

International Green Roof Association Global Networking for Green Roofs



Project Data

Project:	Ronald McDonald Hundertwasser House
Client:	Ronald McDonald House Charities
Location (City, Country):	Essen, Germany
Year of Construction:	2005
Roof Size:	1,200 sqm
Slope:	1-35°
Building Type:	Residential, shared green space
Green Roof Type:	Intensive
Vegetation:	Grasses, shrubs, trees
Architect/Designer:	Heinz Springmann Friedensreich Hundertwasser
Contractor:	Dipl.-Ing. Jürgen Quindeau, GRÜN+DACH, Heiligenhaus

Green Roofs meet Fast Food: The Ronald McDonald Hundertwasser House in Essen/Germany

In the Essen Gruga Park, a very special building was constructed last year. The Ronald McDonald House was built as a faithful reproduction of the last design of the famous Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. A special highlight is the accessible intensive Green Roof (950 sqm) with grass, herbs, flowers, shrubs and trees.

The planning and construction of the Green Roof were a special challenge for anyone involved in the building project. After all, the landscaped rim of the „volcano crater“, which is 8-9 m in width, and rises from ground level up to a height of 15 m. The roof slopes are up to 35° and, therefore, at the upper limit for Green Roofs. In order to support the occurring thrust forces, state-of-the-art green roof technology was applied. Special drainage elements, anti-erosion nets and shear barriers ensure that the artist's dreams do not start "slipping".

Even the selection of plants stands out clearly from simple extensive Green Roofs. On a substrate layer of recycled clay tiles with mature compost and clay (at least 500-600 mm), 50 trees and 130 shrubs were planted. Maple, mountain ash, hornbeam, lime, and different fruit trees will form a colourful mixed forest one day. To guarantee lasting stability for the trees, the root balls were secured with a special underground anchoring. A special advantage: the tree fixing is invisible and at the same time maintenance-free. For the lower vegetation, a seed mixture of "Flowering Meadow" and lawn was chosen. Combined with paths and terraces, the roof area offers to the house guests a "nature experience" without having to travel long distances.

Nature + Architecture = Beauty – the Ronald McDonald Hundertwasser Haus in Essen is a perfect example for how art, architecture, and ecology can support and complement each other.

A detailed description of the project can be found in the IGRA newsletter Winter 2006 (www.igra-world.com -> Downloads).

