

### Go Green

A GUIDE TO AN ECO-FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE



The green roof at 1010 Midtown, above left, is an outdoor oasis for residents, while the Post Alexander green roof, above right, catches runoff and lowers heat in the parking deck. At bottom left, architect David Butler shows off one of the planting squares that will be used to make up the green roof at a home in Ormewood Park.

By Collin Kelley  
Managing Editor

The concept of green roofs has been around for centuries, with its origins in Scandinavia. Modern green roofs began in the 1960s in Germany, and have since spread around the world as a concept to help reduce energy in homes and businesses.

A green roof is more than just a container garden, but an actual layer of growing plant material. The most notable green roof in Atlanta was installed on top of the High Museum of Art's administrative building. The roof covers



6,680-square-feet and can retain 62,000 gallons of stormwater per year, as well as reduce energy consumption and improve air quality.

Southface, the Atlanta organization that promotes sustainable homes and workplaces, installed a green roof on its new headquarters building on Pine Street, while luxury condo high rise 1010 Midtown has created an oasis on its pool level that incorporates plants, trees and expanses of grass to create a "park in the sky."

Post Alexander apartments in Buckhead built a 9,000 square-foot green roof on top of its underground two-story parking deck. The green roof is now a colorful courtyard between buildings and has become a community gathering spot, according to Todd Tibbits, Post's senior vice president for property services.

"It's a beautiful spot for our residents, and it also has benefits for the community," Tibbits said, noting that Post invested \$400,000 in the green roof.

Tibbits said the roof allows for heat dissipation and aids in the treatment of runoff, which is stored in an underground tank and is used to irrigate the property and provide water for the decorative fountain in the courtyard.

Over in Ormewood Park, architectural firm David Butler & Associates has designed a modern dwelling for Artisan Homes, which is a certified Earthcraft Builder. Expected to be completed in May, the 1,890 square-foot home at the corner of Moreland and Eden avenues will have an expansive green roof, which is just one of the features of this Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) certified project.

The green roof will be made up of small, recycled containers that will hold the plantings and also create channels to collect stormwater runoff, which will nourish the roof planting and naturally release the rest back into the atmosphere.

"The roof will need care the first few years, such as watering and fertilizing, but by the third year it should be self-sustaining," Butler said. "It becomes low to no maintenance."

Rosalie Ezekiel, co-owner of Ezekiel Poelker Architects in Decatur, is currently working on a green roof project for a client who is building a new home in Pine Lake. "The clients are very green conscious, and they wanted to make a statement about that," Ezekiel said.


She said the 2,200 square-foot home will have an 800 square-foot green roof over the living space. "DeKalb County has a lot of issues with stormwater runoff, and my clients didn't want to add to the problem," Ezekiel said.

The green roof will have about four inches of soil and small plantings and, like the Ormewood Park house, will collect rainwater to replenish the plants and evaporate the rest into the atmosphere.

Those interested in the green roofs should mark their calendars for the seventh annual Green Roofs for Healthy Climates conference set for June 3-5 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown.

"We have an amazing program this year, with new developments related to integrated water management, urban food production, green house gas sequestration and more," said Steven W. Peck, Founder and President of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, a nonprofit industry association. "We have over 25 case studies on the agenda covering everything from massive retrofits of intensive green roof parks like Robson Square in Vancouver to semi-arid award winning green roofs at Southface in Atlanta and Austin City Hall in Texas."

This year's conference will feature more than 60 presenters as well as local tours. The Inaugural Green Roof Professional (GRP) accreditation exam will be offered for the first time in Atlanta. The GRP is akin to the LEED designation, but it is focused on best practices associated with the design, installation and maintenance of green roof infrastructure.

For more information and to register for the conference, visit [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org). 

# GREEN ROOFS: CENTURIES OLD TECHNIQUE IS HOT NEW TREND IN ATLANTA