



David Keegan's community garden in Salford for the charity The Start Centre

START RIGHT FOR NORTHERN DESIGNER

The 2010 Northern Design Award winner David Keegan has recently completed an important community garden in Salford, Manchester. The Start Centre in Salford is a charity that provides services to members of the local community who are experiencing mental health problems and other disabilities. The staff wanted to create a dynamic space, serving the different groups that attend the centre. The garden has been divided into designated plant zones, with the challenge for the centre's garden group to devise their own plant lists and to source and plant up the areas themselves.

David says, "I set out to create a design that instils a sense of connection and journey through the space, with pathways that meander around the perimeter of the

garden. I also wanted to create a space that had a sense of fun and that would be uplifting on the dull days that are all too frequent in Manchester."

The curved walls are built of reclaimed brick and reflect the surrounding old buildings. The rendered section set into the walls is painted the Salford official raspberry pink, reinforcing the local connection, and the cut-out frames are fitted with untreated mild steel – a link back to the industrial history of the area.

Recycling is an important component of the garden, with water butts collecting rainwater to feed the rill and water the garden. David won Garden Designer of the Year 2010 in the Northern Design Awards for a garden project in Cheshire.

www.dkgardendesign.co.uk