

Extensive Roof Garden



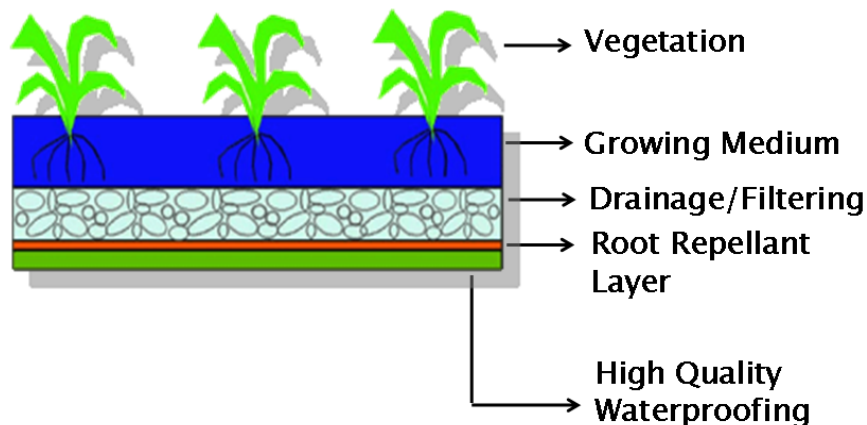
In June 2004, a 4,000 square foot extensive green roof was installed over one half of the Robertson roof. The green roof, designed and installed by Gardens in the Sky, is supported by approximately six inches of organic, light-weight planting media with over ten species of Ontario native perennials planted into this special soil. These vibrant meadow flowers have thrived over the past growing seasons (despite the at times harsh weather they encounter in this elevated ecosystem) and provide a gorgeous addition to the urban landscape that can be viewed from the glass atrium and deck that completes this rooftop area.

Garden Installation

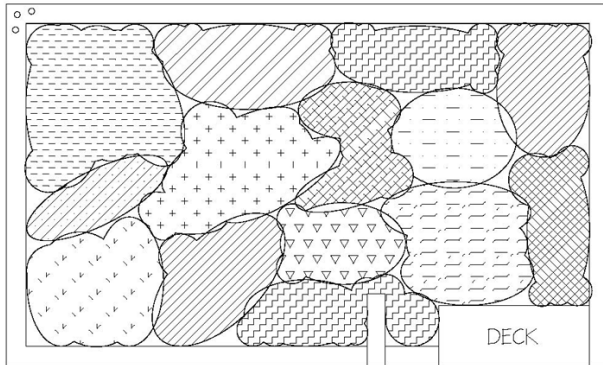


The Robertson atrium is 400 square feet of glassed-in space that affords a world-class view of the Toronto city skyline, including the distinct Ontario College of Art and Design table-top building. Similarly, it provides tenants and visitors with a unique destination to catch a breath of fresh air, have lunch, meetings, or explore other forms of creativity. Most assuredly, the Robertson roof provides proximity to an amazing proliferation of biodiversity in both plant and animals like bees, butterflies, and birds.

To date, no green roof in Toronto had been designed with biodiversity as its principal planning priority and as a result, the Robertson roof has become a poster green roof for the City of Toronto and their ongoing commitment to a greener city.



...more on the garden



LEGEND	
	BLACK-EYED SUSAN <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
	BUTTERFLY MILKWEED <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
	GREEN-HEADED CONEFLOWER <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>
	SAMMY RUSSELL DAYLILY <i>Hemerocallis</i>
	NEW ENGLAND ASTER <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
	PEARLY EVERLASTING <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>
	GOLDEN LOOSESTRIFE <i>Lysimachia</i>
	SILVER GOLDENROD <i>Solidago bicolor</i>
	HELENS FLOWER <i>Helenium autumnale</i>
	SNITCH GRASS <i>Panicum virgatum</i>
	THE BLUES BIG BLUE STEM <i>Andropogon scoparius 'The Blues'</i>
	WILD BERGAMOT <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
	WOODLAND SUNFLOWER <i>Helianthus tuberosa</i>



Green Headed Cone Flowers



New England Asters



Black-Eyed Susans

Energy efficiency retrofits at the Robertson Building, like the solar thermal system serve to protect the environment, utilize a renewable resource, and reduce the energy footprint of the building.

Solar Hot Water System



This spring three stylish solar panels were added to our rooftop environment. These solar absorbing collector panels face south toward the existing green roof and during the spring, summer, and autumn, this solar thermal system will provide close to 100% of the Domestic Hot Water (DHW) energy required for the building. In winter, this is predicted to fall to between 10-30% of the building's needs.

This solar system uses City water that is re-routed into the solar tank where it will be pre-heated by the energy collected from the solar panels. Pre-heated water will then be pumped into the building's existing hot water tank. This in turn decreases reliance on natural gas to heat our domestic water. By preventing the combustion of natural gas, the solar system will reduce the release of greenhouse gases by 1.1 tons each year.