

Habitat World

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With the help of a dozen employees from Delta Air Lines last fall, Habitat New York City constructed its first "green" roof. The 2,400-square-foot green roof — covered with a thin layer of living plants — sits atop a newly constructed co-op building in the South Bronx, which will be home to 12 Habitat partner families among 50 affordable units.

Lined with interlocking trays of low-maintenance sedum plants, the green roof represents an increasingly popular sustainable building technique, insulating the building and helping to reduce urban heat island effect. With a protected roof membrane installed below the greenery, this "living roof" is set to last 200 percent to 300 percent longer than a traditional roof and acts as both a filter and storm water management system, decreasing the need for separate systems. ▲



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