

Intensive Roof Garden



The roof garden began in an informal way back in 1995 through the efforts of Property Manager, Mike Moody, a plant aficionado and seasoned gardener. Already a treasured gathering space for tenants, it has evolved into a 6,500 square foot cedar deck, resplendent with flowers, vines and bushes – many of which have been grown from seed. There are also a number of large planters that hold trees and perennial shrubs that can winter over on the roof. This fabulous outdoor space offers spectacular downtown views, including one of the CN Tower.

The roof garden is a relaxing destination for summer visitors and tenants at 401 Richmond. It provides an interesting meeting place for lunch breaks, celebrations or just a place to relax in the green oasis.

Garden Installation



The cedar deck creates an air pocket over part of the third floor roof, which not only helps to protect the roof membrane from freeze-thaw stretching but provides a layer of winter insulation for the studios underneath. Similarly, the roof garden deck and plants provide summer shade which serves to cool the studios that lie directly beneath. The trees and shrubs in the roof garden work to mitigate air pollution by trapping particulates and absorbing gaseous emissions that arise from the busy streets surrounding the building. Similarly, the many containers trap and hold rainfall preventing polluted stormwater runoff from leaving this part of the roof. The roof garden affords a great private and public benefit, attracting visitors and tenants throughout the year.



"In a building where the creative arts flower, perhaps it's fitting that the once-sterile roof is flowering as well. What's even more incredible is that this lush, verdant oasis has been achieved by one man - not a horticulturalist, but a building manager with a newly minted green thumb - in less than 10 years"
Canadian Gardening Magazine, Summer 2004

