

Shed heaven in Wood Green

A bustling yard with lunchtime markets, entertainment and creative entrepreneurs selling their work to the public is turning heads in Wood Green.

Blue House Yard, which launched in June, is surrounded by colourful two-storey wooden sheds and an eye-catching bright blue house packed full of tenants showing off their work.

The tenants include a regular street food market; musicians; an art curator; ceramicist; PR firm for electronic music DJs; makers of luxury lingerie for fuller bust sizes; a tailor; satchel maker; wood craftsman; stationery maker; artist; vintage clothes firm; kilt manufacturer, and a production company focusing on women's empowerment.

A double-decker bus is also being transformed into a landmark café at the Yard.

Singer Eden, from Wood Green, is based at Blue House Yard with partner Noelle.

He said: "Blue House Yard has given us an opportunity to develop our career but also to integrate with the community, which we love so much. Wood Green is a cultural melting pot and Blue House Yard exemplifies what can happen when culture and art come together."

Take a look at some of the fantastic pictures from opening night.

Blue House Yard is at 5 River Park Rd, N22 7TB. The lunch time food market is held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There are occasional evening events too. For more information visit: www.bluehouseyard.com





Photography: Warren Cooper



At just 23 years old, architect Alice Hardy was at the helm of the Blue House Yard project. Not only very young for such a big job, it is also incredibly rare to have a female site foreman.

A recent graduate, the sheds around the Yard were Alice's first big build – and she loves the way they've turned out.

She says: "Everyone seems to like the sheds. It's nice because all the other buildings in the area are one colour, but Blue House Yard is an explosion of colour. It's a unique space. It's a really nice place for people to congregate."

Alice had a small team, which included college student volunteers. It was a self-build project for the architects, which meant the team were able to make design changes as they went along.

She says: "You spend your day running around doing orders, then the rest of the day building it. You wouldn't normally do it like that. It's cut costs and we've been able to design as we went along."

Alice has enjoyed the freedom that has given her – and the fact that Blue House Yard is a temporary site. She laughs: "People are more willing to take risks when it's temporary – otherwise they probably wouldn't have let us paint this building blue!"

Alice has been studying architecture at The Bartlett at UCL. She will continue her studies at the London School of Architecture. The lead architect for this project was Gabriel Warshafsky at Jan Kattein architects. Operational design was led by Meanwhile Space.