



DIADEM® 150 GREEN ROOF



◀ Sedum tiles on the outer wall and an undulating look to the foliage on the inner wall are but two of the many design elements TRA incorporated into its living landscape.

Ahead of the industry



Forrest Jammer, RLA, CLIA has been a project landscape architect for nearly two decades with Seattle-based Thomas Rengstorf Associates (TRA). He served as design lead for a prominent company's green-roof project.

■ One of the company's sites is in Kirkland, Wash., and it envisioned three buildings -- of 195,000 sq. ft. -- designed around a central courtyard. Completed a few years ago, the courtyard has a water feature on its campus that includes stone barriers that break up and add visual interest. TRA designed the site's pedestrian paving, furniture, hardscape, and planting. Indeed, more than half the site is covered by rooftop planting -- a green roof in industry parlance. A landscape architect, Jammer considers a green roof yet another design opportunity on the canvas of a total landscape. TRA selected DIADEM® USA because it surpassed its competitors in many categories, particularly in providing the highest level possible of aesthetics and quality to engineer a roof that would not only provide an aesthetically pleasing retreat, but also complement the overall sustainability goals of the expansion.

■ **Project Data:**
 Architect: DLR Group
 Landscape Architect: Forrest Jammer, TRA
 Landscape Contractor: Teufel Landscape
 Green Roof Size: 20,000 SF
 Installed: 2015

■ What are the benefits of a green roof?

F.J.: While green roofs are environmentally friendly and increasingly a la mode in the world of both commercial and residential design, the prism through which TRA views the import of green roofs is creative design. The grounds upon which people walk, cycle, drive, and look from office windows must be beautiful, yes, but the roofs on top of these spaces must be beautiful, too. They're all part of the total look of a landscape -- even if roofs are a number of feet above said land. Undulating rows of native plants, juxtaposed against paths of pebbles... Elements like these turn roofs into design scapes and not just utilitarian covers. My primary driver, thus, is considering what the final look will be of a completed canvas.

■ Why did you select DIADEM® USA?

F.J.: The company provided a complete solution for green-roof specific to the company's projects' specifications. Those included above-membrane applications for flat sur-

faces and water drainage, important for Northwest-based structures. What folks visiting the site and its employees see from the ground is not only a clean, finished-looking product, but clean edges where the green roof elements come into contact with other pieces of equipment embedded in the rooftop (such as venting systems). The fluidity of the green roof TRA designed required a solid approach not only to design itself, but also to installation and future maintenance. DIADEM® USA provided design assistance and illustrations for every piece of the installation project. There was no other manufacturer capable of providing the same level of aesthetics, quality, and expertise. And the company's local office ensured the project ran seamlessly and consistently consulted with the client to ensure the company's pleasure with the specialized roof, now and for the long-term.

■ What green-roof needs did DIADEM® USA fulfill?

F.J.: TRA had worked with this company years prior to imple-



◀ Everything's coming up green: The wavelike design of hearty plants continues on the tech company's roof, bifurcated every once in awhile by geometric stepping stones for utilitarian and visual appeal.

The courtyard of the tech company completed a few years ago as phase #1. ▲

Designed to look like a haphazard field of wildflowers, this exciting expanse of a burst of colors is anything but randomly planned. ▼

menting the green-roof project. We knew this green-roof phase of the work would be exciting because this company that prides itself on out-of-the-box thinking not only welcomes innovation, but expects it, with an extra dose of creativity and influence. Starting from a place of needing to push the design envelope in projects more enthusiasm and purpose into a project, and DIADEM® USA more than fit that bill. To stand atop an expansive roof and observe people moving in and using the entire interior and exterior spaces of the company's campus allowed us to break into layers the various design elements from which to select for the company's green roof.

■ What were some design challenges that you overcame?

F.J.: We wanted our design to be active, not stagnant. So the green-roof plant material had been arranged to show waves, flowing across the roof, much like the waves of the ocean. We incorporated sedum tiles and, within them, planted perennials and grasses. The sedum tiles in particular were a great solution because they offer a pre-grown vegetation component that provides an immediate visual -- and ecological -- effect, similar to what sod does for lawns. The se-

dum tiles incorporate a variety of sedums, each of which met a specific aesthetic goal as they meander across the green-roof scape. Some are more shade-tolerant; others offer color in every season; still others supply evergreen coverage; and still others come in a variety of colors that maximize the natural palette. Further, the issue of ongoing green-roof management is key. For example, here in the Pacific Northwest, without a living document to ensure proper project maintenance, companies could end up -- over time, and unwittingly -- growing large conifers on their green roofs. Ideally, projects would have the component this one did and still does: An entire team of professionals --

including designers, installers, project management, and environmental experts -- to ensure long-term care of the entire landscape.

■ Why has the green-roof industry expanded into the United States?

F.J.: In this country, knowledge of sustainable practices generally and benefits of green roofs have been on the rise. Companies like DIADEM® that have been providing green-roof solutions within the European market have existed for decades; the U.S. has now jumped on the green-roof bandwagon. And here in the Pacific Northwest, we might be ahead of the curve entirely. □



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