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Rooftop Garden and Landscaping on the Roof of Skyline Plaza

Skyline Park is a 1-acre park that is located on the top deck of a 6-floor parking garage in Fort Wayne, IN and to date is the largest rooftop garden in the state of Indiana. The park is available to the residents of the various organizations that reside in the Skyline Plaza Building along with the residences of the Skyline Towers apartment building that will be constructed later this year.



Plan:

Skyline Park was designed by Design Collaborative to provide varying scales of interaction between public and private use. The park is a place to find urban respite with natural grass, raised herb and flower gardens, a fountain and a variety of seating options. Design Collaborative needed a solution for the various design features involved with the rooftop garden project. They worked with Reading Rock, one of Allan Block's production partners, on the color and block selection and quickly found that the Allan Block products had the quality and variety needed for all aspects of the project that included raised garden beds and a fountain feature that was designed for a dramatic effect.

Project Information

Name: Skyline Plaza Park
Fort Wayne, IN

Product: AB Classic

Size: 1,000 ft² (93 m²)

Designer: Design Collaborative
Fort Wayne, IN

Wall Builder: Clounie
Landscaping, Inc. Huntington, IN

Allan Block Manufacturer:
Reading Rock
Cincinnati, OH



Structural Foam and Drainage Base



Waterproof Membrane Install



Allan Block Raised Planter Install

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Design:

The desired use of the park was requested to be for corporate parties and events, lunches, recreation and relaxation. According to Nathan Woods, an architect with Design Collaborative, “This was a rare case as there were no changes to the original design”. The design offered an open space for the larger events, but also included the more intimate settings that were created with the raised garden beds and seating arrangements. Allan Block Classics were chosen for the raised garden beds and the fountain surround because of the color, texture and for the versatility of the hollow core. By having a hollow core, the blocks are lighter than solid blocks and the weight of the garden and water features had to be taken into account. Behind the wall a plantable soil was used in combination with structural foam to limit the weight of the garden beds and fountain. The plantable soil would be comprised of lightweight mineral aggregates and organic components



Concept Drawing

One of the design challenges was creating a space for the office type use while also appealing to the aesthetic requirements for residential use once the apartment building is complete. Design Collaborative had to come up with a design that created an “urban plaza rest spot” along with creating “places to hide that felt more residential and enclosed” in nature.

Build:

As the garden is located on the top of the 6th floor of the parking garage “over 40 tons or 1000 ft² of Allan Block (93 m²), 650 yards of soil (500 m³), and all of the additional landscaping materials were hoisted to the rooftop by crane,” stated Jim Kramer from Clounie Landscaping, Inc. To start the installation of the garden the entire deck was covered by a protective waterproof membrane and green roof drainage components to manage the water that will be needed to keep the landscaping alive and growing.





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Once the membrane was in place, care had to be taken so as not to damage it during the installation of the Allan Block walls and other garden features. “To install the Allan Block walls the first layer of block had to be elevated with clean aggregate to accommodate the 8 inch (200 mm) variation in roof slope and to assure level walls.” During the installation of the Allan Block walls the “Allan Block product had to be custom cut where the angles were not 90 degrees” stated Jim.



“The result is a serene green space for visitors to enjoy a stroll down the walkways or to linger on a seat wall,” stated Jim. The flexibility of Allan Block’s hollow core allowed for many design features (fountain, seat wall and raised gardens) to easily be accounted for while also providing an economical and aesthetic appeal for the owner and the plaza's intended users.