

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Nature Doesn't Do Monoculture. Why Do Our Workspaces?

Oliver Heath Design brings its “design for a range of minds” approach to Neuroplaces conference at London Design Festival 2026

Oliver Heath Design, the Brighton, UK, based biophilic design consultancy specialising in designing spaces where people thrive, will exhibit and speak at Neuroplaces (stand DW57) conference, part of London Design Festival, at Protein Studios in Shoreditch from 15–17 September 2026. The studio's argument: Nature does not thrive in a monoculture, neither do we. A woodland floor holds multiple species of flora, each thriving in completely different light and conditions, yet most workplaces are still designed for one type of mind.

“Nature doesn't do uniformity,” said Oliver Heath, founder of Oliver Heath Design. “A woodland floor is moss, fern, anemone, ivy and bramble, all adapting to completely different light and conditions, each thriving in its own way. Most offices do the opposite: one desk type, one lighting level, one noise level, expecting every mind to work in the same way. Design for a range of minds instead, and people don't just cope. They thrive.”

“When did you last walk into a space and it improved how you felt?”, that’s the conversation to be had with the studio team who will show visitors how sensory zoning and human- and nature-based design bring that same natural range indoors, whether the space is an office, a school, a hospital or a hotel. The approach also responds to a simple fact: people spend around 87% of their time indoors (National Human Activity Pattern Survey*), which makes the design of the built environment one of the most powerful, and most overlooked, levers for both wellbeing and productivity available to any organisation.

That approach doesn't depend on greenery, a common misconception of biophilic design. This is demonstrated in the Hackney Garden School supporting pupils aged 4 to 16 with additional sensory needs, where Oliver Heath Design transformed a disused storage room into a calming recuperation space for children overwhelmed by noise and activity from the adjacent playground, all without a single live plant, which safeguarding requirements ruled out. Instead, the studio used natural textures, patterns, colours and imagery as nature analogues, added window seats giving a view out while feeling protected, built hexagonal seating niches for retreat, and included an interactive feature that responds to touch with natural sounds and textures. It's a reminder that biophilic design is a set of principles, not a shopping list of plants.

Working across every RIBA stage, from strategy through to delivery, as both lead designers and consultants, Oliver Heath Design has built a twenty-year portfolio across seven sectors. Post-occupancy studies from completed projects, such as the office refurbishment for Knight Frank Investment Management, point to what that design approach delivers in practice: places where people want to be, reduced absenteeism and staff turnover, and a measurable return on wellbeing, productivity and investment. In the case of Knight Frank Investment Management the post-occupancy survey revealed impressive results: individual productivity up 18%, workplace wellbeing up 28%, motivation to be in the office up 17%, pride in the office up 20%, productive meetings up 22%, and sensory stimulation up over 45%.

Oliver Heath will also take part in the Neurospaces conference programme on Wednesday 16 September. At 10.30am he delivers a keynote, “The connection with nature: a real-world look at the growth of biophilic design”, followed at 11.45am by a panel discussion, “Designing for human flourishing”, alongside Dr Vanessa Champion (moderator), Graham Flisher, Freyja Sewell and Dr Shelley James.

“Come and see what delivering a thriving space looks like in practice,” said Heath. “And how that could support your team and business needs”.

Find Oliver Heath Design at stand DW57, and in the Neuroplaces conference programme, from 15–17 September.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About Oliver Heath Design

We design spaces where people thrive. Workplace | Education | Healthcare | Hospitality | Retail | Residential | Exhibition. For over 20 years, Oliver Heath Design has helped global brands create healthier, inclusive, nature-inspired spaces that deliver measurable improvements in occupant wellbeing, organisational performance and commercial success. Working across every RIBA stage, from strategy to delivery, the studio creates biophilic and neuroinclusive environments aligned with PAS 6463, WELL, BREEAM and ESG objectives, so people feel better, focus more easily, stay longer, and return more often.

www.oliverheathdesign.com

Event details

Neuroplaces stand: DW57, Protein Studios, Shoreditch, London, 15–17 September 2026, part of London Design Festival

Neuroplaces keynote by Oliver Heath: Wednesday 16 September, 10.30–11.00 “The connection with nature: a real-world look at the growth of biophilic design”

Neuroplaces panel discussion: Wednesday 16 September, 11.45–12.30 “Designing for human flourishing”, with Dr Vanessa Champion (moderator), Graham Flisher, Oliver Heath, Freyja Sewell and Dr Shelley James

Garden School project

www.oliverheathdesign.com/our-projects/the-garden-school

Knight Frank Investment Management workplace refurbishment:

<https://www.oliverheathdesign.com/our-projects/knight-frank-investment-management>

Media contact: Oliver Heath - Oliver Heath Design: oliver@oliverheathdesign.com

Source: * [National Human Activity Pattern Survey](#)



Knight Frank Investment Management office design – Oliver Heath Design
Photographer: Jonathan Bond