

Project Profile



Project

Albert Smith Fieldhouse
Provo, Utah

Owner

Brigham Young University

Roofing Contractor

Warburton's, Inc.
Pleasant Grove, Utah

Roofing System

Décor Roof System using 60 mil
Sarnafil® G410 feltback membrane
in tabby gray color

Project Size

86,000 square feet

Completed

September 2010

Décor Roof System Gives BYU Fieldhouse a Winning Look

When Brigham Young University decided to replace the single-ply roofing membrane on the 60-year-old Albert Smith Fieldhouse, one of its main concerns was the appearance of the new roof. The fieldhouse — which has a very visible sloping roof — was surrounded by other buildings sporting architectural sheet metal roofs, and BYU wanted the fieldhouse roof to blend in with a fresh, updated look.

There were too many penetrations on the roof to make a metal roof replacement a possibility, so Bart Smith, building envelope manager at BYU, considered using the Sika Sarnafil Décor Roof System. The Décor system combines the Sarnafil G410 thermoplastic single-ply roofing membrane with Décor profiles and/or battens to give the appearance of a standing seam metal roof. It is the only roofing system of this type that includes warranty coverage for the system's hot-air welded ribs.

"I had been interested in the Décor system for a long time," Smith explained. "I had seen it on other applications, including on the athletic facility, and figured that the

Décor system was the best way to achieve the look we wanted."

He added that he had used Sika Sarnafil roofs in the past, and so knew they performed well. "I've always had positive experiences with Sika Sarnafil products, and have a good relationship with the people there," he remarked.

"We believe the Sika Sarnafil membrane is one of the best membranes on the market," said Daison Nault, single-ply manager of Warburton's, Inc. of Pleasant Grove, Utah. "Our crews like how easy it is to install, and with a Sika Sarnafil system we are confident that the roof is going to last a long time."

The metal roofs on the two new buildings next to the fieldhouse were different colors of sheet metal, so it was decided to try to find a color for the Décor system that would tie together the three roof colors. "Sika Sarnafil came up with some samples of different Décor membrane colors, and it was decided to go with a custom 'tabby gray' color which we hoped would blend the buildings together," Nault said.

Smith pointed out that another advantage of the Décor system was that the fieldhouse could keep the snow retention system that

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was already in place on the roof. "That saved us about \$150,000," he stated.

Students and Ridgeline Pose Challenges

One of the first challenges Warburton's faced was making sure that students and summer campers were not affected by the roof installation. "Even though we started the installation in July, there were several summer camps going on, which meant there were numerous children running around at soccer camps," Nault said. "Then in mid-August college started, and we had students entering and exiting the building."

To safely accommodate the students, staging was done in the early morning — usually around 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. — before classes started. "We then waited for activity to slow down at the end of the day before we cleaned up," Nault said, adding that materials could not be kept on the roof because of its 5/12 slope.

"Working around the students was a big challenge for Warburton's," Smith said. "There is a very high pedestrian load on sidewalks around the building." To protect the students, sidewalks were also barricaded and pedestrian traffic rerouted around the hazardous areas.

The second challenge was dealing with the roof's ridgeline, which was over 500 feet long, had several elevation changes, and was not parallel to the fascias. "The building wasn't square, which we knew would affect the layout of the membrane and Décor ribs," Nault explained. "We rolled membrane down from the top of the ridge to the eaves, and then laid the Décor rib on the seams. In some places we had to slowly cheat and 'fake it' to make the ribs look straight."

The ridge also had a huge dip in it, which was visible from the soccer field. "We custom-bent a ridge cap in-house that would allow us to change the elevation height and make it appear level," Nault said. "The ribs were then installed under the ridge cap, giving it the appearance of a metal roof."



"Warburton's solution of using a metal cap on the ridge had a big visual impact," Smith stated.

Throughout the installation, Sika Sarnafil representatives were on-hand to inspect the seams before the ribs were applied. "They were great to work with and very helpful," Nault said. "Especially since we ended up welding 53,000 linear feet of ribs on that roof!"

"Warburton's did a very good job on this installation," Smith said. "They were also very professional and good to work with."

It was this professionalism and attention to detail that earned Warburton's Second Place in Sika Sarnafil's 2010 Contractor Project of the Year, Steep Slope Category.

Décor Roof Provides Uniform Look

Today the Décor system is leak-free and getting high marks for its appearance. "The roof is performing well and the Décor system really looks like a metal roof," Nault said. "In fact, I'm so impressed with the system that I'm trying to do as many Décor roofs as I can right now."

Smith is also pleased. "I would definitely use the Décor system again — it is a great solution when you don't feel comfortable using a metal roof," he stated. "The fieldhouse roof is doing great and achieved the functional and aesthetic purposes we wanted." He added, "It has really improved the ambience of the whole area and given the athletic complex a uniform look. In fact, it looks like the complex was planned this way."

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