



eFIG Awards 2007



Design and Installation
Less than £5,000.00



Gold Bronze

Winner:
Project:

Bumble Bees Ltd
Courtyard of NEC Electronics
Milton Keynes

NEC Electronics had an enclosed courtyard in the centre of their building, which was just dead space. The landlord was responsible for this space but had neglected it.

Over the years the Silver Birch trees had become too big, totally engulfing the other planting and only ivy survived in the low light at ground level. The client wanted to open the area up for staff to use as a 'break out' area and also wished to have something more pleasant to look at as this area can be seen from every office.

The trees were very carefully felled, the ivy and weeds removed, a weed suppressant membranes put down and then large cobbles and rocks installed. After much consideration Bumble Bees Ltd decided on a Mediterranean style planting theme. The plants would provide colour to the bland space. The Courtyard houses all the IT department cooling fans and has a micro-clime where the temperature never drops below freezing in the winter hence tender plants were not at risk. In addition the Courtyard echoed, so needed a lot of leaf to deaden the

sounds, also the cooling fans and the satellite dish tower required disguising, the office windows required a small amount of screening for privacy on the outside. The terracotta containers from the Emperor Julius range were specified for the rustic/natural feel and also the warmth of the colour. Approximately two thirds of the base of each container was filled with lica and a Combimeter water meter and filler tube installed. Oaktree multi purpose compost was selected and no top dressing required as the planting was dense with no exposed soil surface.

It was arranged with the client that the installation will take place in the late afternoon and evening in order to have the least impact on their working day, also the greater visual impact to both staff and management was achieved this way when they arrived to work the following morning and the job was clean and completed



The European Federation of Interior-landscape Groups Ltd