network giving you easier access to a healthier routine.

3

**Green futures**

Our neighbourhood is green in both senses with generous green space and with sustainability as second nature.

4

**Phase 1 in detail**

Find out about our new houses and why Port Loop is raising standards for new neighbourhoods and new homes everywhere.





# MAKING PORT LOOP: THE BLUE GREEN ISSUE

This magazine is about making a new neighbourhood from the ground up. Over several issues we'll explore the key ideas that will make Port Loop an exceptional place to live and we will track the process of making it happen. In this issue we look at the benefits of living near water and having lots of green space.

So who's behind Port Loop?

Port Loop is a partnership between Birmingham City Council, Canal & River Trust, Urban Splash and Places for People. We each have our own objectives; improve access to quality housing for all; increase wellbeing through access to the waterways; shake up the volume housebuilding sector; create great places for people. We are partners on this project because our shared aim is to deliver an exceptional place to live and an exemplary new neighbourhood for Birmingham. We are also keen collaborators and along the way we are extending this partnership model to arts, community and development partners – more on this in the next issue.

In this issue	
What is Port Loop?	04
Island Rules – The Manifesto	06
We want our environment to make us healthier	08
Waterways & wellbeing	10
Blue mind	12
Plant everything that doesn't move	14
Play out 'til tea	16
We want to play out too	18
The future neighbourhood	20
Small house syndrome	22
Phase 1	24
Town House	26
Residents view	30
Availability	32
Pre-spec plots	34
Meet the team	36
What's next	37



# WHAT IS PORT LOOP?

A NEW  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
FOR BIRMINGHAM

Before the arrival of the canal in 1769 the area known as Rotton Park was a vast parkland used for deer hunting. In the next 50 years the whole of Birmingham was transformed into 'a city of a thousand trades' and became a thriving industrial centre with the canal at its heart.

Port Loop owes its origins to the first Birmingham canal constructed in 1766 – 1769. Engineered by James Brindley on a winding route, following the contours of the land. In 1820 – 1827 the New Main Line canal cut across the meandering route of the old canal, in the process creating the Icknield Port Loop, an island surrounded by 1km of canal, just 1.5km west of the city centre.

Expansion of road and rail transport eroded the canals' original transport function and later manufacturing uses centred around the canal network also declined. Of course the canals are now taking on new meaning and the post industrial tracts of land are a valuable resource in addressing the need for new housing.

Now an ambitious and exciting masterplan for the 43-acre site has been created. An exemplary neighbourhood with new homes, shared courtyard gardens, new public parks and community spaces together with canalside retail, leisure and workspace.

The Port Loop partnership is creating a completely new and vibrant waterside neighbourhood. It will capture the full potential of the canal, giving people the opportunity to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time by water as part of their daily routine, commute or leisure time.

The entire site consists of 43 acres with outline planning consent for over 1,150 homes together with c100,000 sq ft of commercial space. The first phase consists of 207 homes in total; 117 houses and 90 apartments and also includes the first of our new neighbourhood waterside parks. The park connects Phase 1 houses with the Tubeworks, a new neighbourhood centre in a cluster of characterful industrial buildings saved from the wrecking ball to create space for independent retail, artists studios and neighbourhood services.

## Port Loop

1,150 homes in total  
15 mins walk from Birmingham city centre  
1.5km of towpath & 1km – canal 'loop'  
43 acres total site

## Phase 1a

40 award-winning modular two and three storey Town Houses by Urban Splash (see pages 26 – 31)

One acre public park by Grant Associates shared gardens & canalside private moorings

## Phase 1b

37 mews houses designed by Glen Howells Architects

## Phase 2

40 two, three and four bed homes  
90 one and two bed apartments

**Much more on Phase 1b and Phase 2 in the next issue.**



# ISLAND RULES

The first phases of Port Loop are on an island – and that got us thinking.


Central Birmingham is an odd place for an island, which is all the more reason to take this as our cue to do something exceptional. In popular imagination an island is a place where the rules change - where we can create our own rules - and if we find the right rules people will want to live on and around the island, tell stories about the island or just travel to see how we did it.

Where most schemes start with a spreadsheet – we started with a manifesto, a manifesto for a future neighbourhood, on an island, in Birmingham. Sometimes it is necessary to set out what we are trying to achieve – not just a great place to live but a transformative place. Writing a manifesto reminds us to look at what really matters, to learn from successful neighbourhoods elsewhere and put new ideas into practice. We need to understand why Dutch kids are the happiest in the world or why Japanese towns are the safest. We need not just to respond to how we live now but anticipate change and encourage positive change wherever we can.

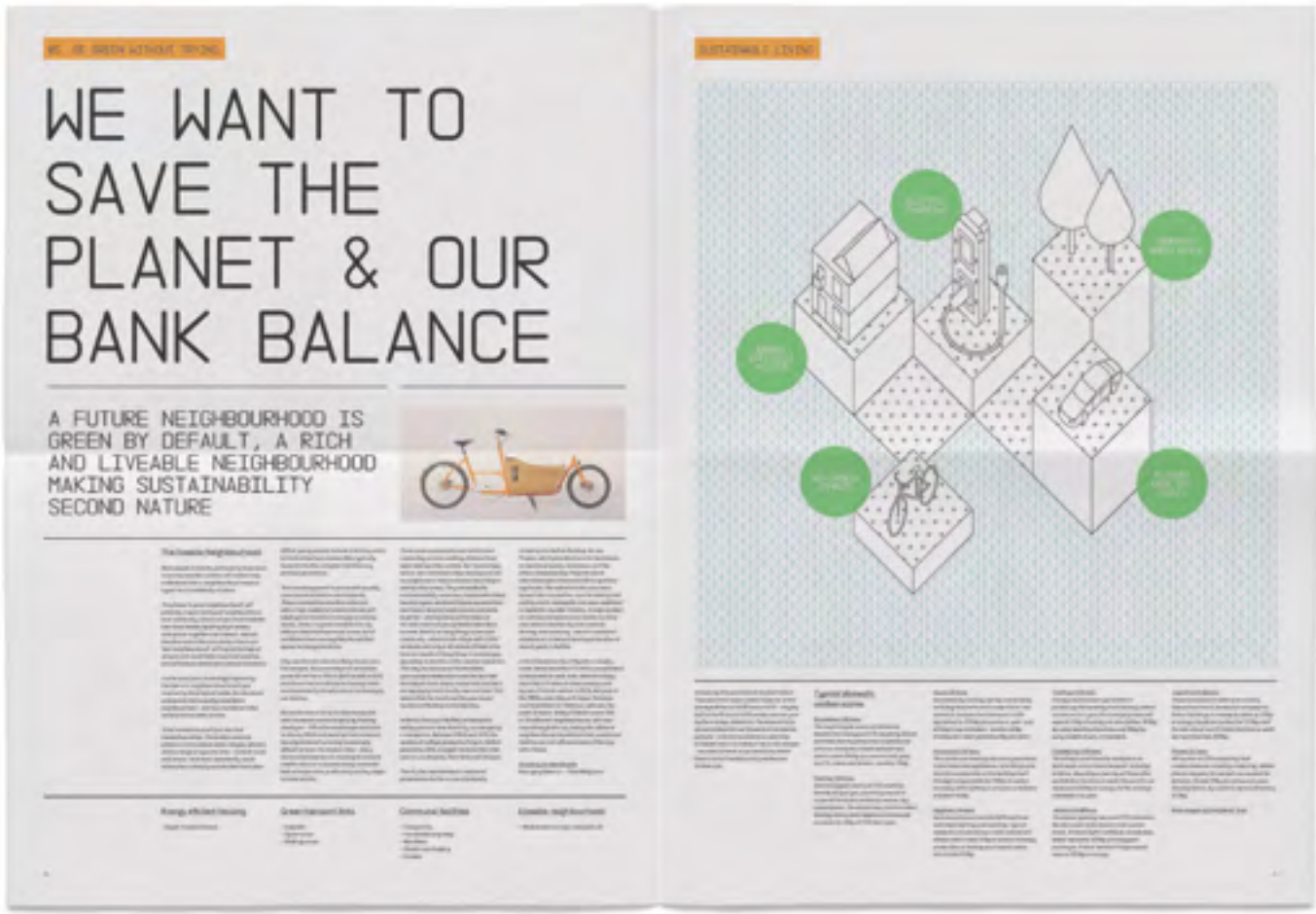
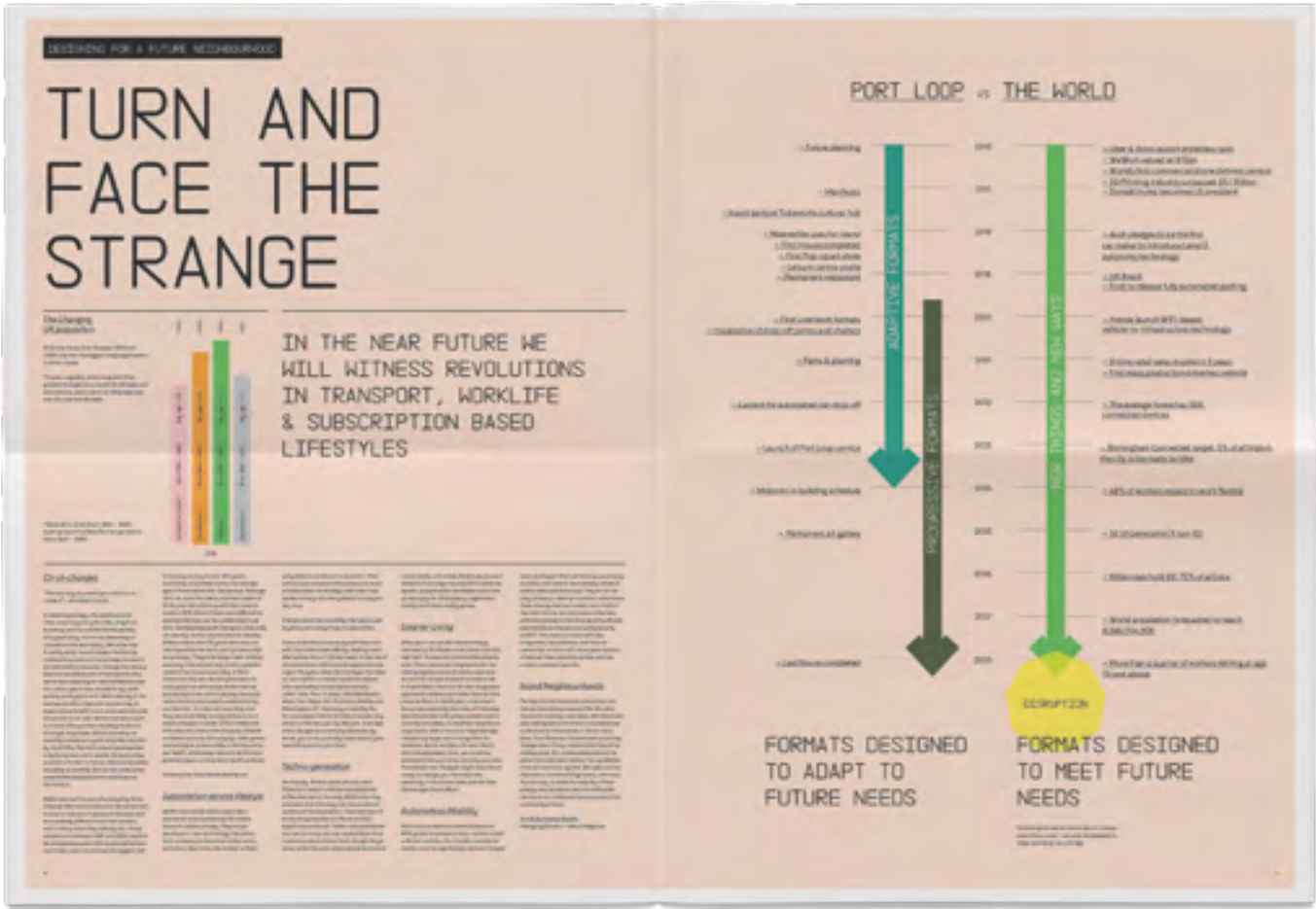
The Manifesto is available as a digital copy or mail-out from the Port Loop website. **Making Port Loop** is about putting these ideas into practice, less about ideas and more about the what, how and when.

Rules to live (and design) by

- 01. **Love thy neighbourhood**  
We want character and interest in our neighbourhood.
- 02. **Play out 'til tea**  
We want our kids to play out and we want to play out too.
- 03. **Plant everything that doesn't move**  
We want green streets not mean streets.
- 04. **No more ironing, ever**  
We want service.
- 05. **Be green without trying**  
We want to save the planet and our bank balance.
- 06. **Live well by accident**  
We want our environment to make us healthier.
- 07. **Be a native**  
Village squares and cultural hubs.
- 08. **Live how you like**  
We want homes to suit who we are and how we live.
- 09. **Change when you want**  
We want to pick'n'mix 'n'remix.
- 10. **Work where you want**  
We want work to work for us.

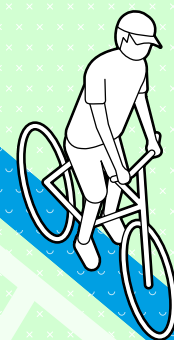


The manifesto can be picked up from the Port Loop barge at Brindleyplace or is available for download or mail-out at [port-loop.com](http://port-loop.com)





# WE WANT OUR ENVIRONMENT TO MAKE US HEALTHIER



56KM CANAL NETWORK IN BIRMINGHAM

National Cycle Route 81



Edgbaston Reservoir  
3.5km running loop

1

8KM OF CONNECTED CYCLE PATHS AND WALKWAYS

2

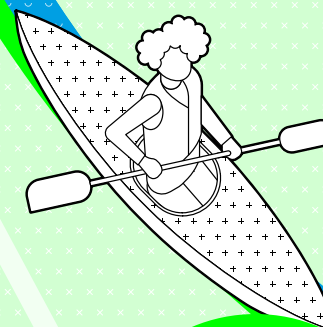


Park or communal garden on your doorstep

3

THE LOOP IS 1.0KM  
(250 CALORIES BY SWAN PEDALO)

Swimming pool



4

BRINDLEYPLACE IS 1.5KM  
(15 MIN WALK)



## How to live well by accident

We know that successful neighbourhoods are more than just bricks and mortar. Strong foundations for a community can be built through social activity and the places we meet, whether through leisure or work. Better design of the places we live can provide easier access to healthier routines. More time spent outdoors, in the parks, on the water, in the garden and on the move. The design for Port Loop provides a well connected environment designed to allow residents of all ages to live well effortlessly by making the healthy choices the natural choices to make.

1

### Keep us on the streets

We know that being outside more is good for our health. Extra vitamin D, fresh air, proximity to green space and water will make us feel better – encouraging a more outdoors focussed lifestyle.

- + Sitting out
- + Soaking it up

2

### Clean air acts

We want our neighbourhood to set examples and lead the way in air quality measures. Fewer cars on our streets, fewer deliveries to our front door and active encouragement of more cycle use will contribute to the cleanest air in the city.

- + Reduce car dependency
- + No through routes

3

### Circuit training

Imagining the island as an outdoor, easy access gym (without as much effort) would be part of our health by stealth routine. Mapping out routes based on step count, or time to complete, means we can plan our days to incorporate some good old fashioned outdoors – making it easier to hit our 10,000 a day.

- + Walking the dog
- + Taking kids to school
- + Canoeing to work
- + Weekend walks

4

### Transport as leisure

Using the daily commute as purposeful exercise can top and tail the day nicely. Proximity to the city centre means that a 20 minute walk to work is a viable proposition. Mixing personal transport types gives us variety in our options too.

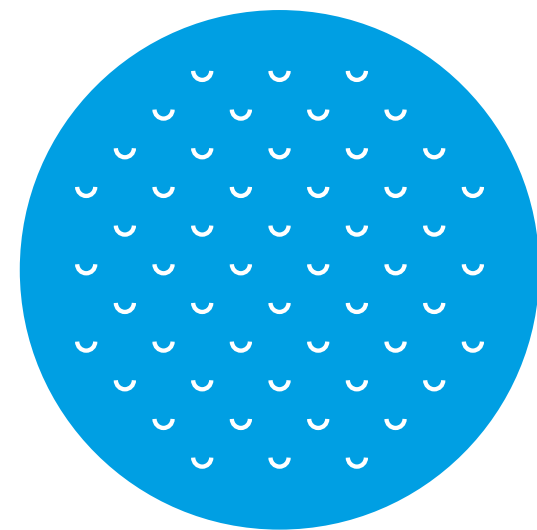
- + Cycling to work
- + Walking to town
- + Canoeing to dinner



# WATERWAYS & WELLBEING

We believe that spending time by water makes us happier and healthier. That’s why we work with communities to transform their local canal or river, creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day. Port Loop is a community where water is fundamental to its history and the key to its future. It is a key project in our Prosperous & Connected Places programme focussed on the regeneration, development and resilience of place.

Canal & River Trust



Canals and rivers are more than a place for a stroll. For hundreds of years they've helped us to thrive. In the past they transported vital goods and busy people around a booming Britain. Today, they inspire us in a different way.

Canals were built at the height of the industrial revolution, the life-blood of cities like Birmingham. When freight declined, the canals too fell into disrepair. Thankfully, our waterways today have risen, phoenix-like, to become treasured local gems – places where people can relax, re-connect, experience 200 years of history and spot the wildlife that calls them home.

A recently published study in the Royal Society Open Science journal (July 2017)\*, written by researchers at the University of Warwick and The Alan Turing Institute, highlighted the importance of waterways in increasing the scenic value of outdoor spaces, especially those in urban areas. The ‘canal natural’ feature was found to be the strongest positive predictor of scenic quality and ‘rivers’ were ranked eighth in ‘urban built-up’. This research emphasises the role that the waterways can play in providing ‘beauty’ for local people and communities and enhancing the scenic quality of outdoor spaces, particularly in deprived areas with few natural alternatives.

Waterways therefore have the potential to impact on many aspects of everyday life and many different communities. They have the capacity to make a difference to personal, community and societal wellbeing but need to be seen as relevant to do so. They need to provide a place where people can feel safe, which they know is well used by their community and offer activities which relate to and reflect their own interests and circumstances.

Extracts from 'Waterways and Wellbeing'  
Canal & River Trust

\*Entitled 'Using Deep Learning to Quantify the Beauty of Outdoor Places'



- 01 Main Line canal, Port Loop, Birmingham
- 02 Chips, New Islington, Manchester
- 03 New Islington, Manchester
- 04 Edgbaston Reservoir, Birmingham
- 05 Visualisation, Port Loop, Birmingham



It's an exceptional waterside site, and we will make the most of it. Every house will have easy access to the canal.

# BLUE MIND

A YouGov survey conducted in 10 countries across four continents shows that one colour, blue, is the most popular across the board. People associate the words 'harmony', 'depth', 'wisdom' and 'calmness' with the colour. Researchers believe that this love of blue is deeply rooted in all cultures because water is vital to everyone's needs, physically and therefore mentally. Since ancient times establishing somewhere to live revolved around access to water.

That subconscious psychological bias resides in us today as a desire to see, hear and feel water. Recent studies have found considerable health benefits from proximity to water and the nearer you are the greater the effect. Other studies found that when shown photographs of natural green spaces, people's stress levels drop, but also the more visible water, the greater the preference for that image. So we like living near water and it is good for our health.

Modern water management means we can live much further from waterways, many urban environments are devoid of any visible water features, there's as much water as we need but it comes and goes below ground. Many original waterways around which settlements began have been controlled, channelled and built over. In the process we have lost a strong relationship with water and the benefits it brings. There is a worldwide movement to 'daylight' these ancient waterways and bring them back as an essential civic asset.

And it's not all about mindfulness and wellbeing, our preference for places with water can be quantified in pounds and pence, property data suggests a waterside location attracts a huge 116.1% premium.



# PLANT EVERYTHING THAT DOESN'T MOVE

We are all primal at heart, subliminally craving trees, water and sunlight.

"We search for the sparks of imagination that connect the power and subtleties of the natural world with the way in which we live and the places we live in.

To us, sustainability in landscape design is not a simple scientific issue but must also involve an understanding of natural life-forms and the rhythms, scale and poetry of habitats and places. It must also engage people and communities. People must love these new landscapes and buildings; cherish them and nurture them.

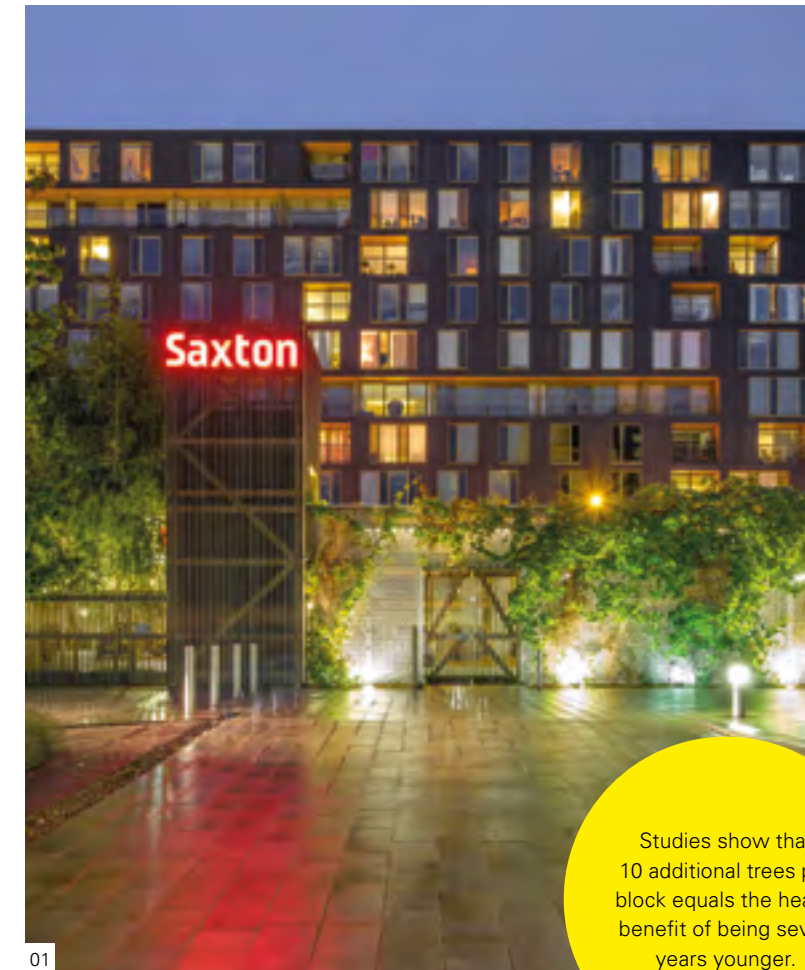
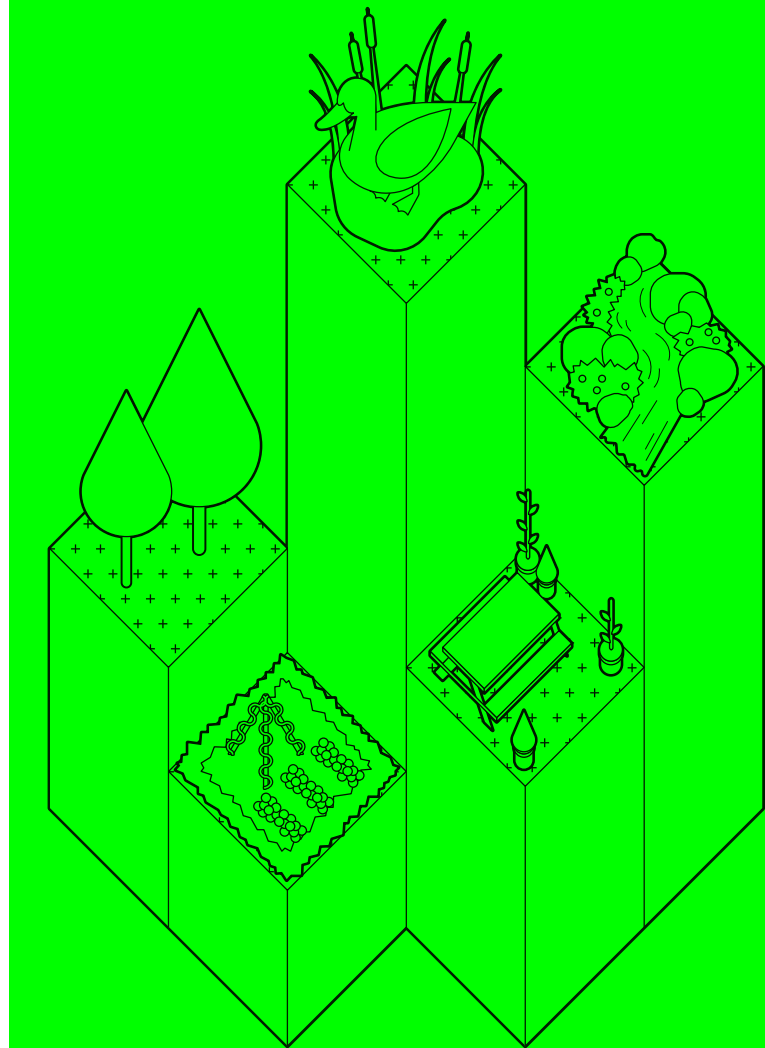
We also develop 'playfulness' and a sense of human enjoyment and engagement in the landscapes we design. These two themes of nature and play are constantly interwoven through our work."

Claire Hobart  
Port Loop Landscape Architect  
Grant Associates

Trees in our streets make us healthier, and our sense of wellbeing increases the closer we live to water. Pockets of green (and rivers of blue) in urban spaces dampen down noise, absorb pollution, give kids a place to play and have the capacity to repopulate our cities with wildlife.

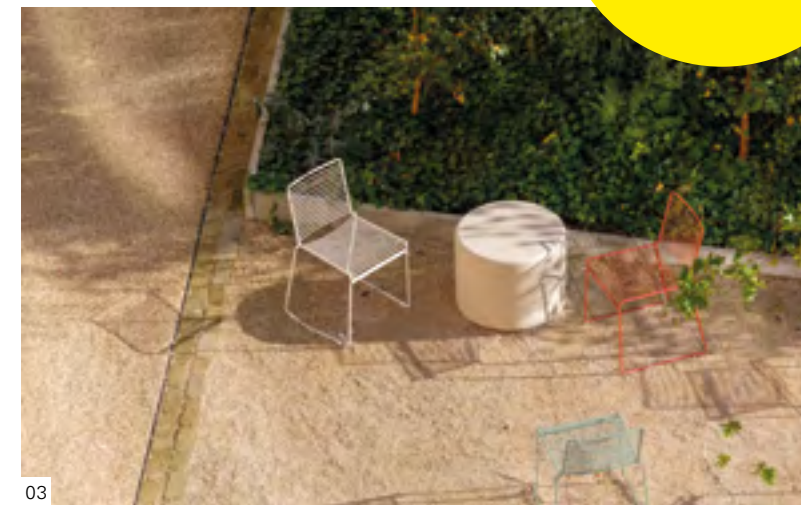
Perhaps it's not surprising, then, to learn that being surrounded by a more natural habitat reduces stress and improves our mood. And perhaps it makes sense to prioritise natural spaces within our built environment, to plant everything that doesn't move, use the rainwater we usually drain away to feed ponds and green verges and create green corridors that join up parks, canals and pockets of open space.

Leafy is good, and the more of the green stuff the better so we'll be packing it in with public parks, pocket parks, shared gardens, allotments, green walls, green roofs, swales and ponds.



01

Studies show that 10 additional trees per block equals the health benefit of being seven years younger.



03



05



02



04



06



07

Every house will border a park or shared garden.

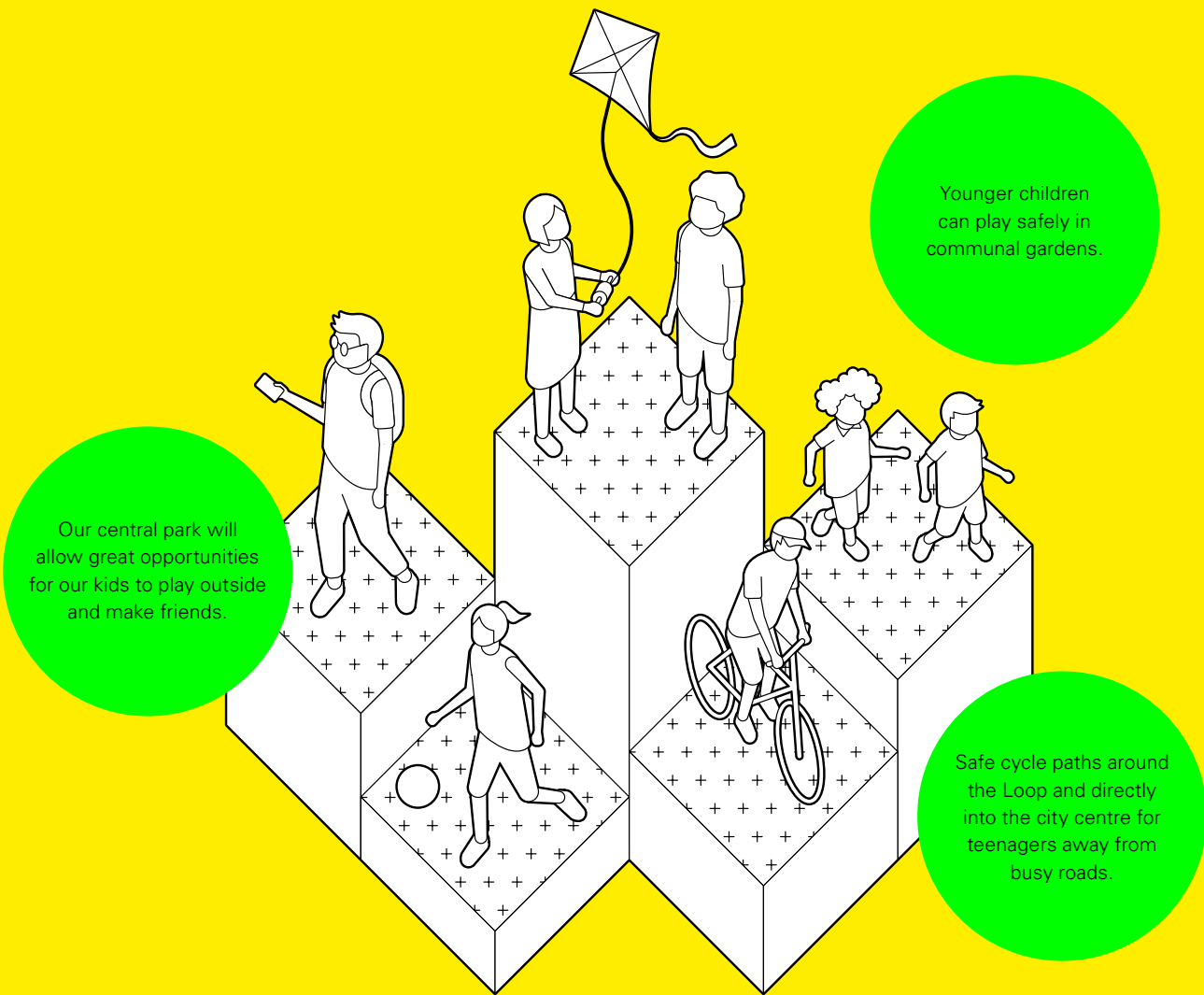
**Plenty of green**  
Urban Splash schemes that up the plant quotient

01/07	Saxton, Leeds
02	Chimney Pot Park, Salford
03/05	Park Hill, Sheffield
04/06	Lakeshore, Bristol



# PLAY OUT 'TIL TEA (OUR FAVOURITE RULE)

An island's boundaries can afford a kind of safe haven for adventure, where greater freedom comes from containment and where island rules can encourage free-ranging family life.



A 2017 study found that 75% of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates. A fifth of children did not play outside at all on a typical day and one in nine children had not set foot in a park, forest, beach or any other natural environment for at least a year.

The study warned that active play is essential to the health and development of children, while revealing the extent to which time playing in parks, woods and fields has shrunk since the 1970s. The reasons are all too easy to identify, lack of opportunity, parental fears and the lure of digital media. We can't turn back the digital clock, but by addressing other factors, we can make the outdoors a much more attractive option. In designing a new neighbourhood from scratch it should be top of our list - why (according to Unicef) are Dutch kids the happiest in the world - the consensus is that it's all down to the freedom to roam.

So at Port Loop we have set out to maximise opportunity through neighbourhood parks, shared gardens, green streets and wild places.

Parental fears are not necessarily unfounded as some would suggest. The Dutch freedom to roam is underpinned by thoughtful civic design and planning - reducing the dominance of cars and creating neighbourhood spaces and places that are safe, friendly and well used.

At Port Loop we will create a hierarchy of space from enclosed private gardens for toddling, to community gardens for socialising and neighbourhood parks, paths and habitats for exploring - and active management to keep everything else in order while the kids go wild.



01 The Squiggly Wiggly Giant Squid, Royal William Yard, Plymouth, by Urban Splash

02 The Brutalist Playground, Park Hill, Sheffield, by Urban Splash

So thoughtful civic design is key but our encouragement of active play doesn't have to begin and end in the design of our new neighbourhood. We can also be active in programming using new public parks, 'village squares' and cultural hubs.

More on the new culture hub in the next issue.



02

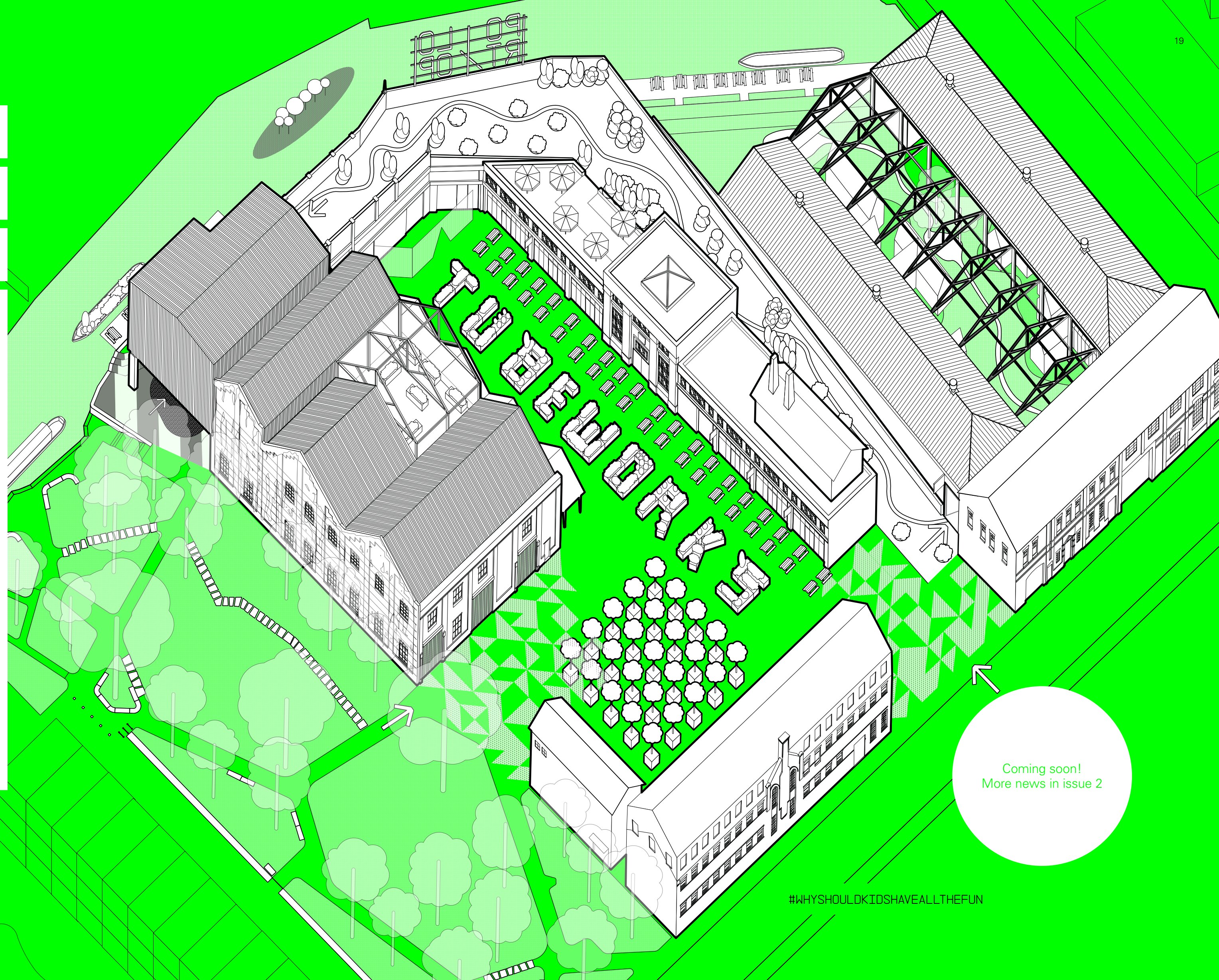


# WE WANT TO PLAY OUT TOO

Successful neighbourhoods can fulfil much more than our housing needs, they can be a place we feel at home, a place we can get away from it all and a place we can share with our families, friends and neighbours. Strong foundations for a community can be built through social activity and the places we gather for eating, playing, talking, listening, making or just relaxing.

At Port Loop we have set aside 100,000 sq ft of former industrial space for Tubeworks, a social, community and cultural hub. Uses could include a coffee shop, co-working space, bike repair, rehearsal, workshops, production, kitchens, markets, gardens, crèche, bakery, micro-brewery – the only criteria is that the uses at Tubeworks add something to the success and enjoyment of the neighbourhood. Tubeworks at Port Loop will be the vibrant heart of island life.

Much more on this in the next issue.



Coming soon!  
More news in issue 2

#WHYSHOULDKIDSHAVEALLTHEFUN



# WE'VE DESCRIBED PORT LOOP AS A FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHAT DO WE MEAN?

"When we talk about future neighbourhoods we're not ashamed to sound a little evangelical – there's not enough of it about. There's not enough thought or ambition, just too much mediocrity rolled out, acre by acre.

Society is on the cusp of revolutions in personal transport, modular housing and flexible working – we need a revolution in the design of neighbourhoods, too."

**Mark Latham**

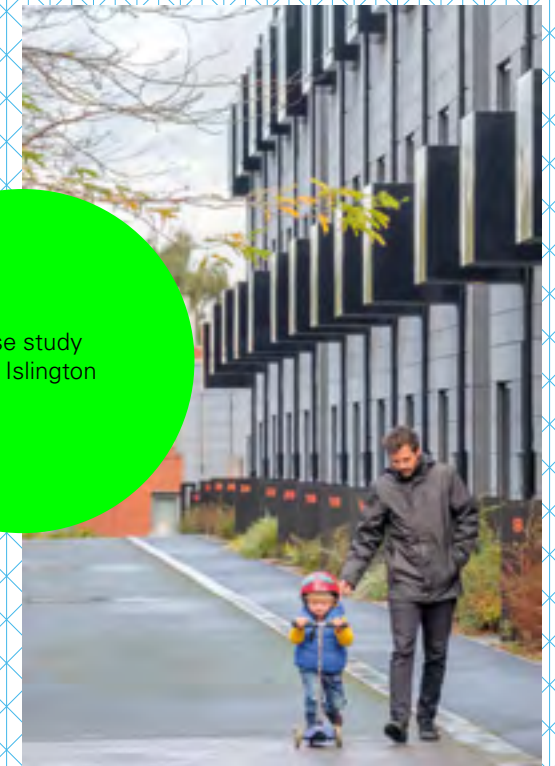
Regeneration Director

Urban Splash

Every new neighbourhood should aspire to be exemplary. It should learn from the best in design, both old and new. It should address the demographic and environmental issues of the day, and make a meaningful contribution to the success of future neighbourhoods.

Balance and variety are recurring themes in studies of successful places. Perhaps in terms of architectural style and built environment but more importantly in the sociability of place, the ease with which people live in their neighbourhood and the aggregate way the neighbourhood meets their needs and wants. Place is about people. This means creating a distinctive place with quality and character in the buildings and landscape. It means thoughtful design of green and shared spaces. Homes full of space and light and views of our green oasis from every window. It means design that prioritises opportunities to interact with our neighbours, such as 'village greens' and shared gardens with private areas that provide community when we want it, but also privacy when we need it.

Most of all, it means a place we can identify with and where every arrival feels like a homecoming and we shouldn't accept anything less. We want people to demand better places to live and work. Homes that they love, that are bigger, lighter, more flexible, more sustainable, cheaper to run, better suited to how we live now and unashamedly modern. Neighbourhoods with more shared space, more green places, fewer cars, more playing out and less sitting in. We think it will happen and Port Loop will help to make it happen.



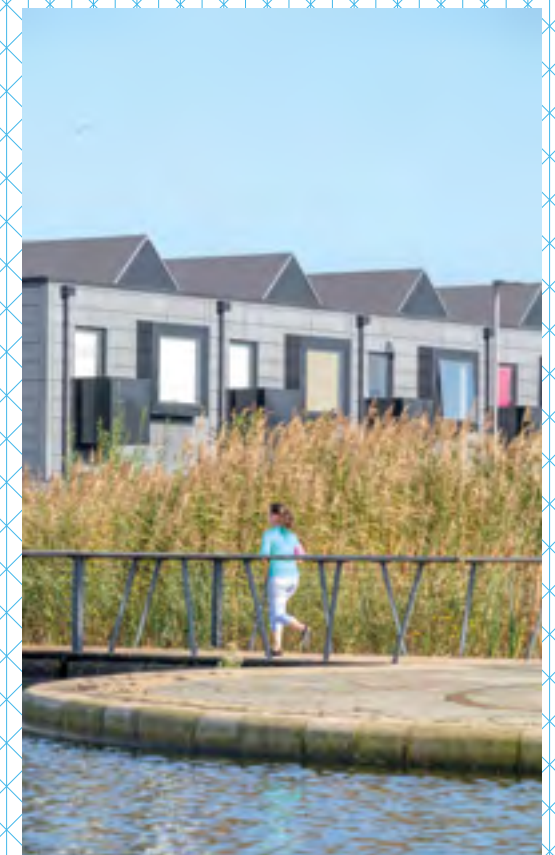
Case study  
New Islington



## We've done it all before.

It requires vision, tenacity, adaptability to circumstance, a willingness to think on a grand scale but also to listen to the hopes and concerns of individuals. What is required is a commitment to quality at every level, from the layout and planning of streetscapes to the design and configuration of homes, to plantings, windows, railings and door handles. Every element must convey the same care and attention to detail, as well as a tangible relationship to a clear, overall vision.

All images New Islington, Manchester.





# SMALL HOUSE SYNDROME

"We have set out our stall in Phase 1 with design standards that we hope will challenge other developers and house-builders to build better homes. We are putting considerable resource into creating an exceptional place to live with healthy living at its core, with parks, green streets, gardens, waterways and squares. But we think designing for healthy living begins indoors with more space and light to encourage a more positive outlook.

Adam Willets  
Senior Project Manager,  
Port Loop

Homes are getting smaller. Recent research showed that the average new home in Britain has shrunk by 20% since the 1970s.\*

We are making homes in much the same way, just a little meaner. Houses in the 70s, many built by the local authority, were not built with abundant cash and gay abandon, they were built to the minimum space standards of the time. So what's changed? We haven't become 20% smaller, we don't own 20% less stuff and we aren't paying 20% less. The big housebuilders, who dominate the market, point to rising land values or the rising cost of material, but a simpler explanation is overzealous 'value engineering' maximising shareholder value by minimising space standards. Losing a brick course or two, the shrinkage of window dimensions and floor-to-ceiling heights.

But does it matter? We think it matters a lot, so do the Royal Institute of British Architects who have recently taken up the challenge in their Homewise Report - lobbying government for nationwide minimum space standards enshrined in Building Regulations.

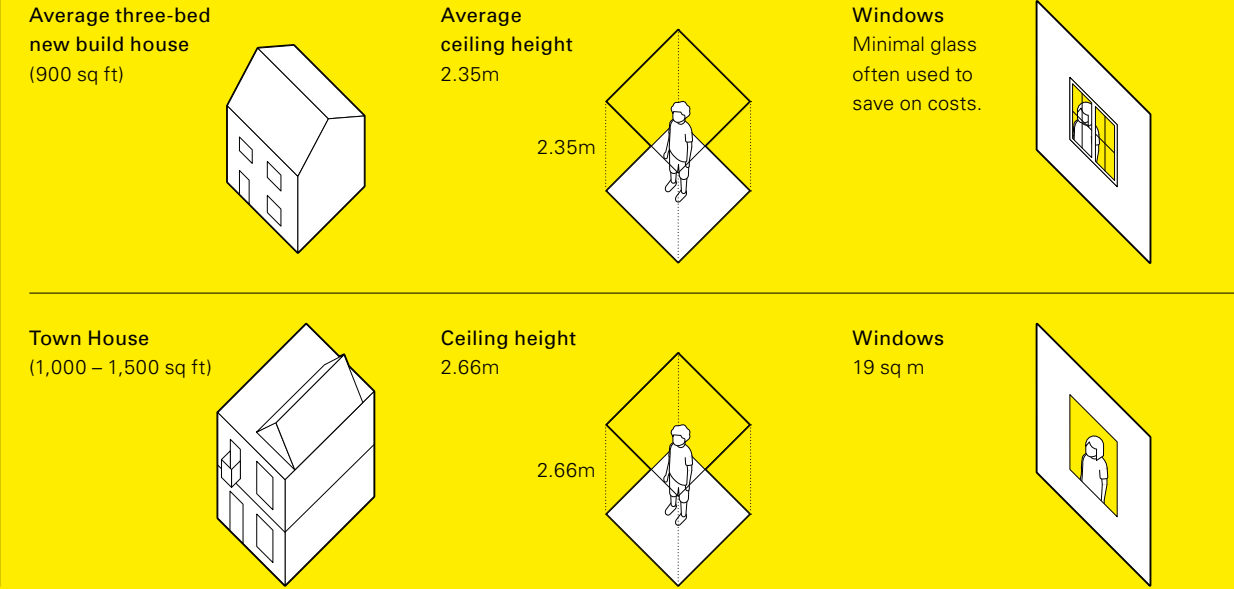
It matters because poor light, cramped or cluttered rooms or lack of personal space can all have negative impacts on our moods, family dynamics and general health. It is well documented that plenty of natural light is important to our immune system and our daily sleep cycle, but think also of views and the sense of connection to outside and the natural world.

Recent studies using an fMRI brain scanner have shown what we may feel we already know - that high ceilings and airy rooms allow us to think more freely, encouraging creativity – what the study described as a potent combination for inducing positive feelings - and that conversely, lower ceilings promote more entrenched and confined patterns of thought.

\*Source: The Guardian



## AVERAGE NEW BUILD VS TOWN HOUSE





Town square

Port Loop Park

Shared gardens

Urban Splash Town House

Tideeworks hub

# PHASE II

PORT / LOOP



# TOWN HOUSE

## PHASE 1

Town House  
An Urban Splash product

Town House’s innovative design by shedkm allows you to create your perfect home.

First, decide how much space you need: 1,000 sq ft over two floors, or 1,500 sq ft over three.

Then decide whether you prefer loft living, with your living space on the top floor making the most of the pitched ceilings and elevated views, or garden living, with your living space on the ground floor giving direct access to your private garden.

Hey presto, your very own Town House, perfectly tailored to your way of life.



# LIVE HOW YOU LIKE

Did you know?  
Typical UK newly built houses average 76 sq m, whilst House gives options of 93 sq m for two storeys and 140 sq m for three storeys.



# TOWN HOUSE

## PHASE 1



### This way up

Do you pop down for breakfast and up to bed? Or down to bed and up for dinner? It might seem an obvious question, but unless you’ve been asked it before it’s one that you might not have considered. Most traditional houses have the kitchen and dining areas on the ground floor, but then again, what’s tradition got to do with modern living?

House gives you the option of turning life on its head and giving two fingers to tradition by putting the heart of your home at the top or bottom floor. It just depends on whether you like living with your feet on the ground or your head in the clouds.



### Suit yourself

We’re all a little different. It’s fine. Some of us are a lot different, and that’s OK too. Some like cooking, others prefer eating out; some like binging on boxsets, others choose to curl up with a good book; some like to build train sets or sing opera or do yoga or practise zumba or collect rare memorabilia from obscure 1970s sci-fi films.

The great thing is there’s a perfect House for everyone. All the internal walls can be adjusted to suit whoever you are, how many you are and whatever you like. Go open-plan living or add an extra bedroom, dining room, home office or cinema snug – anything’s possible really. It’s your life, it’s your House, it’s your choice.



### Space to breathe

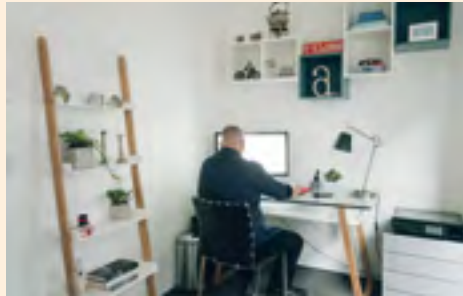
You don’t need to have watched an Attenborough documentary to know that food, water and oxygen are the basic requirements for life. So House is designed to feel as bright and spacious as possible. Floor-to-ceiling windows bathe the rooms in natural light, and high ceilings provide additional space, accentuating the open and airy feeling.



### Good for the planet, and your pocket

Good design shouldn’t just benefit the people living inside a house, it should help the world outside it as well. And there’s no better example of this than in the way we’ve insulated House. With the cost of heating our homes going up and up, reports show that one pound in four spent on home energy is wasted through poor insulation. It’s not good for your pocket, and it’s not good for the planet.

So House is created to be as efficient as possible, with high quality insulation and meticulous production keeping the heat in your home and the money in your bank account.



### Future proof

If there’s one thing we’ve learnt over the years, it’s that it’s impossible to predict what’s coming next. Plans go out of windows, curve balls are thrown and spanners are put in the works. It’s not just our circumstances that change, our personalities do too: raucous nights out turn into sensible nights in; house parties with people you’ve never met turn into dinner parties discussing local OFSTED reports.

Sadly House does not come with its own crystal ball, but it does come with a great deal of flexibility. The outside walls are the only load-bearing ones, so everything else can change as your life does. Spare bedrooms can become home offices; man-caves with impressive sound systems can turn into cosy nurseries. Whatever life throws at you, with House you can change more than a coat of paint.

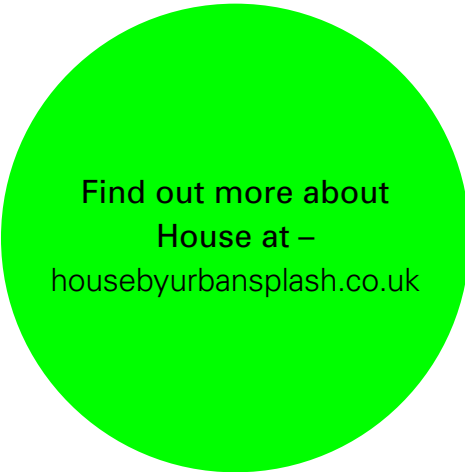


### Precision build

The word prefab doesn’t exactly fill people with delight and confidence. Prefabs used to be a quick fix to use in emergencies; they used to be draughty and cold and made with plastic that started to crack once it’d been in the sun. But whilst the word prefabricated still technically applies to House – in that it is built off-site in a factory and moved to the location for completion – that’s pretty much where the similarities end.

Materials, machinery, processes, technology and the whole concept behind prefabrication has been completely reworked in recent years and the results are changing the face of modern urban living. Factory conditions mean controlled conditions. Controlled conditions mean higher standards, precise workmanship and no days lost because it started snowing in June. Everything from the big stuff such as plumbing and windows, to the finishing touches like latches and switches, is installed under close scrutiny. So it’s all ready to drop into place, on spec and on budget.

Wave farewell to your preconceptions. It’s time to give a warm welcome to the next generation of architectural innovation.



Find out more about  
House at –  
[housebyurbansplash.co.uk](https://housebyurbansplash.co.uk)



# THE RESIDENTS' VIEW



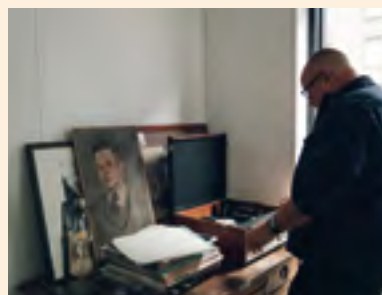
"The method of construction is very interesting, but it was more the space, the size, the location, the potential. It's the community's shared values and shared spirit that makes it – it's a really nice place to live."

**Andrew & Chris**  
Town House residents,  
New Islington, Manchester



Location is always fairly near the top of the list for most people looking for a property, but the community around that location is just as important. Andrew and Chris already knew the area was thriving, but since moving in have been equally impressed by the sense of community in the area.

"We had an opportunity and we moved into an area that is regenerating very rapidly," Chris told us. "It has a fantastic reputation for food, drink, socialising – two minutes' walk across the canal and there's some superb pubs, bars, restaurants. It's a really great place to be." Andrew agrees: "We could have chosen a house in the suburbs, and we'd have just lived there. It would have just been a house. Here we can be ourselves, we can enjoy it – we have a fantastic community."



"[House] changes the way you think about what the space of a house should be."

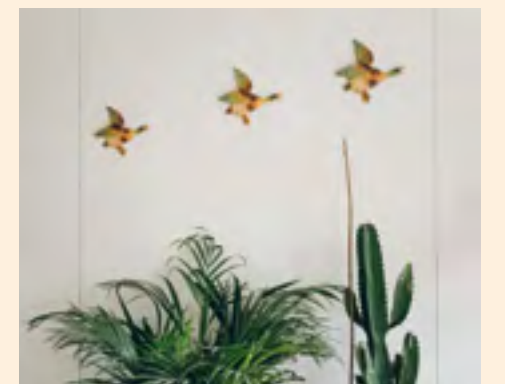
**Rebecca & Thomas**  
Town House residents,  
New Islington, Manchester



They say opposites attract, and it's true of Rebecca and Thomas, who moved into Urban Splash's New Islington development.

She was desperate for somewhere in the city centre; he wanted outside space. After looking for months at apartments they resigned themselves to the idea that one of them would have to compromise, until Rebecca sent Thomas a link to House.

They're currently living in a two-storey House, but Rebecca is as impressed by the indoor space as the outdoors. "We've got so much space. We've got floor-to-ceiling windows on both floors, we've got so much light. It's just a stunning piece of architecture."





# PHASE 1A

## AVAILABILITY

### Phase 1a

The first phase will initially comprise 40 two and three storey homes with garden terraces and courtyards, a new one acre public park and the infrastructure to serve the new community.

The first phase will introduce a new type of housing to Birmingham for the first time, with 40 modular homes which will be created using the House by Urban Splash concept. The process sees customers take control of the design, internal layout and composition of their own homes, before the designs are then created off-site in the Urban Splash factory before being delivered to Port Loop.

- Three storey
- Two storey



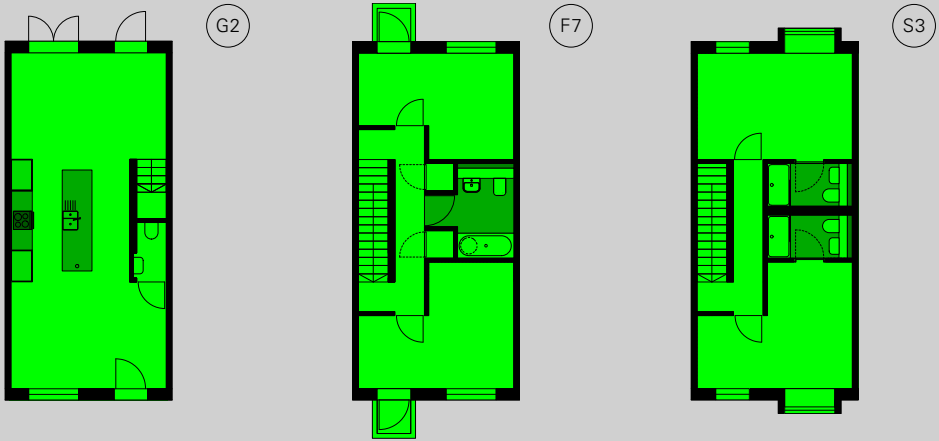


PRE-SPEC

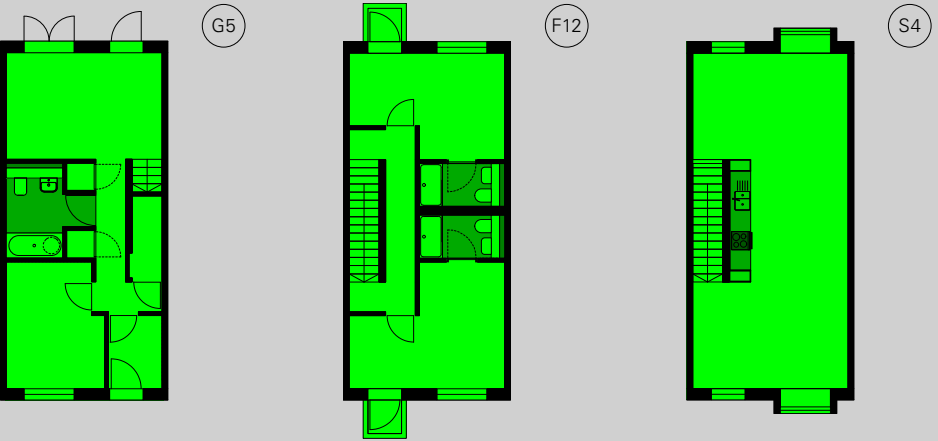
PLOTS

At Port Loop some of the Town House layouts have already been hand-picked by our architects to suit your style of living...

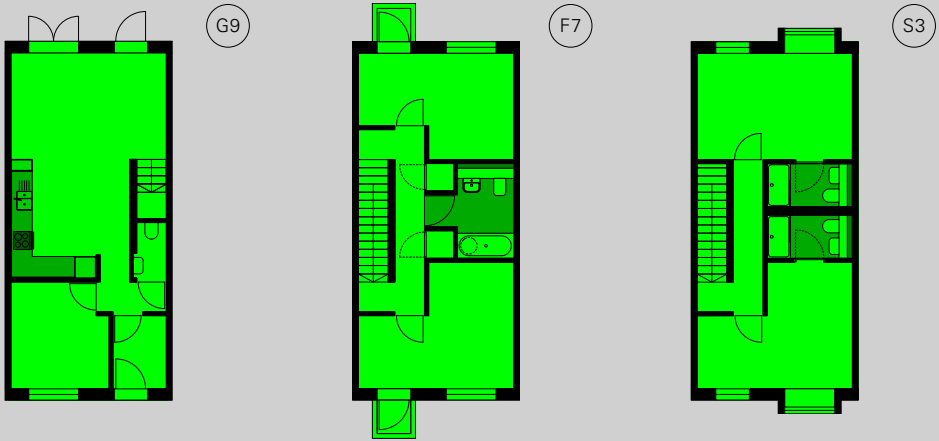
Plot —  
10/13/15/16/28/30



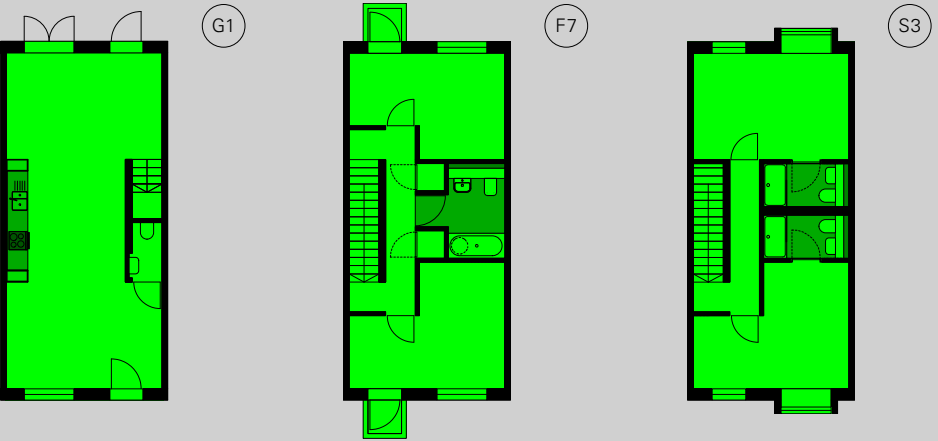
Plot —  
18



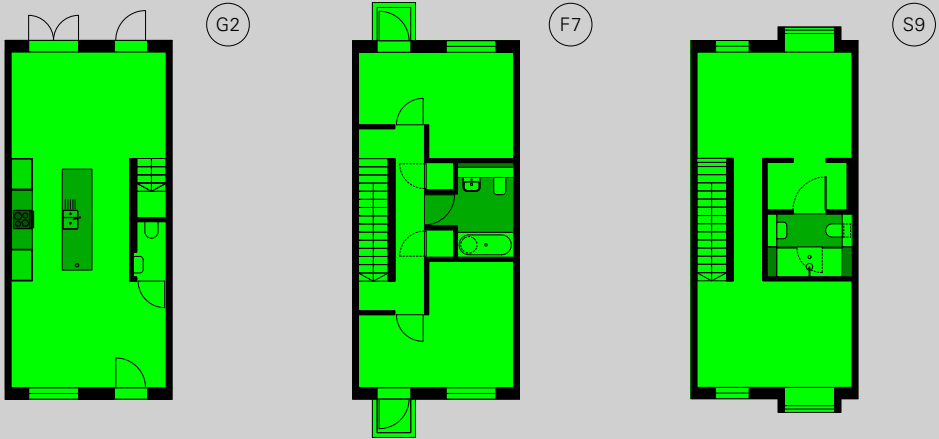
Plot —  
11/23/27



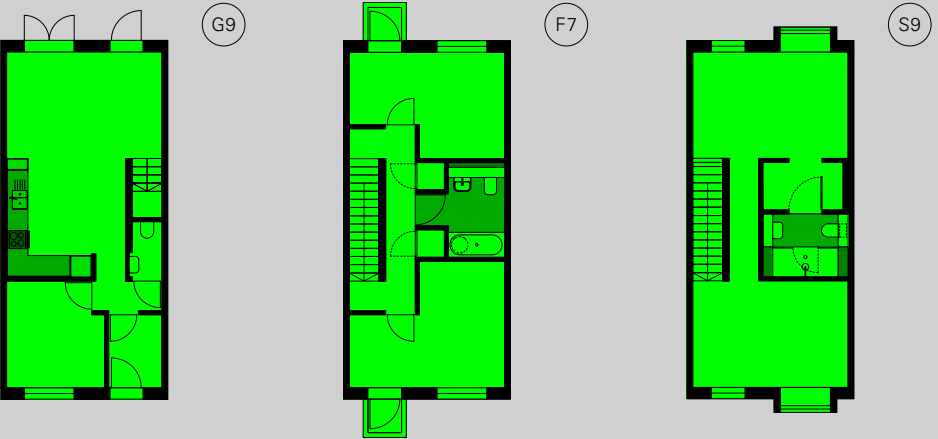
Plot —  
24



Plot —  
12/17/22/29



Plot —  
26





# MEET THE TEAM

Profile #1  
shedkm / Architects

"We set about designing Town House by asking a lot of questions... How do we design new homes that suit the needs of the individual and their families? Can we give people real choice? Can we challenge the traditional housing market?"

Ian Killick  
Architect and Director,  
shedkm

shedkm are not your average architects. They may appear relatively normal to look at – forget the clichés of black polo neck shirts and square-rimmed glasses – but the brains behind their ordinary exteriors are a different matter altogether.

Since they set up in 1997 they've built a reputation for designing buildings with a strong and unique identity, from private housing developments to complex regeneration projects. Their innovation and creativity have been applauded all over the world, earning them numerous awards not just for looking pretty but for making a positive impact on the world.

Urban Splash have worked with them since the day they set up, and in that time have developed a healthy respect and intuitive understanding of each other's strengths and processes.

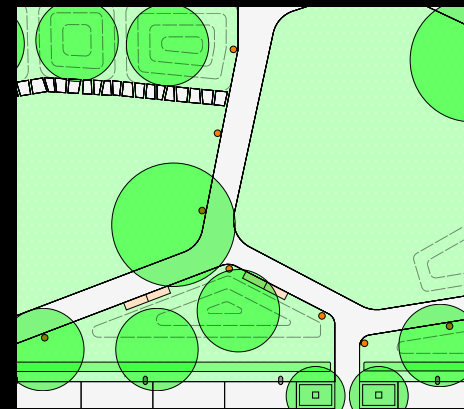
So when it came to an extraordinary project like House, we knew they'd make it anything but average.

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE



## Port Loop Park

We talk to landscape architect Claire Hobart about the first new public park at Port Loop and what's important in designing a neighbourhood park.



## Phase 1b announcement

We'll be announcing further details of Phase 1b in the next issue.



## Car-port Competition

Pick-up & drop-off may begin to replace park-up sooner than we think. We want to encourage and celebrate fewer cars with an international competition for sculptural 'car-ports' at key locations along Rotton Park Street. The competition will be open to architects, artists or engineers.



## Our floating visitor centre

Our very own Port Loop barge is moving to its permanent mooring at South Park, just 15 minute's walk from Birmingham city centre. We'll be hosting regular tours along the Birmingham Canal Old Line to Brindleyplace, to show you just how close our new homes are to the city centre. Get in touch to register for our next tour.



## Tubeworks community

We will be releasing further details of our plans for a cultural and community hub at Port Loop.



## A serviced community

We will be discussing how to provide the things people need in their neighbourhood and how to harness technology to create community jobs for community services.





# GET IN TOUCH

Port Loop show home and sales suite:

21 Rotton Park St,  
Birmingham B16 0AE

—  
port-loop.com  
live@port-loop.com

—  
0121 752 1111

## Disclaimer

Whilst these particulars are believed to be correct, their accuracy can not be guaranteed and there may be some variation to them. Purchasers and tenants are given notice that:

- 1) These particulars do not constitute any part of an offer or contract.
- 2) All statements made in these particulars are made without responsibility on the part of the agents or the developer.
- 3) None of the statements contained in these particulars are to be relied upon as statement or representation of fact.
- 4) Any intended purchaser or tenant must satisfy him/herself by inspection or otherwise as to the correctness of each of the statements contained in these particulars.
- 5) The developer does not make or give, nor any person in their employment has any authority to make or give any representation or warranty whatever in relation to Port Loop, or any part of it.
- 6) The selling agents do not make or give, nor any person in their employment has any authority to make or give any representation or warranty whatever in relation to Port Loop or any part of it.
- 7) Date of publication June 2019.

