

Rooftop gardens, a brilliant initiative

Understanding the need for action

The sneakiest colonization is that which passes unnoticed, but which gradually encroaches on the quality of life because it reduces the access to the resources necessary for the survival. This colonization is that of concrete on the green spaces of cities, tar that grinds arable land and makes urban dwellers dependent on a vegetable production on which the average citizen has no control. The solution to this, conquer all the urban spaces in which seeds can be sown, and thus regain control over the quality of the foods found on the plates. This is the challenge of the project "Roof gardens, new spaces for the community", conceived by Alternatives, a Canadian non-governmental international solidarity organization.

Why roofs?

The difficulty of urban agriculture lies in the fact that generally the spaces in the cities are optimized to bring the most monetary benefits, so they will be used to build residential or commercial buildings. Building gardens is therefore not a priority for the city because taxes can not be levied on tomato and celery plants, nor is it a priority for investors because the only benefits you get from the gardens are healthy foods and banks do not yet accept this kind of deposits. That's why the designers of the project we talked about had the ingenious idea of using spaces that do not serve as roofs for anyone to grow life.

What is it exactly?

This project consists mainly of the creation of bins in which can be put ground, a reserve of water to preserve a little freshness for the plants. This process is effective for plants that will be overexposed to the sun like plants on a roof because it collects rainwater and eliminates excess so that the plants do not rot. The bins are not built just to recuperate the lost spaces of the cities, but they are also designed to facilitate gardening and thus create, in city no longer connected with the land, the desire to become urban farmers. That's why the plants that grow in these gardening bins do not need to be watered every day, their maintenance is easier because the bins are of a height that allows not to get back pain.

Besides for people who do not have too much confidence in their gardening skills, there is the possibility to start just with a fern and to evolve as the insecurity goes away. For those who do not have access to a roof, there is always the alternative to put the bins on terraces, house borders, on steps, in brief on any unused space that can be exploited.

With such a project, the inhabitants of the cities have no excuses to justify the poor quality of the foods that fill their plates and it is time that the spaces Greens reconquer their territory.

Sources: Guide to making your own garden on the roof, Alternatives and Project "Gardens on the roofs"

