



# COME 'GREEN' WITH ME...

## Eco Dinner Guests Give Greenhouse Top Marks

**City Dweller's very own eco enthusiast Suzanne Kaye-Vaughan hosts a dinner party with a difference at the UK's most pioneering low-carbon development Greenhouse.**

Putting out the recycling bin after playing host to a group of friends got me thinking – there is so much we could actively be doing to reduce carbon emissions... why are we not doing more?

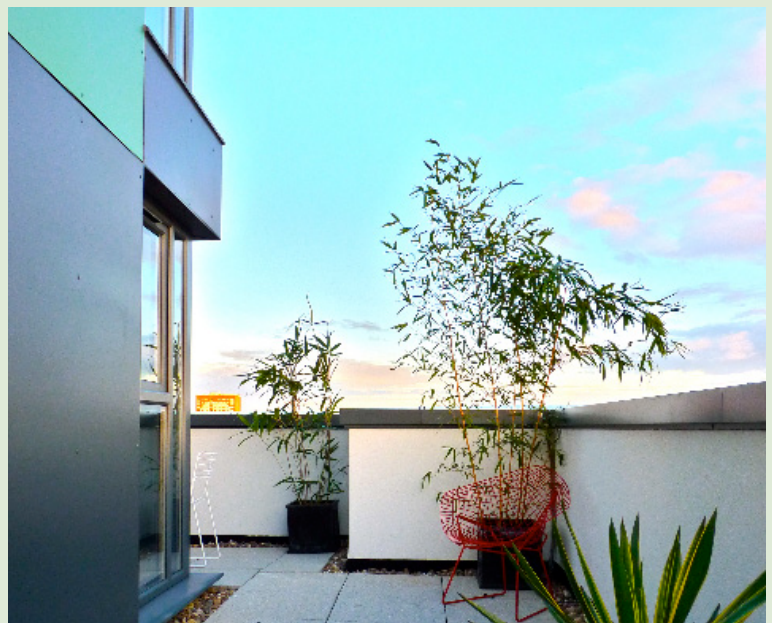
With this in mind, I decided to host my own 'green' dinner party to raise awareness of the issues at hand, but also show that eco-living has moved on from the stereotypical 'hippie' image it once had. Citu, the sustainable developer behind Greenhouse invited me in to play host to my 'eco-virgin' guests.

Set just on the outskirts of the city centre, if you have not yet spotted it, is Greenhouse... a collection of distinctive apartments and offices supported by sustainable energy. The impressive development has won multiple awards and you can see why from the second you set your eyes upon it.

Fraser Stride, director of Citu welcomed me on arrival, treating me to a grand tour before my guests arrived. The thinking behind the design of the building is incredible, from creating the room numbers out of recycled yoghurt pots to the integrated television system which monitors your energy usage (I'll come back to this later!) - all features have contributed to making 'green-living' as easy as possible.

"There is a very strong sense of community here at Greenhouse which we are constantly building upon" Fraser tells me as we step into the courtyard area, from where you can access the free well-equipped gym, onsite deli (which offers room service – yes really!) and the open facing office spaces which are encompassed by allotment plots, maintained by a combination of residents and tenants.

With a system to recycle utility and rain water, solar panels and wind turbines combined with the state of the art energy saving building design, it is a delight to know that by choosing to live at Greenhouse you are reducing your energy usage and saving yourself about £600 a year for the privilege.



## Other benefits of living at the Greenhouse include:

- A year-round calendar of events, exhibitions, screenings and residents' groups
- Internet protocol TV (IPTV) which you can monitor your energy usage, receive messages from the concierge, live information on local train and bus times, find a directory of local services including taxi and take-away numbers and have access to a huge number of on-demand movies
- Free bike hire
- Secure underground and gated parking options
- Concierge
- Conference space for business or private bookings

So far so good, but I want to be left to my own devices and try it out for myself...

I meet my guests in the reception and the concierge takes us up to a stunning penthouse apartment. Far from the stereotypical 'hippy' vision held by some of my guests the apartment is suave, stylish in design and again, full of sustainable 'green' features.

With 3 bedrooms (one en-suite), 100% British wool carpets, hand crafted bamboo work-surfaces and flooring and a terraced balcony to die for, my friends were instantly sold – asking who to contact to sign up!

My home-cooked, organic meal, although very tasty, was somewhat overshadowed by the excitement of using the 32inch IP TV to monitor the energy usage over the night and the obvious essential activity of drinking on the terrace whilst watching the sunset over the Leeds skyline.

Greenhouse is not just another city build with an eco concept... it is a clearly defined working example of pure 'green' living, thriving on it's community energy, equally as much as its sustainable blood.

Fraser told me "we held our very own courtyard party to celebrate the Royal Wedding, showing the wedding live in our conference centre Greenspace and inviting residents to join us for a BBQ in the courtyard after. Tenants and residents helped make bunting out of recycled materials the night before and brought home-made snacks to add to the party atmosphere on the day."

Mmmm home-made goodies, these definitely sound like my kind of neighbours! It is not surprising that Greenhouse has become a Yorkshire landmark, it has put Beeston back on the hit list of where to live in Leeds and made eco-living a chic, accessible option without compromising lifestyle and you can save an average of £600 a year on your energy bills!

Pun intended.... Citu has created homes that do not cost the earth.

After experiencing just one evening at Greenhouse two of my friends are now considering renting apartments and the rest are looking forward to the next 'green' dining opportunity.

*Thanks Suzanne Kayne - Vaughan xxx*

**Accessible to everyone, apartments are available to rent from £495 per month or to buy from £59K. For more information about living or working at Greenhouse visit [www.greenhouseleeds.co.uk](http://www.greenhouseleeds.co.uk) or contact [info@citu.co.uk](mailto:info@citu.co.uk)**

