


Examples of productive forest garden type planting

Forest Garden and Productive Fruit and Vegetable Growing

The northern part of the Chaco site will get the most sunshine throughout the day and is therefore the area which will suit growing fruit and veg.

All along the northern boundary with the school site, there will be a 1.8m boundary fence and this is ideal for fan training fruit and maximising yeilds from climbing vegetables. The plants will also soften the look of this boundary and make a green backdrop to the parking area.

A polytunnel is proposed along with a composting area.

A grove of trees and bushes with a platform / look-out post is included at the highest point of the site.


Examples of food production in relatively small spaces

Ridan Food Waste Digester with wood chip storage bins


Examples of how Chaco might use the sunny south facing fences and walls to grow fruit and vegetables

Common House Terrace

With an elevated position overlooking the site, a paved, sunny terrace extends along the southern and western sides of the common house to allow lots of space for outdoor, shared, dining and other communal activities. The dining area is edged with planting along the banks on the southern side and part of this is a herb garden, close to the kitchen. To the west, the paved space opens out onto a lawned area.

Utility is considered and passing along the terrace to the east, beneath a timber pergola that helps to define the different spaces, there is a paved drying area which will accommodate up to four large carousel type washing lines (60m each). There is gated access to the bin store and an alternative location for the food waste digester. Beyond this, the boundary walls form three sides of what can become a good sized shed for craft and repair, this also has some paved outdoor space.

Timber fencing between the common house garden and parking area combines the security of a 1.8m fence with visibity of the vehicles as the top 600mm would be slatted trellis rather than close-boarding.

Outdoor communal dining space with moveable furniture


Examples of timber pergola, to define space and give added vertical growing opportunities


Examples of timber fence panels with a trellis top for visibility

The Ginnel

It is expected that the ginnel is to be adopted by the local highways authority and will therefore need to meet their specification. A 2m wide bitmac path runs north-south and will be a public route between Roundhay Road and Leopold Street. The Chaco boundary along this route will be a 1.8m high wall which steps up with the rising ground levels. In the central section, this may have panels of timber fencing or railings to break up the hard line and allow views through. On the opposite side of the path, Unity proposed both a boundary wall around the gardens and a 1.5m high vertical bar railing to the path edge


Examples of brick walls with piers and either timber panels or railings for visibility

Natural Play and Amenity

Throught the grounds, there area spaces and places for informal recreation, play and seating (seats often maiking the most of a vista or sight-line). Some spaces are more quiet and solitary, others lend themselves to a more social atmosphere.

Grassy space for many activities both passive and active

Places for den making and look-out posts

Small spaces for small people to have hours of fun

Oak snake - playful log features encourage imaginative play

A space designed for play with natural materials

Back Yards and Access

To the rear of all the terraced properties there is a defined private yard space of around 4.5m deep and each property is separated by a timber screen panel which will afford some privacy. Each garden wil also incorporate a rain water butt near the down-pipe and a steel bike store.

As far as practical, these yards are a mixture of patio paving and some planting beds which will form the green boundary line, there is no rear fence. The paving connects with the long rear path and on the opposite side of this, a further strip of planting adds depth and layers to the green boundary which defines the private realm from the shared grounds. Soil depths will be suitable for amenity planting rather than feed growing so plants in these areas should focus on providing food and cover for birds and insects, close to the house windows.

Whilst site levels mean that steps are needed in specific locations, all properties have one route that connects with the common house on a gradient suitable for access for all, no steeper than 1:20. Steps will have a handrail to one side

Examples of small back yard spaces

Roundhay Road / Barrack Road Frontage

Space along the main road frontage is limited so as to maximise gardens at the rear of the terrace but incorporates a planted strip of trees and shrubs which will provide a green buffer and screen to the road as well as a 1.2m footpath running the length of the terrace. Due to level changes, there are three flights of steps with retaining wing walls but all properties will have a level access route which connects with the highway footpath.

To define a 'private zone' at the thresholds to properties, a different paving type is proposed for paths to front doors and a strip of approximately 1.4m wide has low level planting beneath the windows.

It is proposed that the planting along the fronts provides year-round structure and interest and supports local wildlife.

Hornbeam hedge as a screen to the bus stop area

Example of a planted strip between houses and footpath acting as a buffer even though it's low


Examples of great food plants for birds

Wheeling ramp for bikes, fitted to steps at rear

Vertical bike locker for a single bike


Bike locker for a up to four bikes with lifting lid and opening doors

Contemporary water butt fitted to roof water down-pipe


Examples of timber slatted screens, infill can be solid or with gaps or a mixture of both

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