

# THE NEW ROOF SUBURBS



MR. JOENGBLOED RAISES VEGETABLES FOR HIS TABLE ON THE ROOF TOP AND FLOWERS FOR HIS HOME AND FRIENDS



PLAY COURT OF DONALD BRIAN'S SKYSCRAPER BUNGALOW

## Increasing Vogue of Bungalows and Gardens Couple of Hundred Feet in the Air.

IF YOU are an inhabitant of a real city and are next to the latest things, you no longer say to your family or friend, "Come on, let us get away from the noise and dust and heat of the city and go out into the cool, fresh air of the country." No, you no longer say that if you are actually awake to the very latest things in this world of changes. What you now run something like this: "Come on, let us get away from the noise and dust and heat and go up into the cool, fresh air of the city."

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For nowadays it is a case of not going "out" but going "up." The country is all right providing you have the time and the ability to get there. But the country has been made a thing almost superfluous by the city roof—provided you can find one high enough.

It is the season of the exploitation and utilization of what was heretofore the wasted top floor of every building. Roofs have now become as important as any floor of a structure. This season they have been made to hold everything from tennis courts to good-sized bungalows and beautiful Italian gardens.

And why not? The roof space that goes to waste in a large city is nothing less than appalling. The strangest part of the neglect of the roof is that it is generally the most attractive part of any building. If there is a vestige of a breeze blowing from any quarter on a hot day the roof is bound to get it.

The roof of even a comparatively low building is above the dust line and is reached by only a minimum of noises. Also to be taken into consideration is the view that is to be had from the lowest of roofs. And any physician in the world will be willing to testify that the air of even the roof of a low building is much purer and healthier than the air that is to be found on the street level.

With all these advantages in its favor it is scarcely to be wondered at that the roof is coming into its own. There are scores of families living in the larger and therefore hotter cities who this year have taken untold comfort from the roofs of their apartments or other buildings. Everything in the way of habitations have been erected on roofs from tents to a roomy bungalow in which Donald Brian has made his home on the roof of a great New York skyscraper. New York also has the only Italian

roof garden in the world—an amazingly beautiful garden planned and constructed at a cost of \$12,000.

Donald Brian, star of the stage, was one of the first to realize the possibilities of a roof as a home. He is the only man in the world who owns a summer home on the roof of a twenty-two story skyscraper.

He lives with his wife and family in a smart little five-room bungalow whose foundations rest on the roof of the Cross & Brown building, at 41st and Fifth ave., New York city.

His front yard is the broad roof of the big skyscraper and he has a tennis court and numerous other outdoor recreation features in this yard, all 250 feet up in the air where there is a cool breeze on the hottest day in August.

His view takes in all of New York city, both the East and North rivers and the landscape of Long Island, the sweep of the Palisades and an ocean lookout extending far beyond the statue of Liberty out to Sandy Hook.

Mr. Brian secured this ideal summer home through a fortunate combination of circumstances. He was looking for a bungalow somewhere on Long Island on the Jersey coast within commuting distance of New York during his engagement in New York, but had not been able to find what he wanted when a friend told him of this skyscraper bungalow which had been erected by the architect who built the Cross and Brown building for his own home.

The architect had been compelled to leave New York to attend to a piece of construction work in the west and decided to sublet his lofty bungalow. Brian and his wife inspected the place and were so delighted that they moved in at once and intend to make it their home as long as the architect remains out of the city.

They have sounded its praises so industriously among their friends that already there is such a demand for similar bungalows that a number are being constructed on the roofs of other skyscrapers.

Another way of looking at a roof is the way Henri Bendel, a lover of arts, has done. He recently rented the top floor of a new twelve-story apartment house at West End ave. and 85th st. in New York. And after the apartment was built he immediately went to work and had planted—if that is the word to be used—an Italian garden on its roof.



A FEW OF MR. BENDEL'S ART TREASURES. VENUS FLANKED BY THE LION OF THE BORROZZI PALACE AND AN ANCIENT BALUSTRADE.

The garden cost the impressive sum of \$10,000. There is not a counterpart of it any place in the world.

It is the most elaborately planned private possession in New York. For many years Bendel had the idea in mind and became more and more impressed with its feasibility and the pleasure it would bring.

Finally he found a man who was putting up a new apartment house and Bendel arranged with him to take not only the entire top floor consisting of fourteen rooms and four baths, but also the roof to put his idea into execution.

A landscape gardener laid out the plan. As it was only an experiment it was decided to lay out only half the roof or about 7,500 square feet for the garden. Trellises and lattice work hem

in this space. It is bordered with flower boxes, exotics decorate it and here and there are placed statues that stand out prominently against the green.

The view from the garden in the air takes in the Hudson and the Jersey hills on the west and the miles of brick and stone dwellings that stretch away to the north. Two obstructions on the roof, including an elevator shaft, have been so treated with flowers that they have become nothing less than pictureque.

From the corridor of the apartment close to the entrance to the studio a pretty staircase rises to the roof, so that the transition from the tapestry-hung drawing-room with its big organ, its marbles and its handsome carved furniture to the fairyland environment

of the Italian garden on the roof seems perfectly natural.

On entering the garden one finds oneself in a leafy arbor in which a marquise with a table and comfortable chairs wows the visitor to its cool shelter. All about are green plants, marbles and wrought iron ornaments.

The 7,500 feet of space is divided in effect into two gardens, one square and the other oblong. They are joined together by a ten-foot passageway, deep and broad. The shrubs and plants are set out in boxes of concrete, this one item costing \$1,140. The beauty of the foliage and flowers is due in a great measure to the care the plants receive.

Mr. Bendel's chef is also his gardener, but Mr. Bendel himself helps to look after things. During the summer when the family are away he gives the garden especial care, and in winter he grows his orchids in his roof garden hothouse. This summer, as Mr. Bendel remained at home instead of going to France, he spends two hours each evening caring for his plants and enjoying the respite from business cares in the retreat he has designed for himself atop a city roof.

Here and there about the place are special pieces of marble sculpture. Huge vases filled with hyacinths are also placed about at effective spots while curious tubs with orange trees growing in them, lovely marble seats of interesting design, cupids placed in niches and carved urns filled with brilliant exotic plants and placed on tall pedestals make the garden a veritable wonderland.

Concrete boxes forming a dado about the place are filled with old-fashioned flowers. Between a background of green shrubs and a brilliant foreground of nasturtiums are blue corn flowers, yellow marigolds, tall spikes of pale yellow stock, cardinal lobellias and Canterbury bells. Bright red geraniums are used abundantly.

There are two carved terra cotta vases which were unearthed at Pompeii. A figure of St. Ignatius on a pedestal was procured from the monks of Dijon when their property was attached by the French government and they with other monastic orders were expelled from the country.

One of the most interesting features of the garden is a wrought iron well hood supported on four carved pillars with square pedestals and connected at the base by a marble coping. Very intricate is the workmanship of the wrought-iron dome and very beautiful the design. An ancient urn holding blue hydrangeas takes the place of the old time well and pink rambling roses entwine themselves about the pillars. It is a feature which adds materially to the novel effect of this hanging garden.

In a little niche designed especially for it is a Venus done in France in the seventeenth century. Standing almost knee deep in a vast jardiniere filled with pink flowering geraniums she looks about shyly but quite composedly, for what could harm her classic beauty when guarded by a very fierce-looking lion from the Borozzi palace in Venice? The lion is opposite an ancient balustrade from an old world garden.

The chef d'oeuvre of the art collection in the garden is the pair of wrought iron doors which came from the Borozzi palace in Venice along with the lions and are placed at the end of the passageway leading from one section of the garden to the other. While they are usually open they can be closed if desired, and pictorially they are seen to better advantage from this aspect. Artistically they are charming, the tall, slender palings being the support for a very lovely design of grapes and leaves which themselves trail themselves over the surface of the doors.

There are several marble cupids and other Venetian lions, besides a score of marble vases and jardiniere of more or less antiquity and beauty. One of the interesting features of this \$10,000 Italian garden is the lighting, which is effected by means of old Italian lanterns of hand wrought iron, hung high by their massive swinging cranes and wired for electricity.

It is the pleasure of the owner to have his dinner served in the garden frequently, and invariably when the tapestry-hung dining-room below stairs is used for entertaining, both the cocktails and the coffee are served on the roof.

Some time Mr. Bendel expects to enlarge his garden to cover the entire roof area. Now that the experiment has proved at once so successful and so delightful the work of carrying out the extension will soon be begun. The contract has been given to a landscape architect, and while not all the features will be introduced immediately, since some of the owner's art objects are detained in France on account of the war, the work in small details by early fall the scheme will be completed and will represent a possible outlay of between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

As an example of the possibilities of a residential city roof Mr. Bendel's experiment is being studied by many interested building owners. Very gratifying results can be obtained with expenditure of much less money, and the returns in health and happiness are comparable to nothing short of country life, for it means an outdoor existence during a good part of the year to city folk which is spent now within the four walls of a dwelling.