

# MANCHESTER AGROPOLIS



## URBAN AGRICULTURE

## COMMUNITY SPACE

The site is transformed for use as a variety of productive foodspaces, all of which are open to the public and designed to create opportunities for community interaction.

A sensory garden is located along Old Mill Street in order to create an active boundary, planted with flowers, herbs and grasses in order to excite passers by in terms of sight, smell, sound and taste. Also along this boundary is a temporary soup kitchen which can be used for providing nutritious food to the homeless, lunch for construction workers and a meeting point for community groups, all dependent on the time and day.

Behind this thriving street frontage lies a idyllic green site, split into a variety of agricultural uses including community allotments, school gardens and larger growing spaces which produce food to be used in the soup kitchen. This mix of uses across the site will ensure that it is in use throughout the day creating both security and social activity.





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## COMMUNITY RUN AGRICULTURE AS A SOLUTION TO URBAN DEAD SPACE

Empty sites such as the proposed plot commonly suffer from anti-social problems such as littering and vandalism and can have a hugely negative effect on the buildings, streets and communities surrounding them. However, instead of taking away from communities these sites could act as generators for activity and interaction. By simply placing the sites under the management of the communities themselves they could be utilised to their benefit and have a positive effect on the surrounding areas.

Allotment usage has been in steady decline in the UK since the 1950s, largely due to the plentiful supply of food combined with urban development pressures causing a decline in allotment provision in many cities. Recently, however, this trend has been reversed by raised awareness in sustainability leading to more diversity in age, gender and ethnic background of allotment holders. As well as providing fresh and healthy food, allotments can meet social needs in terms of recreation, health and exercise whilst also bringing communities together and creating a sense of belonging.

what if...

...dead spaces within  
manchester

could be handed over to the community  
for use as allotments,  
turning the city from an area of  
consumption to one of production

### Cuba: Heurtos Privados

Following the collapse of the Soviet block in 1989 and tightening of US embargos, Cuba experienced a 50% drop in food and fuel imports. Urban centres suffered greatly from a lack of fresh food supplies and responded by utilising all vacant plots of land for organic food production, cultivated by individuals and community groups. By 1997 the urban allotments in Havana alone produced 30,000 tons of fruit and vegetables, 7 million eggs and 4 tons of medicinal plant materials.

### Grow Bags: Urban Allotments

In 2007 a formerly inaccessible and run-down plot of housing estate land was transformed into an oasis of green. Seventy half tonne bags of soil were arranged to form an urban allotment space. Within their individual plots, local residents successfully grew an array of vegetables, salads, fruit and flowers.

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