

The Temperate House Twenty

PROGRESS UPDATE FOR
BIM AND PARDEEP SANDHU

NOVEMBER 2017

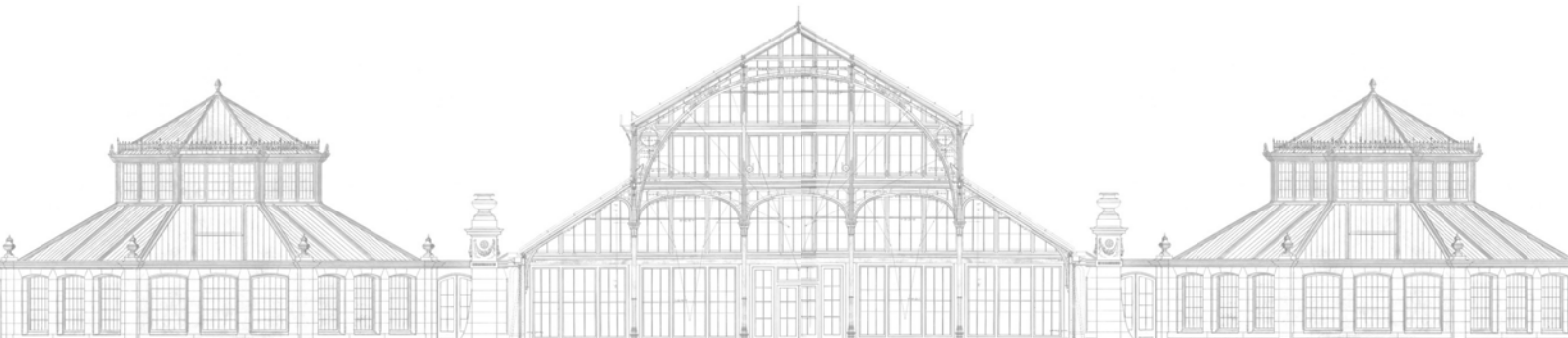
THE FINAL MILESTONES

I am delighted to be able to share this, the final progress report for the Temperate House restoration project. With scaffolding now being dismantled, and plants returned to their rightful home, we are beginning to visualise the culmination of five years of dedicated restoration work.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the final stages of this ambitious project, including the ways Kew will use this living collection to interpret our amazing work in plant science and conservation. Below is a final timeline for the key milestones between now and the opening in May 2018.

Thank you again for being part of the Temperate House Twenty, and for joining us on this journey. I look forward to seeing you in the near future, to celebrate the start of the next chapter for the Temperate House.

E. Bassadone



RESTORATION UPDATE

Scaffolding has now been removed across the external face of the building and out of the North and South Blocks. The Centre Block scaffolding is due to come out in the next two weeks, opening the whole internal space of the building for the first time in three years.

Due to labour resourcing, there have been some slight delays reported by our contractors and the construction completion date has been moved back to February 2018, however, this will not impact the scheduled opening date.



Restoration of the urns is now complete and they have been placed back onto the building plinths.



The Exploration House has been cleared of rock and rubble, and is currently being used to store plants. The construction works on this building will begin in January 2018 and it is scheduled to re-open at the same time as the Temperate House, in May 2018.

Our landscape contractors Miles Water Engineering have been working closely with Kew horticulture and are close to completing works on the water features in the North and South Blocks.

HORTICULTURE UPDATE



The first plants were brought back into the building at the end of September, starting with a specimen of *Citrus x aurantium* (Bitter Orange, pictured left) in the North Block.

Both the North and South Block are now filling up with plants from the Nursery, some planted in their final positions and some being kept in storage until the Centre Block is ready to be planted.

One of our most important specimens, *Encephalartos woodii*, which is extinct in the wild, has now been brought back into the Temperate House, and planted into its final position in the South Block.



A team effort to move the *Encephalartos woodii* back into the Temperate House



Staffing update

Two new staff members were successfully recruited into the Temperate House Horticulture team: Janaka Balasuriya and Bradley Gangadeen. Bradley (pictured right) has recently graduated from the Temperate House Glasshouse Apprenticeship scheme.



THE HOME OF RARE AND THREATENED PLANTS

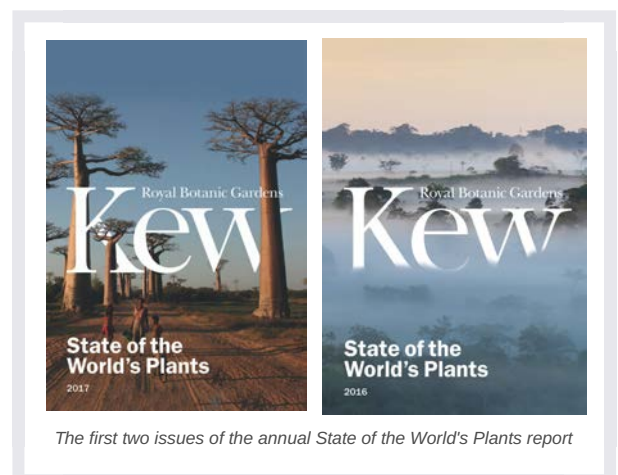
With over 30,000 species in Kew's living collection, the Temperate House will be home to some of the rarest and most important plants in the world. It is absolutely crucial that we explain to our visitors the necessity for restoring this great glasshouse. We will use the re-opening of the Temperate House as a showcase for these plants, as well as the incredible scientific research being undertaken at Kew, to ensure their survival.



Planting will include the beautiful trees, St. Helena ebony and Pacific Yew (pictured above), with the Temperate House providing the perfect setting for visitors to explore and learn more about their extraordinary stories. The leaves of the Pacific Yew tree, for example, contain compounds that are used for the synthesis of paclitaxel, an anticancer compound. It is through anecdotes such as this that we will demonstrate the impact plants make to all our lives.

Kew has employed a specialist interpretation team to demonstrate these messages. By first using the two octagons within the Temperate House, we will house contemporary displays to demonstrate Kew's contemporary science work; the first will tell the story of the history of the Temperate House and its original construction, how managing plant collections has since changed, and how this links back to our science work.

The second octagon will be themed around the State of the World's Plants Report, Kew's annual publication which analyses data to describe the state of plants globally, global threats to plants, gaps in information, and priorities for research and conservation. This report and its findings will highlight the most rare and threatened plants and how our work in Kew science is helping to address these concerns.



The first two issues of the annual State of the World's Plants report

SHOWCASING KEW SCIENCE

The most important message the team want visitors to understand is the necessity for horticulture and science to work together at Kew. Visitors should leave knowing that Kew is active in science research which links to the living part of our collections, in the Temperate House and across the gardens.

Throughout the Temperate House, we will use the planting areas to illustrate the ambitious outputs of Kew's 2015-2020 Science Strategy, and their contribution to major issues such as global food sustainability, the need to unlock medicines from plants and work to reverse the effect of climate change on different species.

One such area will include a species of yams to tell the story of protected plants. The story will be told seasonally and will convey the different uses of yams for food, starch, as a steroid used for drugs and an ingredient in contraceptive pills. This horticultural display will link back to our field work in Madagascar, in particular, work on the genus and how to farm yams sustainably.

