

## HILL COUNTRY RESIDENCE

**Location:** Southwest Austin

**Project type:** Residence

**Year installed:** 2005

**Description:** Residential green roof to serve as an outdoor room that would help restore disrupted ecosystem services, offer views of the hill country, create habitat and beauty, be an extension of the prairie grass meadow on the property, and require little to no maintenance.



Photos provided by Kathy Zarsky

**Green roof area:** 1,125 square feet

**Green roof type:** Monolithic, extensive to semi-intensive, 6-8 inches soil depth

**Reason for green roof:** Aesthetic, ecological, amenity, thermal insulation

**Green roof components:** American Hydrotech system, soil media locally formulated and supplied.

**Vegetation:** Native drought-tolerant plants

**Water use:** No irrigation, hose bib for infrequent hand watering

**Amenities:** Small stone paver patio

**Lesson learned:** A green roof can be a very low-maintenance landscape if plants are allowed to come into their own balance and evolve without much interference. The overall assembly selected, as well as plants, has everything to do with the owner's expectations, budget, sustainability objectives, etc. Careful attention to flashing details should be thought through, regardless of roof type and expectations, as metals will leach. Stormwater runoff from roof is higher in nutrients than undeveloped land and should be directed to ground level vegetation rather than allowed to discharge directly into creeks. (Stormwater runoff quality and quantity of this roof is currently monitored by City of Austin.)