

From Lush Gardens to Bird Havens: 7 Homes Around the World Capped With ‘Living’ Rooftops

A living rooftop teeming with birds and pollinators can make your home a more vibrant, healthier place to live.

By EMMA REYNOLDS



Oil Nut Bay

Redefining what it means to live harmoniously with nature, living rooftops are first and foremost a concept and practice that prioritizes sustainability. Whether in the countryside or in the heart of an urban landscape, living rooftops create a natural oasis that connects you to nature. Not just beautiful spaces, living roofs offer benefits like energy-efficient insulation, stormwater management, the absorption of carbon dioxide, providing habitats for insects and birds, and facilitating bees and other pollinators. Additional advantages include reducing heating and cooling costs, improving air quality, and increasing psychological well-being. Indeed, form and function coexist on living rooftops.

“Green roofs are more than a decorative element—they’re a powerful tool to address climate challenges like urban heat, flooding, loss of biodiversity, and poor air quality,” says June Altamura of [Living Roofs](#), an expert-led design and construction company specializing in landscape on structures. “While a typical roof’s single purpose is to keep weather elements outside of the building, a living roof does that and more. A green roof covers the waterproofing membrane with drainage layers, growing medium, and vegetation, thereby protecting the roofing membrane, extending the lifespan of the roof, and acting as nature-based infrastructure.”

[Eco-conscious](#) and biophilic living—design principles that aim to [incorporate nature](#) and connect homeowners to their natural surroundings—is on the rise, and a living rooftop is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to make that happen. *Robb Report* has rounded up seven spectacular homes from Hawaii and California to Turks and Caicos and Stockholm to showcase a variety of swoon-worthy homes with living rooftops.

Turks and Caicos



Villa 10 at The Summit, listed for \$7 million, is setting a new standard for eco-conscious living in the Caribbean. This curved modern villa features a plethora of sustainable technologies, including solar panels, a Tesla Powerwall system, and a beautiful living roof that blends seamlessly into the natural landscape. Not just for aesthetic purposes, the living roof is a natural insulator and keeps the interiors cool year-round. It also helps preserve the local ecosystem as a habitat for native species, including birds and butterflies.

Photo : East West Development Ltd.

British Virgin Islands



Located on the exclusive private island of Oil Nut Bay in the British Virgin Islands, the \$27.5 million property called Halo was built with an organic design to be in harmony with the land. Halo, set on 2.4 acres of lushly planted property, has a distinctly modern design inspired by its natural surroundings. The curvaceous design and organic materials used inside and around the exterior of the house reflect the sweeping curves of the surrounding beaches and hillsides. Planted terraces wrap around the home, and each room captures endless ocean views. The highlight, however, is the living green rooftop that neatly blends into the hillside, both brimming with native plants and wildflowers.

Photo : Oil Nut Bay

Maui, Hawaii



This \$7.5 million oceanfront cottage on Maui's North Shore offers contemporary, eco-conscious living in an idyllic subtropical location. There's a single-level main home and a detached office/garage, each of which has polished concrete floors, high ceilings, and high-end fittings and finishes. The main house has a green roof installed to help cool the house at night. The home is self-sustaining with its own PV power supply, water catchment, and a shared well. Everyday feels like you're waking up in a dream; there are beautiful lanais, vast expanses of lawn, and never-ending ocean views.

Photo : Hawaii Life

Los Angeles



It's not just the Michael Jordan-inspired sports court or the movie theater with its Rolls-Royce starlight ceiling and candy lounge that make this extravagant \$30 million L.A. estate stand out. For design-savvy nature lovers, the home exudes life and vitality thanks to massive walls covered in undulating patterns of moss, a signature of the home's developer, Ramtin Ray Nosrati. Both walls were made with four varieties of moss and were assembled by hand. Outside, the hillsides around the home feature native landscaping and towering trees. Should the gigantic living walls within the house not be enough to satisfy a die-hard biophilic, there's also a 3,000-square-foot landscaped roof deck with a putting green.

Photo : Nils Timm of Nils Timm Visuals

New York



There's no better place to incorporate a living rooftop than in the heart of a city, and this 5,500-square-foot duplex penthouse in New York City's TriBeCa neighborhood, listed for \$18.295 million, spills out to 2,500 square feet of verdant outdoor space. The lush landscaping features rows of hedges, numerous trees, and other plantings that add elements of nature and privacy. The multilevel rooftop oasis incorporates an outdoor kitchen, plenty of space for alfresco dining and lounging, and a hot tub. This rooftop really is the perfect compromise between city and country living.

Photo : Interior Marketing Group

Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Listed for over \$2.8 million, this home in the Canadian city of Calgary is not your conventional home. It's more like a functional work of art. The angular home is approached along a travertine ramp that leads to the home's entrance. Inside, the open floor plan showcases walls of windows, while the exquisite detailing and materials include oak plank floors, rich millwork, a Rundle stone island in the kitchen, and Ritz-Carlton-inspired bathrooms. The home is topped by a distinctive, geometric living roof, from which there are panoramic views of the mountains. There are also interior courtyard gardens that add a bit more nature to this futuristic-style home.

Photo : Sona Visual

Stockholm, Sweden



Villa Solberget, in the affluent Stocksund suburb near Stockholm, Sweden, is perched at the area's highest point with panoramic lake views. The neo-modernist home is nestled into the natural landscape and shielded by towering trees and native plants. There are three floors with a total of six bedrooms, which makes it perfect for large families. Amenities include a mosaic-tiled pool, a pergola with a glass roof, saunas in the bathrooms, and a penthouse with glass walls that slide open to the landscaped roof terrace. Award-winning landscape architect Ulf Nordfjell helped conceptualize the vibrant living rooftop, which features multiple grassy areas for an added dose of nature and tranquility.

Photo : Sweden Sotheby's International Realty