

A Garden Shed, A Cozy Workspace

Turns out the ideal "home office" may be in your backyard. Remove the lawnmower, weed wacker and tool collection from your garden shed and escape to a new world just a few steps outside your back door. The British have honored the shed for thousands of years. While the resurgence of cottage gardens continues to sweep the nation, now they embrace a new trend -- shed-scapism.



Photo credit: Pixababy

Artists and writers seek refuge here, a separate building that still feels like home. Tools are replaced with laptops, and creative flow permeates this cozy habitat. In Oxford, Ted Dewan writes and illustrates Bing children's cartoons in his shed, tucked away in a garden. He tells BBC, "In a nation where the headquarters of its highest office are in a nondescript terraced house called Number 10, it seems Brits may work best in an approachable, non-intimidating environment."

World-famous authors Roald Dahl and Dylan Thomas discovered this escape in the 1950s. They wrote renowned pieces in their sheds with Dahl known for his children's stories and Thomas for his poetry.

Surrounded by his young children, Dahl could not find a peaceful place to write in his own home. He visited Thomas's "word-splashed hut" on the edge of a cliff in Carmarthenshire where Dahl found the answer to

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We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...
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Archi-fact:

Many people attend architectural school and decide to move on to other careers.

Three of Pink Floyd's five founding members, Waters, Mason, and Wright met while studying architecture at Regent Street Polytechnic in London, now known as the University of Westminster. They have attributed inspiration for the iconic ballad "The Wall" to their time at Westminster.

Iconic Building Of The Month

This month's Iconic Building is The Chicago City Hall Green Roof:

Chicago City Hall Green Roof is a beautiful science project. Its garden rustles in the breeze atop an 11-story office building. Completed in 2001, a team of architects, structural engineers, ecologists and contractors came together to create it. Architectural firm William McDonough & Partners contributed and Conservation Design Forum designed the garden. The 1,885-square-meter roof garden is covered with 20,000 herbaceous plants of 150 varieties. In response to the urban heat island effect, this project is part of an EPA study to improve air quality.

During Chicago's 1995 heat wave, a number of lives were lost. The City realized one solution was to establish green roofs around their concrete jungle. Studies completed in the first summer showed that the roof surface temperature reduced by 70 degrees Fahrenheit and the air reduced by 15 Fahrenheit. The space retains 75% of a one-inch rainfall before stormwater runs off into the sewers.

Passersby can look up at this lush landscape, a green space that is not meant for public access but does wonders for the community's quality of life. It won the ASLA Merit Award for Design 2002, IL-ASLA Honor Award for Design 2002 and WWF National Earth Hour City Challenge 2014. Its success inspired Chicago's Green Roof Initiative, which established 200 roof gardens (and growing).

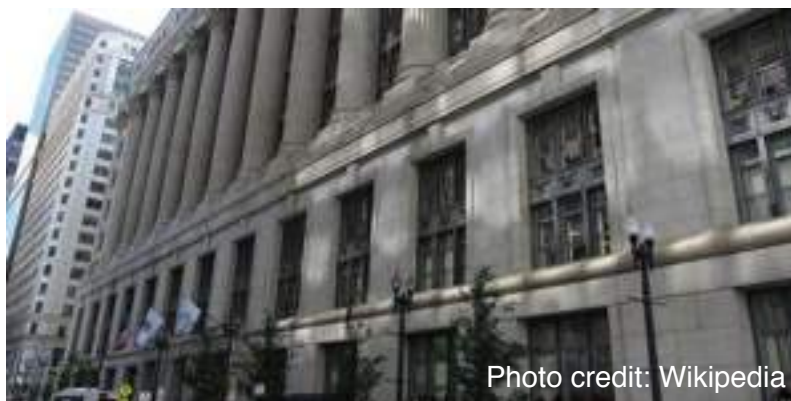


Photo credit: Wikipedia

Chicago City Hall from the side walk.

*Roof top
gardens
on
Chicago
City Hall
Photo
credit:
Wikipedia*



Archi-Quote

As indicated in the Archi-Fact column, many people start out in architecture and move on to other careers. This is a line from Pink Floyd's song "The Happiest Days of our Lives" from the album "The Wall".

"When we grew up and went to school
There were certain teachers who would
Hurt the children in any way they could"

"OOF!" [someone being hit]

"By pouring their derision
Upon anything we did
And exposing every weakness
However carefully hidden by the kids"

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his frustrations. He created nearly an exact replica of this writing shed, deeming it his “little nest.”

Of course, each artist is inspired in different ways. Dahl huddled in dim light, whereas Thomas looked out off a cliff through large windows. In Dahl’s nest, he surrounded himself with inspirational quotes and photos. His desk was covered with boiled sweets and mementos such as the hip bone he kept after a hip replacement. Thomas preferred a simpler “dÉcor”.

Nowadays, fellow creatives are catching on in the U.K. There is even a vote for the Shed of the Year on

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Two story shed in the UK. Photo credit: Wikipedia

ShedBlog.Co.Uk. The competition showcases many labors of love. So, if you’re seeking an oasis, consider creating your own. Your ideal workspace doesn’t have to be big. Sometimes all you need is some privacy.

Archi-Speak

Can you find all these signs of sustainability?

Composting Farms Recycling
Sheds Trading

Z D D Q L T E U M H U I W H A
 B N R E C Y C L I N G B S W J
 N B S O W N K M F D W Q V R X
 S H H S F W S M R A F Y F F J
 Z T E A I G V B A C B H T E V
 P K D H Q B N D B V Y C J T U
 O T S V G U L I E W R W L Z N
 O A X S R O A H J P C X O D X
 C Q P I B N E H T E D E K T P
 X Z Z Z Q M X N P V I G S J J
 C O M P O S T I N G I Q D E H
 R T E M E H Y K X Y G A T V W
 G V N C T R A D I N G Y R H M
 A A Y K Q J Q C N L E F D X O
 C N T Q Z A I U Z N Z D O B A

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character “M” heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like “M” on your side. Each month the “Ask M” column will answer a reader’s question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month’s question is...**

We would like to build a roof deck on our townhouse but also want a green roof garden. it possible to have both a roof deck and a roof garden on the same roof?

Janice M.

Janice,

Absolutely, in fact we are designing one right now. The most cost effective way of doing this is the suspend the roof deck above the roofing material so that the same type of roofing can be used through out.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com ,and in the subject line type in “Ask M”. We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone’s satisfaction.

Want to speak with the Architect

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Do you know the legal consequences of starting a project without approvals?

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About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

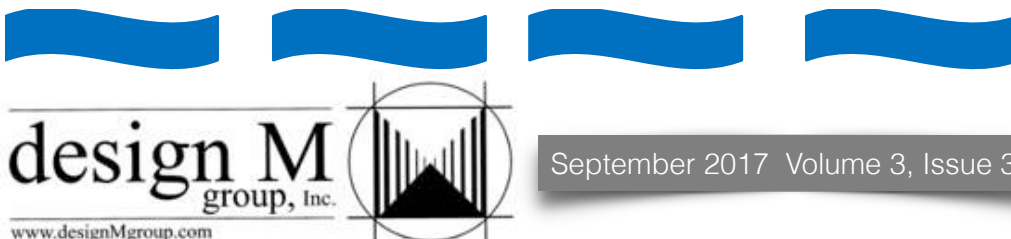
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Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.

Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.

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