

ROOFTOP WASTELANDS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is based on two years of work on rooftop gardens which comprised a federally-funded demonstration project, supported by the Department of Supply and Services.

Many people were involved in the work, and we would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of Sven Kikals, Ian Olafsen and Roger Jochym, carpenters, Miranda Smith and Miriam Klein, gardeners and instructors, Bernard Lefebvre, Vikram Bhatt, Alex Morse and Lenny Zucher, architects as well as Mary-Lou Foy, Françoise and Bernard Saulnier, Beth Sachs, Stuart Hill, Winnie Tovey, Carolyn Latteier, and the hundreds of others who took part.

Much of the work took place at the University Settlement Community Centre in the St-Louis district of Montréal. We would like to thank all concerned for their cooperation and patience.

Norbert Shoenauer was involved in the original discussions and his advice was appreciated. Ray Affleck took over this advisory role during the actual project.

Thanks also to John St.Louis and Harold Jackson, of the Federal Government, for making things go so smoothly.

Vikram Bhatt assisted in the preparation of graphic material and Shirley Hallam typed the manuscript.

This book is a tool to making small and modest changes in our environment and in ourselves. On one level it is about growing your own food in the city. But it also has to do with changing the city, changing the image of the city and what it could be, and how it would be possible to live in it. On the one hand it is about producing healthier food for less money, and on the other hand it has to do with learning about sun and heat and growth.

It is not about a great new city. It is about scratching at the grime, and letting the moss grow. The thing that will transform the city is not civilisation, or architecture or public transport, but nature. All the straight lines could be covered up. All the concrete could crumble. All the roofs could be a garden.

ROOFTOP WASTELANDS

Prepared by:
Susan Alward, Ron Alward & Witold Rybczynski
Project Coordinators
McGill University, Montréal

CONTENTS

I. Rooftops and Gardening	1
II. Rooftop Utilization	3
III. Container Gardening	9
IV. Greenhouses and Solar Cold Frames	15
V. Hydroponics and Rooftops	23
VI. Community Participation	27
VII. Pollution and Urban Gardening	28
VIII. Conclusions.	30



Carrots