HELIX

Sector: Green Buildings & Urban Landscapes
Location: Germany

Helix Pflanzensysteme GmbH specialises in vertical greening and provides immediate green solutions for urban spaces. Founded in 2009, the company focuses on developing and marketing technically sophisticated, sustainable green systems while translating research results into practical, economically effective applications. In the context of climate change and rapid urbanisation, Helix aims to address pressing ecological challenges through its products and contribute to the creation of greener cities. Their portfolio spans facade greening, green noise barriers, slope greening, and mobile or temporary green installations, offering tailored solutions for a wide range of applications. Helix works closely with clients to understand their specific requirements and delivers customised greening concepts, placing strong emphasis on quality and sustainability as part of their commitment within the construction industry. They accompany clients throughout the entire process - from precise planning and execution to post-installation maintenance, including plant care and irrigation system support.

Awards & Recognitions

- Facade Greening of the Year 2025 category at the BuGG competition
- Participated in the Expo 2025 at Osaka, Japan, as part of the German Pavilion organised by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
- Featured in the children's program 'Die Sendung mit der Maus', which showed exciting filming locations with green facades.
- Jonathan Müller spoke at a TEDx event, encouraging city dwellers to take on their own greening projects.
- Hans Müller, Managing Director of Helix Pflanzen GmbH, received the honorary award for horticulture from the Association of Weinhenstephan Engineers
- The 'wild climate wall' by Helix received two awards at the Sustainability Challenge of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) in 2024 - the special prize for 'Biodiversity' and the audience award.
- As a winning team, Helix presented its business model at the Green Infrastructure Business Award Ceremony (2023)

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Major Projects

Göttingen

In Göttingen, the Amedes Group integrated 400 m² of fully vertical green walls into the administrative building of its international laboratory and medical services complex. Designed according to DGNB Gold Standard criteria, the building features extensive greening on the south-facing facades of both wings, delivering natural cooling, habitat creation, and an enhanced working environment for around 600 employees. The south-facing orientation posed a particular challenge, as the facade is exposed to intense sunlight throughout the day. To ensure the green walls remain healthy and resilient, Helix installed an automated irrigation system equipped with 24/7 moisture monitoring. Sensors embedded in the Biomura panels continuously measure water levels, allowing the system to adjust irrigation cycles automatically to maintain optimal hydration and nutrient supply. Winter functionality was also addressed through a compressor system that drains the irrigation lines to prevent frost damage, an automated process that Helix can monitor and manage remotely. The planting design follows a camouflage-inspired pattern tailored to the microclimatic conditions of the solar-exposed facade. A foundational layer of evergreens such as Hedera helix and Pachysandra ensures year-round structure. Seasonal accents come from geraniums, bergenias, Carex grasses, campanulas, cotoneaster, and echinacea.
Throughout the year, the wall undergoes a vivid transformation:

- Spring and summer: abundant flowering plants attract insects and create a lively vertical landscape.
- High summer: echinacea becomes the focal point before seasonal pruning removes old foliage and unwelcome growth.
- Autumn and winter: purple-flowering perennials, ornamental grasses, and evergreen foliage blend into a dynamic camouflage pattern that remains visually striking even in colder months.

This project demonstrates how Helix systems can be adapted to demanding climatic conditions while delivering ecological, aesthetic, and functional value—turning a sun-exposed facade into a resilient, year-round vertical landscape.

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Major Projects

Stuttgart

As biodiversity declines accelerate across Germany, innovative urban greening is becoming essential. On the Fraunhofer Campus in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Helix Pflanzensysteme GmbH played a central role in a groundbreaking research initiative exploring how vertical vegetation can support insects, birds, and other urban wildlife. Working with scientists from the University of Stuttgart and the Fraunhofer Institute, Helix designed and installed a 200 m² green facade system using their Helix® Biomura and Helix® Elata solutions. Unlike typical facade greening, where aesthetics and maintenance dominate, this project required Helix to prioritise ecological value.

Their team selected and cultivated over 6,000 plants representing more than 70 species, guided by wild bee scores and biodiversity research. Wild perennials, herbs, meadow flowers, grasses, and even ecologically important weeds such as dandelion and clover were intentionally included. Helix also propagated the mature, shrub-forming form of common ivy to provide late-season food sources for wildlife. Planting modules were pre-cultivated in the greenhouse from January 2023, ensuring dense vegetation by the time the green walls were installed in May. The full installation was completed in just four days, with planting boxes positioned from ground level up to the second floor. To further enhance habitat value, Helix integrated nesting structures, deadwood, and sand-filled modules directly into the facade system, creating a multifunctional vertical habitat. Within weeks, wild bees, hoverflies, butterflies, birds, and even bats were observed using the green wall.

Helix's contribution demonstrates how expertly engineered green walls can transform built surfaces into thriving ecosystems, advancing urban biodiversity, improving microclimates, and showcasing the potential of nature-positive design.

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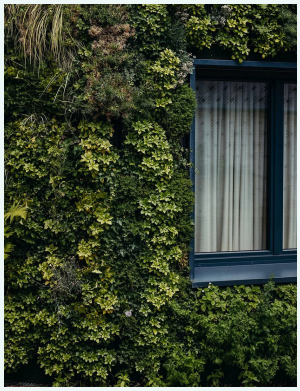
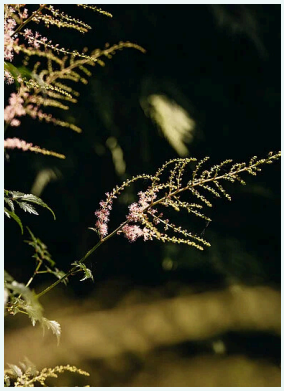
More Projects

Greenery for a single-family home by Volker Lück, Karlsruhe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