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Planning Criteria for Vegetation Techniques to be used in Extensive and Intensive Green Roofs

1 | Planning Procedure and its Contents

In order to establish a foundation for the planning of the vegetation techniques, the structural and technical characteristics of the constructions and roof surfaces in question must be ascertained and evaluated. The earlier the planning of the green roof can be incorporated into the planning of the building as a whole, the greater influence the green roof will have on proceedings. If the type of green roof to be built has already been determined, the existing building situation can result in limitations being placed on the quality of the green roof. In certain cases it is recommended that a risk analysis be performed, particularly where special construction methods are required.

In each case it is necessary to formulate and co-ordinate objectives for the green roofs. These objectives will then be modified based on the analysis of the local conditions during the preliminary design stage. The preliminary design is then turned into a detailed implementation plan that can be achieved.

Objectives can include:

- Aesthetic qualities
- Requirements for the use of the green roof (quality of free space)
- Rainwater management
- Ecological qualities
- The fulfilment of funding guidelines

It must be ascertained which essential location factors based on the buildings cannot be influenced or can no longer be influenced and what consequences this will have regarding the green roof. The later use of the roof space is the decisive factor in the planning stages regarding the conception of paved areas or resilient lawns.

During the planning of the green roof, the client must be given an explanation which recognises all the potential risks. The follow-up costs concerning maintenance and upkeep must also be incorporated into the planning from the outset and must be clearly reported to the client. The development of the plans, including all of the individual decisions made, must be recorded in a document that is comprehensible. This also applies to the statements made by the specialist engineers of