Home & Work


1. THE ROOF BEFORE CONSTRUCTION


2. SEALING AND WATERPROOFING THE ROOF


3. STRENGTHENING TO SPREAD LOAD EVENLY & COVER WITH SPECIAL DRAINAGE AND ROOT REPELLENT


3. LAYERING SOIL


4. PUTTING UP THE SOLAR PANELS


5. FINISHED LAYERING THE SOIL


6. BUILDING THE PATHWAY


7. BUILDING THE STRUCTURE FOR VINES


8. BUILDING THE ROOF DECK


9. BUILDING THE BARRIER AROUND THE SKYLIGHTS

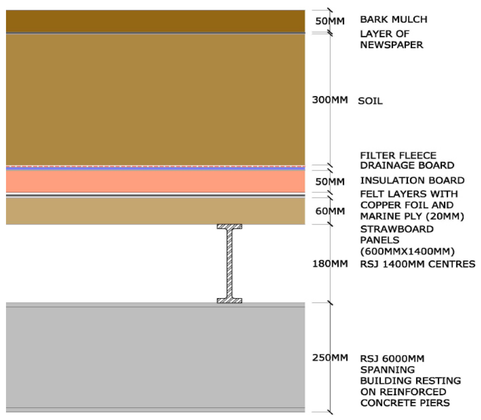

10. PUTTING UP A SMALL WIND TURBINE (LEFT) AND LOCATING THE TANK TO STORE RAINWATER (RIGHT)


11. LAYING WOODCHIPS FOR ANOTHER PATHWAY AFTER PLANTING


12. GROWING POTATOES


13. ALL THE PLANTS STARTED TO GROW


14. FINISHED BUILDING THE EDIBLE ROOFTOP GARDEN



CROSS SECTION OF THE ROOF

The RISC edible roof garden is located on the roof of the Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC) offices in Reading, UK. This roof is a unique space in Reading which explores issues of sustainable development & biodiversity, raising questions about our relationship with the environment. The garden was planted in Spring 2002 and designed to slowly mature into a mixed open woodland of useful plants representing many of the major plant types from around the world. The principles of permaculture, which model natural systems and provide insight into some of the defining characteristics of sustainability in nature, were used in the construction of this garden.

RISC is an educational charity that since the early 1980's has been trying to raise awareness about development issues. RISC's aim is to actively support and promote the actions of people across the world working for equality, justice and sustainable development.

The "Forest Garden", as RISC named the rooftop garden, is covered with 185 different species including edible plants, medicinal trees, shrubs, vines and various plants. The edible plants include potato, bean, Chinese yam, lemon, apple, etc. RISC also uses butterfly lavender as an insecticide to alleviate some of the agricultural problems. The roof garden was constructed using recycled and local materials. The plants are irrigated with rainwater which is collected and stored in a tank, and the growing medium comes from paper and organic food waste compost from the RISC offices. To protect the growing medium from the hot sunlight, mulch is added on top to prevent drying out through evaporation. Renewable energy is generated by solar cells and wind collectors on the chimneys.

Photos by Dave Richards, Courtesy of RISC
See also www.risc.org.uk

RISC'S ROOFTOP GARDEN

LONDON STREET, READING, U.K.

Owner: Reading International Solidarity Centre
Planting Designed by Paul Barney Edulis & Garden Built by RISC