

Modal Filter Planter – Fact Sheet



What

- The Modal Filter Planter is a **low-cost and low-maintenance** cuboid concrete block (990mm x 1225mm x 770mm) that has been specially designed for use as temporary 'green' modal filters to open streets for pedestrians and cyclists by closing them to through traffic.
- It incorporates two large planting recesses with sloping sides that funnel rainwater into Permavoid reservoirs embedded beneath the soil. In this way the design makes use of natural rainfall to irrigate the plants, and it stores rainwater in the reservoirs to carry the plants through dry periods.



- There are overflow drainage slots at the reservoir boundary to prevent waterlogging, and wicking capillaries continue to supply water to the roots of the plants between rainfall events.
- The block includes forklift slots in the base and a lifting eye in the centre, allowing blocks to be deployed and removed conveniently using a variety of different lifting equipment.

We can supply the planter units with all of the associated equipment with a list of suitable plants. Alternatively, we can offer the full service of delivering and planting up the units.

Why

It is imperative that when streets are opened up for pedestrians and cyclists by being closed to motor traffic, this is done in the most appealing way possible. The experiences people have of sudden changes to their neighborhoods to fight the pandemic will be critical to their potential future support for such changes to become permanent. In an ideal world, 'temporary' road closures would be implemented with planters; heavy, bulky beds filled with soil and flowers and shrubbery, which give a sense of what an improvement it might be to have patch of greenery there permanently. However, a decade of austerity and a looming recession means local authorities may be unable to take on any new ongoing costs like the maintenance liability of keeping roadside planters watered.

The Modal Filter Planter is a pragmatic compromise between brutalist concrete blocks (ugly, no maintenance needed) and full-scale planters (pretty, lots of maintenance needed). Unlike planters which require very regular watering through dry spells in the summer, **the Modal Filter Planters should be able to retain enough rainwater in their reservoirs to keep plants thriving for up to six weeks with no rain.**



Who

The Modal Filter Planter block design and planting schemes have been developed to aid local authority emergency transport plans by Director of Innovation at Possible, Leo Murray, Chartered Arboriculturist and founder of Stockholm Tree Pits Ben Rose, and author and gardener Dr Karen Liebreich MBE, founder of voluntary urban greening organisation Abundance London.

The design team has worked with leading fabricator Elite Precast Concrete to adapt their Kentledge security roadblock, and with specialist water management company Polypipe to incorporate their Permavoid water storage system.

For orders or further information contact Ben Rose at Stockholm Tree Pits

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