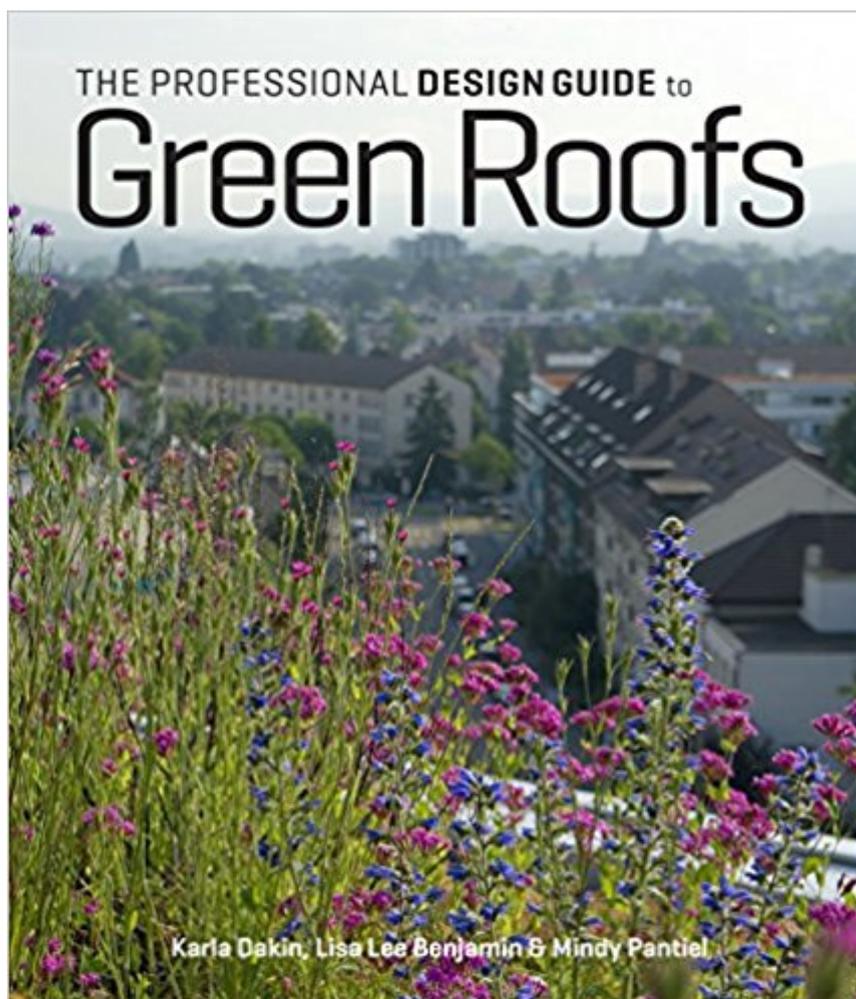


The book was found

# The Professional Design Guide To Green Roofs



## Synopsis

Until recently, most green rooftop gardens were little more than variations on sedum mats on four inches of soil. Now, designers are creating cutting-edge green roofs that focus not only on critical environmental issues like heat, storm management, and ecosystem development, but also on the aesthetics, offering beautiful, livable, sustainable landscapes. The Professional Design Guide to Green Roofs is a comprehensive exploration of rooftop garden design and the process behind it. It covers everything landscape architects and garden designers need to know to create a beautiful garden in the sky. With lush photography, international examples, and solid how-to information, this is an essential resource for all design professionals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Undoubtedly one of the most invigorating and innovative trends in landscape design in recent years, the blooming of green roof gardens in both commercial and residential settings has energized cities and suburbs. Evolving dramatically from early examples reliant upon uninspired swaths of buffalo grass and cactus beds, green roof gardens can now employ the same panoply of plant materials available to on-ground gardens, thanks to a deeper understanding of design and construction techniques. The key to a successful green roof is the essential combination of aesthetic inspiration and the mastery of practical considerations critical to an installation's favorable outcome. Covering design criteria such as color, shape, and texture as well as such fundamentals as site analysis, infrastructure, and operating costs, authors Dakin and Lisa Lee Benjamin provide a

full-scale guide to both the design and building of ecologically friendly and pleasing—even spectacular green roof gardens. Though suitable for landscape professionals, this volume will also be greatly appreciated by home gardeners. --Carol Haggas

“A beautiful collection of successful green roof projects. . . . This lovely study is recommended.”  
Library Journal “A full-scale guide to both the design and building of ecologically friendly and pleasing—even spectacular green roof gardens. Though suitable for landscape professionals, this volume will also be greatly appreciated by home gardeners.”  
Booklist “This comprehensive manual gives architects, designers, and property owners imaginative, practical guidance in understanding the process of creating a green roof and successfully seeing it through.”  
Publishers Weekly “Nothing has been left out in this book. . . . It is one that every designer needs.”  
Garden Design Online “The book is casual, informative style of intelligent text combined with incredible photos of these green roofs. . . . makes this a standout selection.”  
The Gazette

This book was presented with very clear information and I liked the way it was laid out. The photos were also excellent . Lisa Lee Benjamin has been a dedicated plant and soil specialist and world traveler always open to learning and leaving behind innovative new ideas for communities to easily incorporate into their lifestyles. She connects talented people with talented people as she moves forward. She is a true visionary.

There are two aspects of this book that make it stand out from others: firstly, the approach being heavily rooted in the arts with a primary focus on design; secondly, the absolute accessibility of the book for non-professionals. Those of us who are closet (meaning would-be) landscape architects and designers now have a point from which to leap when considering our own projects, even of not of a commercial dimension. A well recommended read in blossoming field.

Let me start off by saying the pictures and variety of green roofs in this book blew me away. Other green roof books I have read have a good deal of information but are limited on the variety of green roofs. This book is a polar opposite of those with its great imagery from green roofs all over the world. Throughout the book it is almost a who's who of green roofs. Which is made possible because every image has a credit that lets you know where it is in the world and who designed it. I

found this very helpful in that if there was something that caught my eye, like the English garden planting on the top of Vancouver's Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, I could easily look up more about it. Another aspect of this book that sets it apart is the Q&A sections throughout the book with professionals in the industry. They answer the questions on everything from design to roof membranes. I found these sections to be a nice addition to the information contained in each chapter. In my review title I say it is for the none professionals as well. The reason I say this is because the authors write in an approachable way that makes the topic easy to understand. That along with great images anyone interested in green roofs can learn how they work, find someone to help build one, and dream of what they can do with their own roof. So what's in it for the professionals? There are no recipes for how to build a green roof but there is the process of how to design, create constructions documents and build a green roof. The pitfalls one could run into where pointed out clearly and the questions a professional should ask of his or her team where given. One example of this is the approach of designing a green roof as a part of a building. I thought I could look at it like any other garden design and then lay it over a roof. But the authors stop that line of reasoning and explain how a green roof is part of a building and there are many factors that have to be accounted for from load, to wind, to building performance, to outside views, to accessibility and drainage. These are just the layers of information that earn this book its title. A wonderful all around green roof book for the professional just getting into green roofs or for anyone else that has an interest. An easy 5 Stars.

If you are planning to hire a professional to make a green roof for you, you don't need this book...unless you need the name of a professional. If you are a professional, you shouldn't need this book either. If you are a homeowner looking for creative ideas and suggestions, you will probably be as disappointed as I was. Where is Patrick Blanc and his inspiring living walls?

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