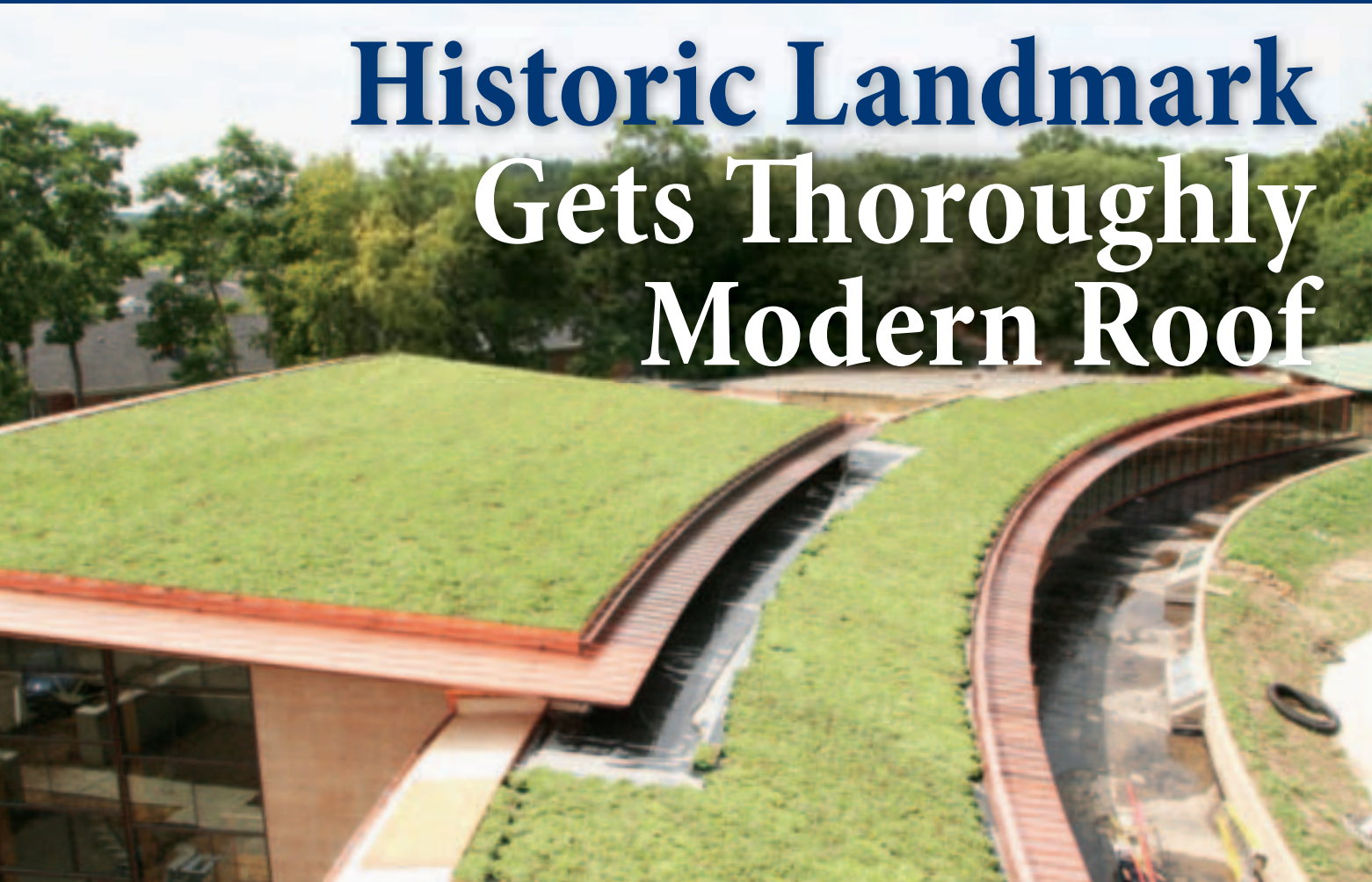


# COVER STORY

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

## Historic Landmark Gets Thoroughly Modern Roof



### Green roof tops addition to First Unitarian Meeting House

If iconic American architect Frank Lloyd Wright were alive and designing buildings today, he would probably incorporate vegetative roofs into many of his blueprints. Wright believed in creating structures which were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture.

Of the hundreds of structures that he designed and had built, many survive today, and about 24 have been registered National Historic Landmarks as designated by the Department of the Interior. One of these remarkable buildings is the First Unitarian Society Meeting House, located in Madison, WI.

So when a 20,000-square-foot addition was designed for the Meeting House, it was no simple task. The plans had to maintain the integrity of Wright's original conception, while doubling the square footage of the layout—all while meeting exceptionally high sustainability standards. It was important to the church congregation that the addition received Gold LEED certification.

These plans included a 7,200-square-foot green roof that was installed by Roofers Local 65 signatory contractor Langer Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc. of Milwaukee, WI. The roofers utilized LiveRoof vegetated trays over a 60 mil full adhered TPO membrane and a 45 mil EPDM slip sheet. Foremen Mark Benz and Mark Hince led the crews that completed the installation, which was complicated by the sweeping radius of the building.



LiveRoof modules create a thick, seamless planted surface rooted in a continuous, interconnected layer of soil. This leaves very little room for weeds, making maintenance a breeze for church volunteers. It also creates a highly effective means of controlling the internal temperature, as the plants transform heat and soil moisture into evaporative cooling. Whereas the copper roof on the original building will reach 115 degrees on an 85-degree day, the green roof stays just 85 degrees.

The end result is a lush, fully vegetated roof that looked like it had been growing for a couple years upon installation. The foliage even changes colors with the seasons, creating a striking appearance atop what is already a stunning structure. Good for the environment and easy on the eyes—it's a system that's hard to beat.



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