

# ARCHILABO

Milan, Italy



**Category**

Roof garden

**Year**

2012

**Area**

Entrance: 30 m<sup>2</sup> (320 sq. ft.)

First floor terrace: 45 m<sup>2</sup> (480 sq. ft.)

Fifth floor terrace: 30 m<sup>2</sup> (320 sq. ft.)

**Landscape Architecture**

Cristina Mazzucchelli

**Architecture**

Archilabo – Luca Salmoiraghi

**Photography**

Matteo Carassale

The series of three terraces at Archilabo make an intriguing roof garden with a striking post-industrial ambiance full of rich, contrasting textures. The building houses both private accommodations and the architect's studio.

The entrance is an exciting journey on circular concrete stepping stones that appear to be floating over a shallow pool engulfed in verdant textural foliage-rich planting of weeping birches that create a green tunnel. Underwater lights create dancing patterns of light during the evening.

The first floor terrace is an intimate space for the staff of the studio. A wall of cut-faced natural stone clearly bears the marks of quarry drilling, complementing the industrial feeling of the building. Japanese maple and bamboo provide height to the planting, while an overhanging neighboring tree lends its shade to the space.

The private fifth floor terrace is a moderately-sized deck surrounded by galvanized steel planters full of delicate-leaved herbaceous and woody perennial plants such as sweet fennel, Chinese fountain grass, and Mexican feather grass. The space includes a concrete kitchen area that is not only practical but also reinforces the industrial theme.