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MOSS GREEN ROOF INSTALLED — FIRST IN U.S.

Drought-resistant, shade-loving moss requires just half the growing medium and fewer roofing layers than a typical green roof

New Hope, PA, April 11, 2010 - Green roofing and moss experts installed a residential green roof using only moss fragments as the vegetation, instead of the typical sedum cuttings. Because moss has no true roots and is drought resistant, the installation required just half the thickness (and weight) of growing medium typically used to provide moisture-retention depth for sedum or other plant roots. There was no need for a root barrier layer, further reducing the amount of material on the roof, and enhancing its “green” value.

Charlie Miller, President of Roofscapes, Inc., consulted with Moss Acres owner, Al Benner, as they and a crew of installers laid down a “retain and drain” layer, made of nylon core felt bonded to a polymer geotextile fabric, on top of an EPDM waterproof membrane, then spread a layer of growing medium. Miller, a pioneer in the green roof industry, then carefully calibrated the depth of the growing medium to 1.5”, which is 1.5” to 3” less than that necessary to maintain typical green roof plants. Benner then raked a water-retention gel powder into the top 1/2” of the growing medium, before spreading small moss fragments (1/4” to 1/2”) by hand over the entire 550 square foot roof area to achieve a 75% coverage rate.

“Moss presents a new look for green roofs in general and a new vegetation solution for green roofs in shady areas,” says Miller. “It also simplifies the number and types of layers of green roof components, thereby reducing the weight load. It will be interesting to see how the moss works, especially compared to traditional green roof plants,” he added.

Benner, whose company provided the moss, explains, “Moss is not generally considered for green roofs but is actually ideal for five reasons: it is lightweight, it retains 10 times its weight in water, is drought-resistant once established, it thrives in shade produced by building shadows, and it grows within three to six months from fragments.” Moss will attach itself with thread-like rhizomes to the growing medium, and will begin to grow within the tiny crevices, which can be like micro-climates. Within a few months, moss will then spread and knit together on top of the medium.

The growing medium was a semi-extensive mix of 20% organic and 80% inorganic elements. The moss was a mix of two species: hypnum imponens (sheet moss), a low-

growing, common moss that spreads easily, and dicranum scoparium (rock cap or broom moss), more of a clump moss and one with a bit more texture and color. The moss, which was dormant after being professionally dried, came to the site pre-chopped — or *fragmented*. Moss can reproduce by cloning from these small fragments. As with any new green roof installation, keeping the plants watered for several weeks will be imperative for quick and proper establishment. Benner and his Moss Acres crew will provide maintenance throughout the summer months as needed.

About Moss Acres LLC:

For ten years, Moss Acres has been providing four species of live moss, plus moss growing accessories, to landscape architects and designers, garden enthusiasts, and more recently, the green roof industry. It also manufactures the Moss Milkshake™, a pre-packaged mix of dried moss, water-retention and acidifying agents, to garden and gift centers and nurseries.

About Roofscapes, Inc.:

Roofscapes, Inc. is a green roof engineering, design and installation firm with expertise in civil engineering, roof gardening, roofing and waterproofing. Since its inception about a decade ago, Roofscapes, Inc. has been committed to developing performance-based specifications for green roofs designed to perform. Roofscapes selects and sources products that will best optimize the performance and aesthetic of the entire green roof system, and provides both design consulting or design/build services.

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