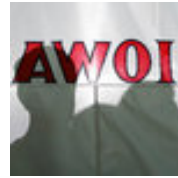




OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR
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The Opinion Pages | LETTER

Harvesting Water

APRIL 12, 2013

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To the Editor:

“[Getting Serious About a Texas-Size Drought](#)” (news analysis, Sunday Review, April 7) was helpful, but one solution that is typically missing from such analyses is water harvesting.

As old as agriculture itself, the redistribution of precipitation holds

significant promise. Rather than allowing rain and snow to evaporate or cause pollution from runoff downstream, we can use these wasted resources in a variety of ways.

Whether runoff is stored inexpensively in the soil or in highly effective systems of water storage tanks, called cisterns, there is a growing movement to use old-fashioned American ingenuity to harvest precipitation when it does fall on our roofs and other impervious surfaces.

Water harvesting is common, from Australia and New Zealand to Bermuda and beyond. Meanwhile, retrofitting our communities to harvest precipitation would create jobs in the building and development industries that crumbled in 2008.

NATE DOWNEY

New York, April 8, 2013

The writer, a landscape designer, is the author of “Harvest the Rain.”

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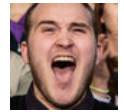
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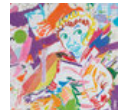
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