





# Biophilia and the built environment

Building a better world together

# **Dr Flavie Lowres**

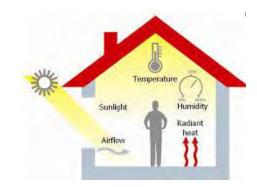




# What defines a great indoor environment?















# What defines a great indoor environment?











# bre







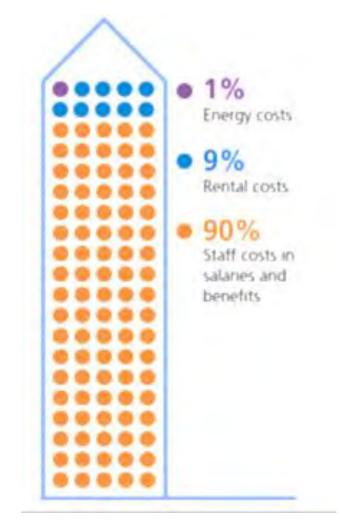
### The importance of the occupants





The next chapter for green building







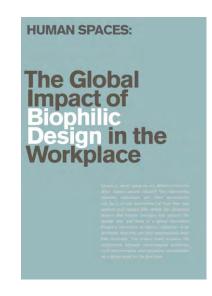


### **Buildings and people**

- Highly urbanised population: 66% of developed world will be urbanised by 2050
- We spend ~90% of our time indoors
- WHO forecast that stress related illness primary cause of sickness by 2020
- In 2017/18 stress, depression or anxiety accounted for 44% of all work-related ill health cases and 57% of all working days lost due to ill health.
- In UK: **15.4 million w**orking days lost due to work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2017/18



Work related stress depression or anxiety statistics in Great Britain, 2018





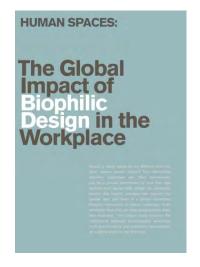
# bre

#### Human Spaces report: "The global impact of biophilic design in the workplace"

Results based on 7600 employees across 16 countries



66% of workers reported not to have access to natural light in UK!



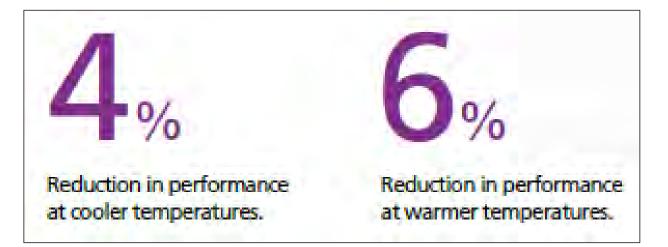




#### **Evidence from Offices**







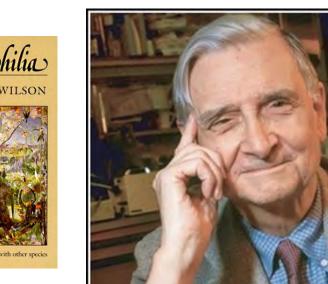


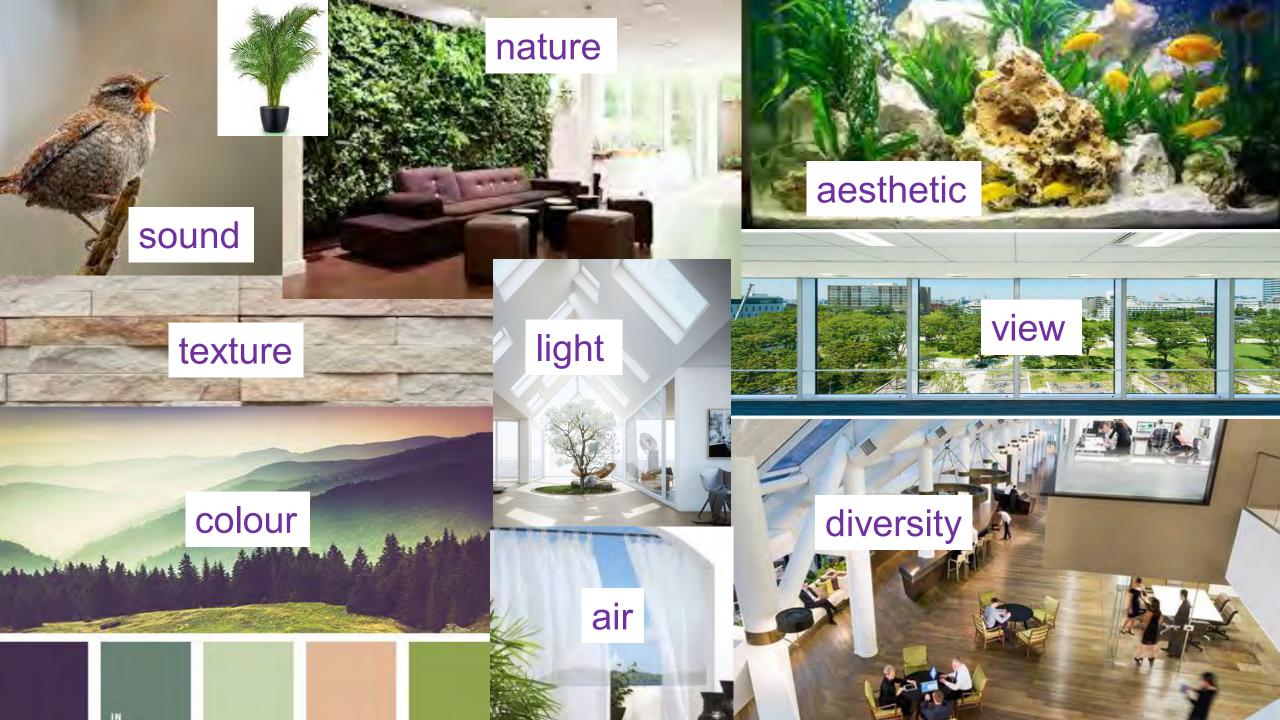


- Biophilia hypothesis, idea that humans possess an innate tendency to seek connections with nature and other forms of life.
- German-born American psychoanalyst Erich Fromm in The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness (1973)

 Harvard Professor of Biology, multiple Pulitzer prize winning author and world authority on social insects **Edward O. Wilson** in his work Biophilia (1984), which proposed

Our genetic connection to nature







#### **Evidence from Offices**

WGBC report – Health and wellbeing & productivity in offices

- 15% increase in reported levels of well-being
- 6% more productive
- 15% more creative
- reduction in absenteeism











#### **Evidence from Schools**

"A pyramid of benefits" to the student, the staff, the education establishment and the economy on the whole:

- children learn 25% faster when natural light is present,
- classrooms with plants see improved performance in spelling, mathematics and science subjects of 10 to 14%
- green walls improve acoustics and can reduce CO2 levels
- reduced absenteeism of 3.5 days per year per pupil









#### **Evidence from Healthcare**

Roger Ulrich (1984) demonstrated benefits to patients recovering from gallbladder surgery in rooms with views onto nature:

- patients recovered 8.5% faster
- they required 22% less medication
- patients felt less pain



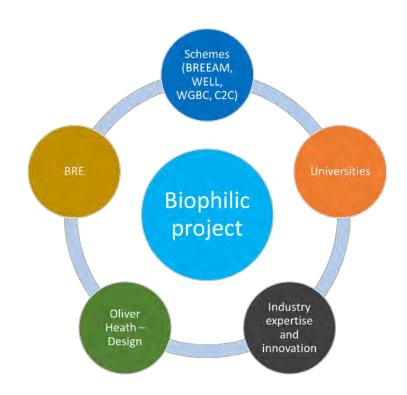


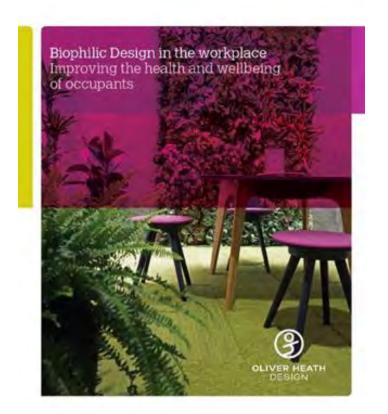






Grow and deepen the evidence base for health, wellbeing and productivity impacts of restorative office refurbishment































ENGINEER OF LIGHT.











### **Dissemination partners**



















#### INNOVATION GATEWAY

innovationgateway.com

















# Thank you

BRE Global Watford, UK WD25 9XX +44 (0)333 321 88 11 enquiries@bre.co.uk www.bregroup.com