



# 'Garden showroom' rooftop garden taking shape in Tokyo

## Project Profile

**What:** A project combining urban farming x tech x craft

**Where:** [Lowp](#), Ichigaya

**Contacts:**

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A new and possibly ground-breaking project to build a tech-focused rooftop garden in Ichigaya, Tokyo is rapidly taking shape.

In March 2017, urban farming consultant **Jon Walsh** teamed up with **Guy Totaro**, Creative/Social Director of Lowp (Low Profile - High Impact) to build a working rooftop garden on the top of the [Lowp](#) building that will produce food for local consumption as well as to donate to [Second Harvest Japan](#) food bank.

Combining Guy's practical tech and building skills with Jon's broad food growing abilities along with help from others, the pair aimed to build a working rooftop garden that will inspire other people in Tokyo and elsewhere to do the same.

At present, the rooftop is home to a large raised garden bed, two mobile boxes suitable for growing almost any vegetable, a nutrient liquid fed pipe garden, a fence/pot garden that utilizes 'dead' vertical space, a herb tower, and an upside-down tomato plant that will soon be joined by many more.

"It's all a work-in-progress at the moment but seriously exciting as if we can get this up and running, it could become a model for other rooftop gardens in the city, as well as an urban farming training area, a meeting space, and a 'garden ideas showroom' where people can visit and learn what could work in their own city gardens," Jon says.

In early May, lettuce, mizuna and parsley seedlings were planted in the raised garden bed, tomatoes, cucumbers and paprika plants went into planter buckets, and radish and baby leaf seeds were sown in the mobile raised beds. Guy and Jon also asked the chef in the building's restaurant what vegetables and herbs he wants to serve customers, and in early June, the chef carried out the first rooftop harvest.

## What it looks like





# Evolution of a rooftop garden

Before....



After....



First harvest by restaurant chef....

