

Architecture for Other Species champions the vitality of nature in public spaces and the role biodiversity plays in our own health.

Since 2010, 51 architecture has been developing small, species particular structures for wildlife in cities. Public commissions include rain gardens, insect gardens, swift refuges, bat roosts, hedgehog gateways and beehives.

Below is a selection of some key works that have informed our thinking. Much of our research has been carried out in person, through conversation and in meeting with scientists, botanists, ecologists and others. This resource is a tiny fragment of the rich and diverse body of work that could form part of a larger anthology of Architecture for Other Species, and we extend an open invitation for you to contribute suggestions for populating it.

Books and Papers

Bach, Richard	Jonathan Livingston Seagull	1970	A fable in novella form exploring the pursuit of excellence by a young seagull learning about life and flight.
Baker, JA	The Peregrine	1967	Breathtaking in its portrayal of the savagery of Nature. Herzog describes The Peregrine as inducing "ecstasy" in the radical sense of the word: not just entranced or frenzied, but literally beside oneself. And this is what I do when I make a film: I step outside of myself into an ekstasis; in Greek, to step outside of your own body."
Bohm, David	On Dialogue	1996	Exploring the need for deeper listening and more open communication to cope with the complex problems facing our humanity.
Brody, Hugh	Maps and Dreams	1981	An account of an 18 month journey mapping both the lands of British Columbia and the lives of a group of Beaver Indian hunters living in the path of a projected oil pipeline. Careful and detailed account shifting territories and conflicting worldviews.
Byatt, A. S.	Possession: A Romance	1990	Could this be the finest description of a rock pool on literature?
Carson, Rachel	The Silent Spring	1962	A book about the indiscriminate use of pesticides in agriculture. Led to a nationwide ban on DDT for agricultural uses, and inspired an environmental movement that led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Chatwin, Bruce	The Songlines	1987	Beautiful book on walking, restlessness and nomads.
Chomsky, Noam	The Magna Carta Messed up the World, Here's How to Fix it	2015	Classic Chomsky.
Darwin, Charles	The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms, with Observations on their Habits	1881	Actually we haven't read this yet, but it is so often referred to and seems such an incredibly important study - conducted over 29 years - that we have included it anyway.
Deakin, Roger	Wildwood: A Journey Through Trees	2008	Quite possibly one of our favourite books, published very shortly after Deakins death. Explores our relationship with trees and wood in cultures across the world.
Fernández-Juricic, Esteban and Jokimäki, Jukka	A Habitat island Approach to Conserving Birds in Urban Landscapes	2001	Research which compares the impact of fragmentation on biodiversity in the forests of Lapland and urban parks in Madrid.
Holden, Peter	Birds	2004	A beginners Wildlife Guide to the birds of Britain.
Ingold, Tim	Making	2013	Thinking through making in Art, Architecture, Anthropology and Archeology.
Kingsolver, Barbara	Flight behaviour	2012	A lovesong to the monarch butterfly.
Mabey, Richard	Flora Britannica: The definitive new guide to wild flowers, plants and trees	1996	Gorgeous lush reinvention of the flora as a cultural account of the role of wild plants in social life, arts, custom and landscape. It is also unique in that information has been supplied by the people themselves.
Macfarlane, Robert	Landmarks	2015	A book on the power of language to shape our sense of place. Contains a glossary of thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales to describe land, nature and weather.
McPhee, John	The Control of Nature	1987	Chronicles attempts to control natural processes in the mountains of Iceland, Los Angeles, and the Mississippi River. Recommended by Mike Davis on the occasion of an AA Sector VI Unit trip to LA.
Monbiot, George	Feral: Rewilding the land, sea and human life	2013	A lyrical exploration of humans place in the natural world.
Ostrom, Elinor	Governing the Commons: Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action	1990	Elinor Ostrom won a Nobel Prize in Economics, championing the ability of communities, rather than corporations, to manage the commons. She debunked 'The Tragedy of the Commons'.
Powers, Richard	The Overstory	2018	This is included because its been recommended to us by so many people though remains unread, as yet.
Proulx, Annie	Barkskins	2016	A story spanning 300 years, witnessing the deforestation of the New World from the arrival of Europeans into the contemporary era of global warming. Incredibly beautiful and moving passages on individual species of tree across the world and what made them sought after.
Raworth, Kate	Doughnut Economics	2018	Explores the planetary boundaries our economies must respect to create an equitable world for all. Kate is an economist and a beautiful writer.
Sheldrake, Merlin	Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures	2020	This will entirely change the way you see the world. Merlin is a scientist with the imagination of a poet and a beautiful writer.
Shepard, Nan	The Living Mountain: A Celebration of the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland	1977	Powerful poetic exploration of the Cairngorms, where the goal was not the summit, but rather the essential nature of the mountain itself. Written during WWII.
Thoreau, Henry	Walking	1862	One of our favourite slim volumes, recognising the value of swamps, but also of the arc and flow a conversation might take on the course of a walk.

Timofeeva, Oxana	The History of Animals: A philosophy	2018	A scholarly and highly accessible study of the distinctions made between humans and animals in western philosophy, which Timofeeva opposes.
Tree, Isabella	Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm	2019	This was the book everyone wanted for Christmas last year, a remarkable story of an astounding transformation.
Wallace Wells, David	The Uninhabitable Earth	2019	The most brilliant and frightening book we've read on human's technical ability to respond to climate change .
Wohlleben, Peter	Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World	2015	Explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration Peter has observed in the woodland. This book constantly comes up in all our favourite conversations.

Films, Video and Media

Coming soon ...

Poetry and Music

Coming soon ...

Art and Activism

Coming soon ...

Partners and Collaborators

Andy Holden
 Aram Gallery
 Bat Conservation Trust
 Ben Weeks
 Birmingham University
 Camden Council
 CNC projects
 Gary Grant
 Gustafson Porter + Bowman
 Highgate Honey
 Hutchinson Engineering
 Inmidtown
 Jonathan Pomroy
 Lendlease
 Peter Holden
 Riverford Organics & Guy Watson
 Swift Conservation & Edward Mayer
 The Architecture Foundation
 The British Ornithological Trust (BTO)
 The London Zoological Society (ZSL)
 The Royal Parks
 The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
 Whitechapel Art Gallery
 Woking Borough Council