

ABN AMRO



Barrett Company



Project Name: ABN AMRO
Year: 2005
Owner: LaSalle Street Capital
Location: Chicago, IL, USA
Building Type: Commercial
Greenroof Type: Extensive, Test/Research
Greenroof System: Single Source Provider
Roof Size: 74700 sq.ft.
Roof Slope: 1%
Access: Accessible, Open to Public
Submitted by: Barrett Company

Designers/Manufacturers of Record:

Greenroof System: Timothy M. Barrett, President, Barrett Company
Senior Associate: Rebecca Callcott AIA, DE
STEFANO AND PARTNERS LTD
President: Christy Webber, Christy Webber Landscape
Building Owners: ABN-AMRO, LaSalle Street Capital
Landscape Architect: Daniel Weinbach & Partners, Ltd.



The green roof was built primarily for use by employees of ABN AMRO. It was designed to be an occupied green roof with 50% planted area and 50% paver area with plantings which are a mix of trees, perennial plants, and annual flowers in planters of mixed heights. The lawn area was planted with sod. The trees were planted fairly large and have grown quickly, so the green roof looks mature and gives a true garden feel. It is readily available for all employees to take advantage of as well as contributing to the overall greening of Chicago. With Mayor Daley's stated objective of making Chicago America's greenest city, this building has contributed towards making Chicago a cleaner, healthier, more energy-efficient environment for Chicago citizens. From earliest times, human beings have been affected by their association with green environments as a viable treatment method for "clearing their heads," reducing stress, relieving tension, "breathing easier," or just finding a moment of peace in their daily routine. Finding or recreating the "natural world" in a densely populated area is a gift to all who are exposed to the restorative properties of nature. Francis Bacon (1625) eloquently made this case in his Essays on Gardens, when he said, "God Almighty first planted a garden and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures."

ABN AMRO was designed purposefully with accessibility and recreational use by all of the employees that work in the building. The impervious surfaces of cities such as concrete, bituminous roofing and the wide variety of hard surfaces soak up solar energy and reradiate it as thermal infrared radiation otherwise known as "the heat island effect." As a result of this, cities are warmer both day and night more so than the surrounding suburban areas. This can have profoundly negative effects on air quality in the city. Green roofs can reduce this effect and ABN AMRO is now a part of the change for the better of the citizens of Chicago. ABN AMRO is participating in Chicago's program for green roofs to help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff originally attributed to urbanized areas generating considerably more run-off than natural areas of the same size due to a greater percentage of impervious surfaces which impede water infiltration.

The "Greenroof-Roofscape®" waterproofing assembly, supplied by GRHC Corporate Member, Barrett Company, consisted of 215 mils thick Barrett "Ram Tough 250" rubberized asphalt membrane, polyester reinforcement, SBS protection course, 60 psi extruded polystyrene insulation, and a root barrier. The green roof will preserve the integrity of the roof membrane by eliminating damage from the sun's ultraviolet light, eliminating thermal shock and all mechanical drainage. The monolithic rubberized asphalt waterproofing membrane can withstand constant water immersed conditions and hydrostatic pressures while providing long term physical and chemical stability in an environment subjected to water, fertilizer, root growth and chlorides.

74,700 square feet was covered with planting media called PM35 - General Purpose Amended Top Soil Blend, provided by Midwest Trading. The Plant List includes trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcover. Various annuals and seasonal plantings have also been installed. The irrigation system is two styles of emitters: The pop up sprinklers irrigate the perennials, annual display, and turf areas with a spray. The remaining tree, shrub and groundcover beds were irrigated using a drip hose.

The maintenance required: Spring consists of an initial clean up after the winter months followed by summer weekly service which begins in April and ends at the end of September; lastly, Fall clean up starts in September and lasts until the end of November.