



idFX

FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

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in

touch

FABRICS THAT HAVE TO BE FELT

LIGHT ART
SING THE BLUES
RAISING THE ROOF



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ABOVE LEFT the design for this contemporary roof garden was created by Jane Rodney **ABOVE RIGHT** this roof garden, by Peter Killen, is over an underground car park and services a group of apartments which look into the courtyard

areas are, look for frost pockets, go there in the day, go there in the night time and always have a drainage plan,' he says. After a downpour in a terrestrial garden the rain soaks into the earth – but on a roof it needs somewhere else to go.

Roof gardens are by no means a maintenance-free option. 'You still have to prune, clear up leaves and jet wash paving or decking,' points out Reed. 'If anything, it's harder because everything has to be carried up 10 flights of stairs or up in the lift.' And of course, planting must be tended to. 'Plants in pots and containers need far more water than if they were in the ground. This is compounded by the wind which desiccates roof garden plants rapidly,' warns Sturgeon. The solution, he says, is to 'get an outside tap and maybe automatic irrigation fitted'.

Despite these provisos, garden designers are not restricted in terms of what they can achieve in roof spaces. 'Clients can have almost any

feature,' says David Stevens. 'Water can be delightful, lighting will be great in the evenings, and sound and light systems can often work together. You can create amazing gardens.'

A scheme completed in April by Sturgeon demonstrates just what is possible. Located in Docklands, the almost circular garden, affording panoramic views of London, features a hot tub, putting green, fire pit with gas flames, barbeque and planting to echo the snaking Thames below.

At the opposite end of the scale are communal roof garden schemes such as the one created for Chepstow Place in London, a residential development by Regalian. Randle Siddeley Associates and its landscape division Siddeley Landscape Designs designed and built a modern courtyard, loosely based on traditional Japanese aesthetics, and featuring contemporary materials such as stainless steel, stone and concrete.

Le Corbusier believed that homeowners should have a garden on

the roof as well as at ground level. All well and good when land was plentiful, but not necessarily achievable in the 21st century. Roof gardens take on an even more important role where traditional gardens are unavailable. Garden designers enjoy the challenge of working on such spaces, and the results speak for themselves – garden rooms with a view **idFX**

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