

DECEMBER 2008

SITELINES

Landscape Architecture in British Columbia



CHANGES

appearance | labour mobility | welcome/farewell | lifestyle/learning | roof design

Green Roof Quadra Island for Leisure Hours

By Cornelia Hahn Oberlander CM FASLA, FCSLA, BCSLA
and Elisabeth Whitelaw CSLA BCSLA

A new home on Quadra Island was nearing completion when the owners realized that a magnificent space had been created on their roof with framed views to the sea across Sutil Channel. They also knew the value of green roofs for insulating the house from warm and cold as well as slowing down stormwater runoff. They contacted Cornelia Oberlander to investigate the possibility of making the roof into a primary amenity for the enjoyment of their beautiful property. Armed with two chairs, a tape and some markers Cornelia explored with the owners locations for wooden viewing platforms linked by a series of boardwalks, floating above a carpet of green. A walk along the gently undulating surface of the roof would replicate a walk through the surrounding forest, creating a personal sky walk not unlike the experience currently being developed by parks around the world to introduce people into the world of the tree canopy.

The waterproofing was done by Hedefine Contracting Ltd of Quadra Island. Oberlander recommended that the drainage and growing medium be built according to ZinCo Canada specifications and detailed drawings. The profile from the roof waterproofing membrane was:

1. Root Barrier
2. Moisture & Protection ZinCo Mat SSM 45
3. Drainage Element ZinCo Floradrain FD25
4. Filter Sheet ZinCo SF
5. Growing Medium ZinCo Extensive. Depth 6 – 8 cm
6. Plant Material

A sun study of the roof was conducted to determine light levels for plant material. Native sedums were chosen for the sunny areas along with some native flowering bulbs. For areas of dappled and dense shade native mosses were collected from the surrounding property. The plugs for this project were grown by Nat's Nursery and delivered by



Photo: Shane Tillapaugh,
Partially Completed Roof

Sketches: Top:
Elisabeth Whitelaw, Concept Plan
Right:
Elisabeth Whitelaw,
Sun Study Diagram

freight to the remote site in boxed condition. They were carefully planted by Shane Tillapaugh and his crew from Eco Island Gardenscapes of Comox, B.C.

As a transition between the viewing platform on the larger roof and those on the smaller roofs, a glass bridge was designed to introduce a dynamic element, reflecting the sky and the movement of the trees. For reasons of cost, this feature was not included in the work done in the late summer of 2008.

Plant List

Sedum spathulifolium Cape Blanco / Cape Blanco Stonecrop

Sedum spathulifolium Carneia / Carneia Stonecrop

Sedum divergens / Spreading Stonecrop

Sedum oreganum / Oregon Stonecrop

Allium acuminatum / Hooker's Onion

Credit Line:

Landscape Architects: Cornelia Hahn Oberlander CM FASLA, FCSLA, BCSLA and Elisabeth Whitelaw CSLA BCSLA

Waterproof membrane: Hedefine Contracting Ltd of Quadra Island

Extensive Roof Garden System: Zinco Canada Inc. with Architek, Vancouver

Plants supplied by: NAT's Nursery, Langley

Installation: Eco Island Gardenscapes, Comox