

WORKING WITH DESIGNERS ON THE GREAT GLASSHOUSE

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The Great Glasshouse is part of a Millennium Project to create a National Botanic Gardens for Wales that will be dedicated to the sustainability and protection of threatened plant species. Opened in May 2000, it is located in the centre of the Botanic Garden. A temple of architecture and engineering, it contains a specialist collection of plants from mediterranean habitats of the world.

Considering the structure from a horticultural viewpoint, we will discuss some of the difficulties and challenges the building presents as a result of being a plant growing space. From the requirement of ventilating windows that promised to spoil the beauty of the design, via a granite-lined guttering that can render a rainwater irrigation system unusable to the differences of using limestone against sandstone cladding in the landscape, have provided the entire team with endless hours of material for discussion.