

GARDENS + LANDSCAPES

9 Remarkable Rooftop Garden Designs Around the World

Great architecture, transportive greenery, and some pretty incredible views

Credits

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For city dwellers green space is hard to come by—at least when it's on the ground level. Rooftop gardens and green roofs are the new backyards, as shown in the book Living Roofs (teNeues, \$55). Author Ashley Penn, a landscape architect and Chartered Member of the United Kingdom's Landscape Institute, catalogues the plants and materials used in 35 projects across the globe, from Austin, Texas, to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The benefits of a living roof don't stop at the natural beauty it provides. "As well as additional living space, green roofs can add a whole host of other benefits, including increasing the value of properties, supporting biodiversity, filtering air pollution, and even mitigating stormwater runoff and alleviating overflow," Penn writes. Whether you'd want to tackle a high-maintenance green roof, complete with large trees, or plant a small container garden, the resulting space can act as an additional outdoor room for all the al fresco lounging, dining, and entertaining you can fit into a summer season.



Photo: Matteo Carassale



Archilabo, Milan

This industrial fifth-floor terrace, one of three in the residence, by landscape architect Cristina Mazzucchelli, has galvanized steel drum planters and a concrete outdoor kitchen, softened by feathery grasses and perennial plants.

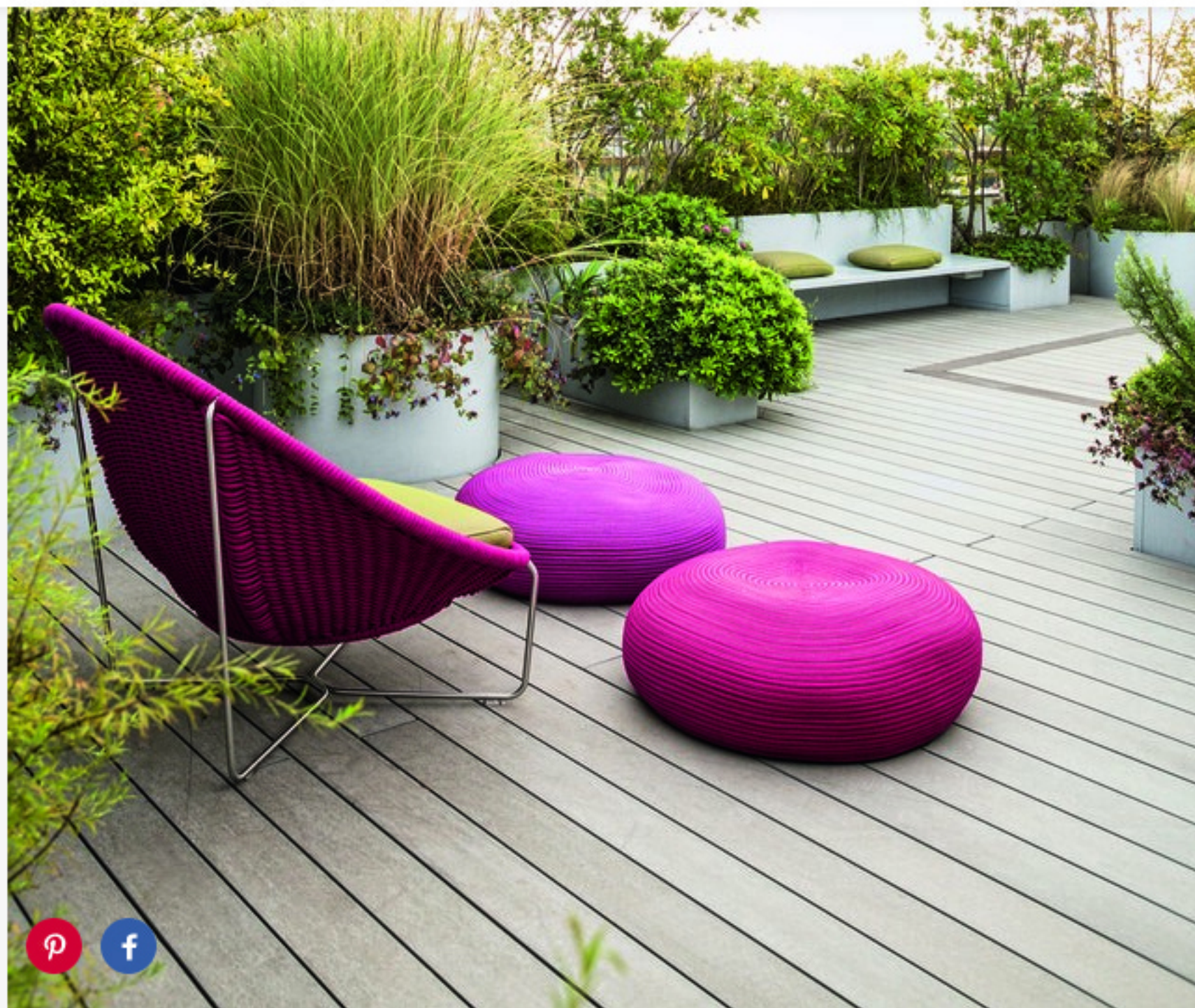


Photo: Matteo Carassale



Romolo Private Terrace, Milan

By using plants as walls, Mazzucchelli designed three distinct spaces—a dining area, large lounge, and cozy relaxation nook—in this open-layout terrace. Purple chairs pair perfectly with similarly hued Japanese maples, geraniums, and sedums.