

# Washington Mutual Center Green Roof

## Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

The 17th floor Washington Mutual Bank roof garden is a green roof that is a vital social space and the civic heart of the bank's downtown campus. Rather than meet the City of Seattle's minimum open space requirements, the garden's usable area was enlarged threefold to provide decks and pathways that showcase views across Elliott Bay, while integrating elements that tell a story about the bank, its local origins, and the community it serves.

An understated feature of the roof garden is how it combines usable public space for human enjoyment with a variety of green roof benefits, including urban heat island effect reduction, stormwater retention, and native and drought-tolerant planting. This project demonstrates that sustainable landscape roof design need not be limited to extensive low-maintenance green roofs, but that it can also be practical, social, symbolic, and contemporary.

The landscape architect for the project developed design concepts for the roof 17th floor roof deck in close collaboration with the architect and project engineers. Curtain walls and seating at the building edge further connect the garden to the interior lounge creating a seamless indoor-outdoor experience. Collaboration with architects, interior designers, and structural engineers resulted in an outdoor fireplace, boulder outcroppings, and windscreens integrated fully into a landscape and building design.

As a result the garden has already become the most vital social and event spaces for the client's central downtown campus. Planting, pathways, and wood decking were designed to symbolically represent the diverse landscapes of Washington State. With almost two-thirds of the deck planted with drought-tolerant and native plants, the 17th floor garden has already gained the reputation as one of Seattle's largest green roofs.

## Project Resources

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

**Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg**

### PROJECT TEAM

Chris Phillips, *Partner-in-Charge*; Joseph Fry, *Project Manager*; Wayne Turner; Kelty McKinnon; Matthew Thomson; Stephanie Redlich; Kirsten Jones

### Birmingham Wood

Sandra Moore, *Principal*; Annabel Vaughn

### Turkington Associates

Rod Turkington

### ARCHITECT

**NBBJ**

David Yuan, *Principal*; Randy Benedict; Robert Lane; John Adkins; Dave Leptich; Mindy Levine; Daniel Ayers; Melanie Taylor; Megan Strawn

### CLIENT

**Washington Mutual Bank**

Kent Wiegel; Matt Griffin; Lane Premo

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

**Sellen Construction**

### LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

**Teufel Nursery**

### STONE MASON

**Star Masonry**

### GLASS ABACUS

**Joel Berman Glass**

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

**Magnusson Klemencic Associates**

### CIVIL ENGINEERING

**Coughlin Porter Lundeen**

### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING:

**Abacus Engineering**

### ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING:

**Coffman Engineers**