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The International Green Roof Association (IGRA)

The International Green Roof Association (IGRA) is a global network, for the promotion and dissemination of information on Green Roof topics and Green Roof technology. Due to its status as a multi-national, non-profit organisation, IGRA (www.igra-world.com) also offers the platform and infrastructure for independent "pro Green Roof" lobby work with political decision makers and investors.

IGRA's targets are

- worldwide promotion of the ecological Green Roof idea as a tool of sustainable, regional and urban development
- international knowledge transfer in the field of Green Roofs
- sensitization of the population and political/business decision makers through publicity campaigns
- stimulation of international standards for good practices and reliable Green Roof technology
- promotion and active support of national Green Roof campaigns by IGRA members

The basic idea of IGRA is the support of the Green Roof market on an international level by sharing knowledge and experiences in the field of Green Roof technology and public relations. Typical activities of IGRA include workshops, conferences, publications and newsletters.

The IGRA Green Roof Leadership Award

The IGRA Green Roof Leadership Award stands as recognition and appreciation for outstanding examples of Green Roof architecture and Green Roof initiatives all around the world. The price should be a signal for architects, landscape architects, city planners, municipal staff, landscape designers and real estate & property developers to explore new ideas for green urban spaces off the beaten track.

IGRA-Awards so far

The first IGRA "Green Roof Leadership Award" was presented in 2005 during the "International Green Week" in Berlin for the new Rolls Royce production plant which was completely covered by an extensive Green Roof and nestling in the park-like landscape of Goodwood (near Chichester, UK).

In the meantime 5 further IGRA Awards have been granted, two of which for other trendsetting architecture projects: One was for the "Fusionopolis" towers in Singapore with 13 different sky

gardens reaching heights of up to 80 m, partly combined with vertical greenery, the second one for the exemplary new building of a school centre in Neckargemünd, Germany, with its thermal insulating green roof and the integrated photovoltaic plant. The remaining 3 prizes were awarded to the municipalities of Düsseldorf (Germany) and Copenhagen (Denmark) for their exemplary Green Roof policy and to the Polish landscape architect Dorota Rudawa for her outstanding commitment in terms of green buildings.

The IGRA-Award 2010

Now another project, which might not be recognized as a “Green Roof” at first sight, will be honored with the “IGRA Green Roof Leadership Award 2010”. It is the New York High Line Park, a new “elevated urban park” which already has set an example. At a height of approx. 10 m it connects whole districts above all the traffic and provides splendid views and at the same time recreational space for adults and children. In fact, the High Line Park is a flat Green Roof (admittedly a very long one) as it has been installed on a waterproofed area without connection to the ground.



Many parties have contributed to the success of the project: the architects Diller, Scofidio + Renfro, the landscape architects of James Corner Field Operations, the plant specialists Piet Oudolf, the Green Roof System supplier ZinCo and the installing company Kelco Landscaping, to name only a few. The IGRA-Award 2010 was decided to be given to the “Friends of the High Line”, though firstly as they enabled the realization of this great idea and secondly as they have taken care of financing and

maintenance of the project. The latter issue is of great significance for a Green Roof project. And as the park is very well maintained by the “Friends of the High Line”, so far more than 2 million visitors bear in mind the appearance of a successfully landscaped construction. There is no better advertising for Green Roofs!