New Mexico Best of 2006
Santa Fe Preparatory School Library

Private Project Under $5 million
Green Building Project

The school’s new $4.1 million, 20,500-sq.-ft. library did not start off to be a LEED-certified green building -- an anonymous donor launched the initiative. The building team is now aiming for LEED-gold once the certification process is complete.

The library’s ceiling imitates an open hardcover book with the light-colored wood reflecting light downward from 34 clerestories that ring the space.

Over 90 percent of the primary occupied spaces have a view of the outside, providing ample daylighting throughout. Conventional electrical lights embedded in the ceiling are controlled by sensors that dim or shut them off entirely when registering sufficient natural illumination.

Water needs are cut by two cisterns that use roof runoff for landscaping, collecting up to 81,000 gal. of water annually. Waterless urinals and low-flush toilets will save 64,000 gal. a year.

The building has a high recycled content, and most materials were harvested and manufactured within a 500-mi. radius. Green materials include low toxicity paints, carpet, composite wood and agrifiber. Approximately 85 percent of construction debris was recycled.

“This is an eye-catching, innovative and well-sighted project that looks well over $5 million,” said one judge.

Submitted by: John G. Rehders
General Contractor
Owner: Santa Fe Prep School
Architect: Spears Architects
Contractor: John G. Rehders General Contractor
Engineers: Walker Engineering; Walla Engineering; The Response Group
Major Subcontractors: Gilmen Electric; Hanna Plumbing and Heating; Mesa Steel; Lopez Roofing; Eker Bros.