



## Terrace Garden Offers Urban Retreat

Late last year, a high-rise, mixed-use development in the heart of downtown Los Angeles opened its verdant 4<sup>th</sup>-story terrace to residents. Culver City, CA-based ah'bé landscape architects designed the space to serve as a luxurious backyard, offering areas for privacy and outdoor entertaining. The terrace connects two high-rises, Luma and Elleven, that are part of The South Group neighborhood.

This project brims with diverse plant life, constituting a rare oasis amidst the concrete, steel, and glass of downtown. Specially designed planters and carefully selected drought-tolerant plants conserve water and energy, contributing to the project's sustainable building philosophy. The 13,000-square-foot garden's elements include a lap pool, lush landscaping, custom pre-cast curved benches, and a marble fireplace.

Designed with water and energy conservation in mind, the extensive planting area was intended to reduce the amount of hardscape and the resultant heat island created by pavement. The

landscape architects incorporated a state-of-the-art irrigation system and selected plants that would help conserve water. Because of the extensive use of planters in the landscaped area, approximately 50 percent of rainfall is captured.



COURTESY OF AH'BÉ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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more news, page 16

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