Beech Street Studios

728 A & B N. Beech Street Portland, OR 97227

These two studios are essentially "detached bedrooms" to the Duplex on the same property. They are 200 square feet on the first floor and about 90 square feet in the upper loft. Covering each of these small buildings is a pitch roof starting at eight feet from the ground and reaching to sixteen feet tall, resulting in a very steep roof.

On this new building Eco Roof project we decided to leave it to the experts.

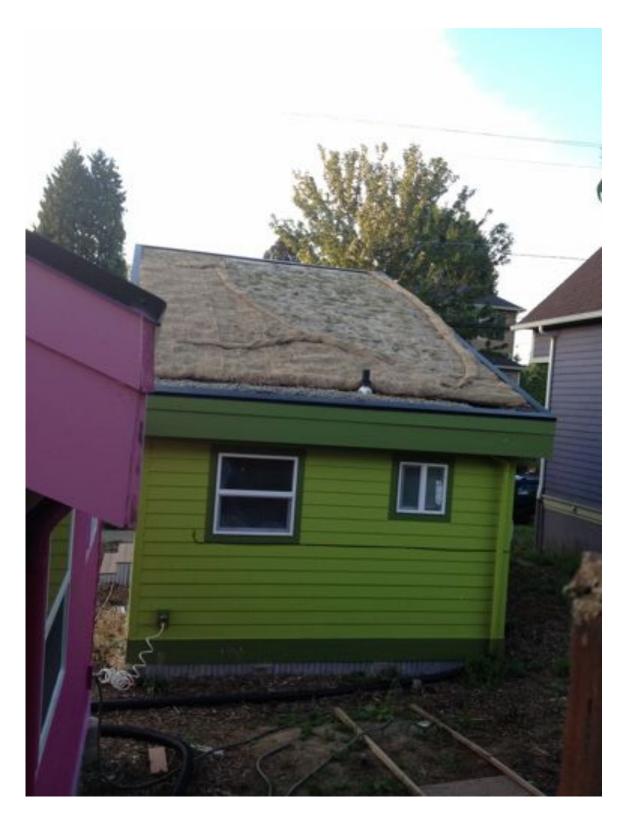
The first expert we contacted was the structural engineer. He calculated the weight of the roof as if it were completely saturated with water, which is the reality in the winter/spring time in Portland. This raised our expenses in building the foundation and frame.

The second expert we connected with was Dan Manning, who is essentially an Eco Roof expert. This was reassuring because the roofs were very steep and, personally, I have never been up on a roof like that, nor have I ever used any of the equipment that he used to get the material up there. He had to use a specific material to prevent the material from sliding off.

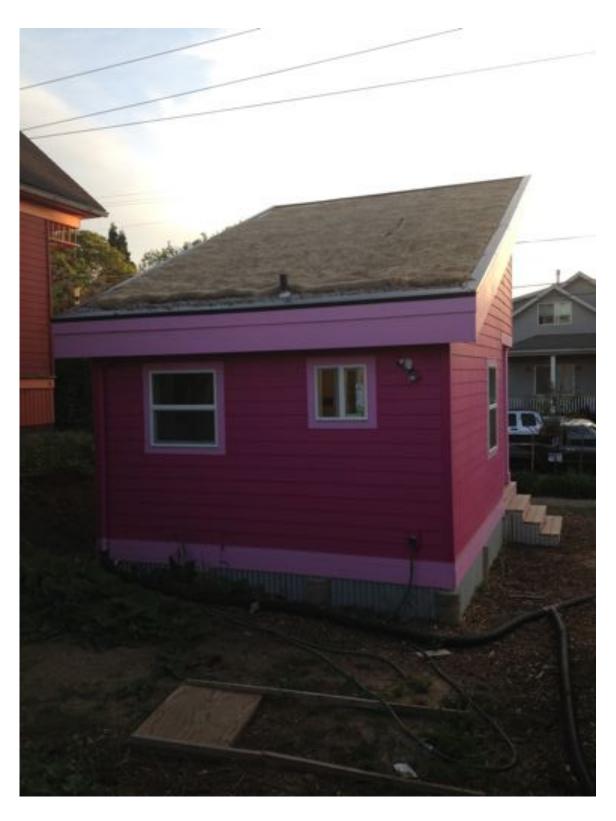
Dan also planted the eco roof in a way that was unexpected to me. I thought we could collect sedum from our yard and willing friends. I thought this would be a free way to get plants. Dan explained that it would take 100 pounds of plants to cover the roofs that we had to cover. We could get some free plants, but it would actually cost more to buy the rest of the plants that we needed, not to mention the labor to plant them individually. Instead he used sedum clippings and some burlap. He has a "clean" (no weeds) source of sedum clippings and secured them with loose burlap. Our job is to water them once a week when it isn't raining. By summer they should be rooted and growing.



Layer before the material for planting is laid down



Burlap peeled back to show pumice layer



Completed eco roof. Let the growing begin!