

# Urban Rain

Artist: Jackie Brookner

October 2008

Roosevelt Community Center / 901 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95116 / Council District 3

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Jackie Brookner's site-integrated artwork for Roosevelt Community Center serves as a functional filtration system that assists in diminishing the Center's environmental impact on nearby Coyote Creek and the City's storm water system. The artwork, which consists of multiple elements, slows and filters storm water run-off from the building's roof.

At the south entry, storm water run-off is channeled into a translucent vertical storm water filtration element made of vibrant yellow glass, etched with an image of the local creek system and filled with white pumice stone. This creates a colorful, attractive, entry marker for the building's Santa Clara Street entrance, as well as creating a visible element to the water filtration process.

At the north entry, a steel cascade sculpture transports rainwater from the roof to a rock bed filter that incorporates a flat spiral metal element inspired by the form of a fingerprint. The pool slows and filters rainwater before it flows to the nearby bio-swale. In dry weather, this element functions as a rock garden, the outer wall of which also provides casual seating for the Community Center's entrance court.



Above: view of water filtration element at south entry



Above: view of cascade sculpture and rock bed filter at north entry

The City's Environmental Services Department has planned monitoring systems that will help measure the effectiveness of the filtration elements. Educational signage accompanies the artwork and building, highlighting the storm-water treatment and other sustainable qualities of the project.

Roosevelt Community Center, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Building, has received significant recognition for its green features, including this artwork with the following awards: Project of the Year - American Public Works Association, Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program Award, Green

Project of the Year-Public - Silicon Valley Business Times, 2010 Top Storm Water Project - Storm Water Solutions.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Jackie Brookner is an artist and teacher who creates both studio and public art works that she calls Biosculptures: evocative, plant-based systems directed at raising community awareness of the urgency of restoring health to aquatic ecosystems. She works in collaboration with ecologists, design professionals, communities and policy makers to create water remediation/public art projects for wetlands, rivers, streams and storm water run-off. Her work focuses on projects that emphasize how the undervalued resources of storm water and other polluted water can be reclaimed and used to create lush environments, as well as expressive and multifunctional public spaces.

Ms. Brookner's works and exhibitions are in communities both nationally and internationally. As a teacher, she has served on the faculty of Harvard University, Parsons School of Design, and University of Pennsylvania. She is the recipient of numerous awards including several from the National Endowment for the Arts. More about the artist's work may be found at [www.jackiebrookner.net](http://www.jackiebrookner.net).

#### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.

