



The new Fallbrook library has a “green roof” covered in native ground-cover plants set in trays. Besides insulating the building, the plants’ various colors will lend a design to the structure. JOHN GASTALDO • U-T

Fallbrook library roof takes root

New building is topped with 3,500 square feet of plants that will help absorb rain, insulate

CARL CIARAMELLA • U-T

FALLBROOK

It’s easy being green for the new Fallbrook library, thanks to an environmentally friendly “green roof” installed this week.

The special roof is covered in 3,500 square-feet of plants that help insulate the building, absorb rainwater and offset its carbon footprint.

The green roof is comprised of modular trays of native and adaptive plants, which can be easily replaced or moved as

needed, on top of a waterproof cover. Any excess water is filtered to an earthen wall on the building’s west side — another green feature that avoids gutter runoff.

“We’ll have to have a pretty big rain event to have any runoff,” said project manager David Timber.

The plants are a mix of native and adaptive species — for example, seven varieties from the hardy stonecrop family — that will require minimum irrigation, fertilizer or pesticides.

The library’s green features will earn it a silver LEED rating — a certification that rates environmentally friendly building practices.

“As far as we know, it’s the only green roof of this size on a public building in the county

— certainly the first library,” Timber said.

County library director Jose Aponte said the goal of the project was to create an amenity that would enhance the community — visually, environmentally and practically.

In addition to its green credentials, the roof is also supposed to last much longer than a traditional roof, Timber said.

The library is under construction and slated to be finished sometime in January. At 18,726-square-feet, it will be twice the size of the old facility.

The library is at 124 S. Mission Road at East Alvarado Street.

Aponte said the county tried to involve the Fallbrook community as much as possible

in the project. The Fallbrook garden club, historical society, friends of the library and Fallbrook Arts Center all contributed to the new building, Aponte said.

The garden club helped with the roof, the historical society added its expertise to several artifacts found during excavation, and several artists were hired from the arts center.

Aponte said the unique design is also meant to be an eye-catcher.

“It’s an advertisement,” Aponte said. “Y’know, we don’t have an advertising budget, but the design itself is a signature. We want people driving by to notice it.”

carl.ciaramella@uniontrib.com
(760) 752-6763