

## A series of rooftop gardens for a residential building in Detroit

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*\*Story translated from Italian*

Part of a large urban redevelopment program, John R 2660 by LOHA Architects: features cedar cladding and a composition of volumes that is respectful of the neighborhood's pre-existing buildings.



The residential and commercial building John R 2660 is part of the urban development of Brush Park district in Detroit, currently undergoing a major urban and cultural growth. The new plan includes buildings of different types and scales: it is the largest housing project in Detroit in recent decades after Lafayette Park complex, designed by [Mies van der Rohe](#) in 1956.



LOHA Architects, John R 2660. Context rendering.

For the development plan, [Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects \(LOHA\)](#) created four buildings that fit into the existing urban fabric and incorporate residential and commercial functions to foster the relationship between community and architecture. Located at the four corners of the neighborhood, the blocks blend into the context while respecting the heights and materials of the historic buildings – their brick, metal and wood claddings are commonly used in Detroit.



LOHA Architects, John R 2660. Photo Jason Keen.

John R 2660 houses 35 residential units ranging from 40 to 90 sqm and a retail space on the ground floor. Spread over five levels on the southern side, the structure has three levels on the opposite facade to maintain the same proportions of the front-facing Victorian building. Five overlapping volumes define the building's stepped form and create rooftop gardens open to the city, visually connected to the neighborhood's parks.



LOHA Architects, John R 2660. Interiors. Photo Jason Keen.

Facades are clad in vertical red cedar panels and cut by full-height windows. The vertical elements play with the horizontality of the dark metal bands of the volumes while the cantilevered first level creates a covered passage around the building.

**Project:** John R 2660 **Location:** Detroit, Michigan, USA **Program:** Mixed-Use Building with a 35-Unit Housing and Ground Floor Retail **Architects:** Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects (LOHA) **Landscape:** Hamilton Anderson Associates **Civil Engineering:** Giffels Webster **Structural Engineering:** SDI Structures **MEP Engineering:** Strategic Energy Solutions **Area:** 3,955 sqm **Completion:** 2020

<https://www.domusweb.it/en/architecture/gallery/2021/02/15/loha-architects-a-series-of-roof-terraces-in-a-residential-building-in-detroit.html>