

dwell

Ground-Up LEED
for \$200,000

Scandinavian Style
35 Ways to Decorate
on a Budget

AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

Cheap and Chic

Great Design for Less

Best Chairs
From \$29
To \$250

dwell.

April 2011

\$5.99 US





Green Roof

On all three aboveground levels of the house, outdoor spaces feature as prominently as indoor ones. The backyard is lined with tiered concrete boxes for planting vegetables; the modest top floor—which houses the master bedroom—has a deck wrapping three sides; and in the middle, a 770-square-foot green roof extends off the living area.

Sedums, perennials, and herbs thrive in four to eight inches of soil, enjoying direct southern exposure tempered by shade provided by the overhanging master bedroom. Two bedrooms on the second floor are for Rocco, the couple's newborn son, and they hope another child within a few years. "We wanted the children to be able to come out of their rooms and see nature," says John. ■

Your Turn...

There are many ways to create a green roof, and deciding on an approach depends on where you live and how supportive your house's roof structure is. Homes in snowy areas generally have roofing that is made to support a lot of water weight, but on the West Coast and in the South, most aren't designed for the weight of a garden.

Direct Planting:

Directly applying four to eight inches of soil in a blanket across the roof means that if your roof can support it, you can grow not just

sedum—the small plants typical of green roofs—but also plants with deeper roots like herbs and edibles.

Planter Boxes or Raised Beds:

Choose this option if your roofing material contains questionable toxins or if you can't put soil directly on the roof. You still need to be able to support a fair bit of weight for this method.

Hydroponics:

Planting a hydroponic garden means you avoid the weight of soil, though water is still quite heavy. Numerous edibles can be grown hydroponically.