



and draw cool prevailing breezes in, while also providing lighting during the day.

Q: What are some of the key sustainable features that you incorporate into residential structures?

A: I have made houses incorporating everything from prefabricated high-performance wall systems used in refrigeration buildings to huge cut sections of a 747 airplane! I also use recycled materials or renewable or reclaimed materials that are non-toxic and locally-sourced. I am very interested in making the home a place for restoration and relaxation and trying to blur the inside space with the outside.

Q: And for commercial structures?

A: For commercial projects we put more emphasis on energy efficiency in daytime activities. Some of the features we include are natural ventilation, day lighting, drought-tolerant landscaping, pervious concrete parking lots, and the use of healthy interior materials that don't emit gas. We also install waterless urinals, dual flush toilets, and air blades for hand drying.

Q: You've done several remodels to houses on the Westside. What designs did you introduce to curb their environmental impact?

A: Our projects on the Westside take advantage of the remarkably equitable climate by being responsive, and are in effect shaped by their site – the

views, solar orientation and prevailing breezes. We evaluate everything from the recycling of construction and demolition waste to the use of organic and non-toxic cleaning materials and bedding.

Q: Is green building cost-effective?

A: Green building is more cost-effective if one has an art for the long view. Yes, some things, like more efficient windows, may seem more expensive as a first cost; however, if you look at the building as a system, you soon realize that the "more expensive" windows are actually far more economical over the life of the building because of the energy saved. Some of the paybacks come within a few years on energy-efficient or solar items, especially when rebates and significant tax credits are considered.

Q: What can we expect for the future of green design?

A: Now that people are aware of the significant impacts we have on the planet, there are exciting opportunities and new technologies that we will hopefully see in abundance. As more of these products are used, their cost will come down, as is the case with bamboo flooring and materials like zero Voc paint, both of which are no more expensive than non-renewable or toxic materials. Hopefully in the future we will be smarter about the resources we use.

Photos Courtesy of David Hertz Associates, Inc. and Tom Bonner Photography.