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An archaeological and historical exploration of the origins of green roofs

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Highlight

Archaeological and historical studies from diverse lands can trace green roof origin
Extreme Arctic climate and limited resource challenge effective weather-proof shelter
Earth daubed on primitive shelter colonized by plants incurs spontaneous meadow roof
Portable sod pieces transferred from nature to rooftop signifies intentional sod roof
18 ecosystem-utilitarian services of sod roofs are comparable to modern green roof

ABSTRACT

The origin of green roof could be interpreted as old wine in new bottle and traced to antiquity. Archaeological and historical records and contemporary geographical-ecological assessments provide ample evidence to interpret the birth and progressive evolution of the cultural heritage. Studies in different places find early shelters using different natural materials. Humans living in harsh climates need particularly effective weather-proof enclosures to survive. The Arctic region with natural resource deprivation furnished the cradle for green roof initiation and refinement. The versatile and rather ubiquitous earth, widely used since Neolithic times to build dwellings, offered learning opportunities regarding properties and applications. The primitive

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