

# UC Berkeley

## Places

### Title

The New York City Bulb Garden [Transforming the American Garden: 12 New Landscape Designs-Exhibitor]

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### Author

Schwartz, Martha

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**Problem:** The site is an 86-by-23-foot roof on top of a six-story building in Manhattan's SoHo district. One enters the space through a small building at the east end—a living room attached to the loft space below—and by a stairwell from the west end.

The garden must be durable, easy to maintain and lightweight. The feeling of great space and openness, so precious to New York living, should be emphasized. The garden should also incorporate the elements of seasonal change, color and movement.

**Solution:** A large planting bed (19-by-62-feet) has been built up from the existing roof surface. This bed is 18 inches deep and is contained at the east and west ends by three steps, and at the south by a four-foot-wide path. The masonry is concrete block covered with an asphalt-based roofing compound. Visually, it will link the new construction to the existing roof's vernacular.

This planting bed will be filled first with 2 inches of gravel for drainage, 12 inches of lightweight soil mix,

and will be topped with 4 inches of sand. It will contain 4,712 6-inch clay pots, each pot containing one of four different species of bulbs. These pots will be placed in the planting bed according to a planting plan for each species. In order to properly place the bulbs, each pot and bulb has a specific number that places it within a numbered grid. Once the pots are placed, a specific pot in this garden can be located by finding the pot's coordinate numbers and letters (stenciled upon the walls and on the top steps) and then locating their point of intersection.

The bulbs selected for this scheme are daffodils, Greek anemone, Peruvian lily and hardy amaryllis. They bloom respectively in spring, summer, early fall and late fall. The bulbs have been selected for their low maintenance requirements and their ability to withstand frost and freezing temperatures.

The system is designed for flexibility. Bulbs can be replaced and new planting plans can be easily implemented.

The garden can be irrigated with a garden hose.

