



DIADEM® 150 GREEN ROOF



**David Grant,
Associate Partner at
ZGF Architects, LLP,
managed the green
roof project**

■ When it came time to expand Seattle Children's hospital, leadership selected ZGF Architects of Seattle (the firm also has offices in Portland, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and New York) to design the LEED Gold registered "Building Hope" addition to the hospital's Seattle campus. ZGF turned to DIADEM® USA to engineer a roof that would not only provide an esthetically pleasing retreat, but also complement the overall sustainability goals of the expansion.

■ Do you have prior experience working with Seattle Children's?

D.G.: ZGF has had the opportunity to collaborate with Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) on a variety of projects for more than a decade. Both ZGF and Seattle Children's share an understanding of the important role landscape can play in a healthcare setting. SCH is exemplary in that regard – especially under the leadership of grounds and sustainability manager, Jeff Hughes. With Jeff's influence, Seattle Children's has become an arboretum-like campus with a collection of lush outdoor spaces that provide respite and recreations for patients, visitors, staff, and neighbors. The grounds at SCH are so remarkable that local horticulture students from the University of Washington often tour the campus. I vividly recall visiting SCH while I was pursuing a healing garden design certificate from UW. For me, it has been particularly meaningful to take part in the design of Children's first green roof on their Seattle campus.

■ You earned your degree in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University and a certificate in healing garden design from the University of Washington, do you have a special green roof affinity?

D.G.: Creating a healing landscape in an urban environment can be especially chal-

lenging. We are increasingly looking to rooftops for opportunities to utilize space while continuing to evolve sustainable strategies. This was a unique opportunity to design a green roof for patients and staff in a healthcare environment. In a children's hospital setting particularly there are many patients and families who spend long periods of time away from home and their personal outdoor spaces. The green roof will provide year-round spaces for healing, refuge, and socializing.

■ Was Children's convinced about the benefits of the green roofs?

D.G.: Yes, absolutely. Jeff Hughes and SCH leadership have long been advocates for therapeutic and sustainable landscapes. ZGF provided technical expertise to support SCH's vision for a healing space that will provide respite from very challenging situations their patients, families and staff endure. SCH is continually enhancing their grounds for patients, families, staff, and the surrounding community. Research has proven the therapeutic benefits of providing patients with access and views to the outdoors. In addition to the globally recognized medical care they provide patients inside their walls, SCH is committed to creating an outdoor environment that aspires to heal.

■ Were you able to demonstrate an overall stormwater management, energy or life cycle savings? If so, what piqued Children's interest the most?

D.G.: SCH is aware of the opportunities for stormwater management, energy and life

cycle savings that green roofs present – they are a sophisticated client with an understanding and appreciation for green roofs and landscape design. There was not a great need for education with this particular client.

■ Why choose a DIADEM® green roof?

D.G.: DIADEM® provides a unique array of specialized solutions for the problems that are often encountered when designing a green roof, including: edge restraint, drainage, fall protection, and tree guying. DIADEM® also offered flexibility working with the client on a special plant palette for a variety of solar exposures.

■ What was the greatest challenge on this particular building's roof and how did DIADEM® help you to overcome it?

D.G.: SCH wished to add a few shrubs and small trees to the roof. We had concerns about keeping the trees upright. DIADEM® developed a specialty tree guying system that allowed us to do something more than a typical green roof palette. The custom tree guying system was developed in conjunction with SCH. We appreciated that the president of DIADEM® North America came out to meet with SCH and offered very personalized and attentive service to meet the needs of our specific project parameters. DIADEM® also afforded us access to some of the best practices that have been time-tested and proven in Europe. □

ZGF Architects LLP is No. 24 on the Top 100 Architecture Firms in US by Architect Magazine.

