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Jencen Formalizes Green Intentions

Katie Chew Becomes the First LEED Accredited Professional Member



Continuing our commitment to green design, Project Manager, Katie Chew (B.Arch.) recently became a LEED Accredited Professional. The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Through increased efficiency and innovation, LEED certified buildings reduce energy costs, use fewer natural resources and reduce carbon emissions. Buildings are awarded LEED certification if they meet certain prerequisites and earn a minimum number of points. Certification is available for most project types, including renovations, new free-standing buildings and commercial interiors. Buildings can qualify for four levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum.

LEED thus far has widely been a voluntary program, but municipalities nationwide are increasingly requesting or basing requirements on LEED standards. Incentives for building with LEED are also emerging beyond the improved indoor environmental quality, energy savings, and green achievement. For example, certain cities reward LEED certification. In Cincinnati, Ohio a 15-year property tax abatement is available for buildings which achieve LEED certification (according to the website <http://www.dsire.org/>). Also, the federal government has available tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades meeting certain thresholds. Studies have suggested that an initial up front investment of 2% extra will yield over ten times the initial investment over the life cycle of the building.*

As green design becomes increasingly in demand, Jencen is ready and equipped to design spaces that will merit LEED certification. Our capabilities will include both LEED for Retail and Volume Certification for store prototypes on implementation later this year. Jencen can also advise on how to improve on a building's energy consumption and environmental quality.

*Kats, Greg; Leon Alevantis, Adam Berman, Evan Mills, Jeff Perlman (2003). "The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Buildings: A Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force"

*Feel free to contact Katie Chew
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to discuss your green goals and your potential operational savings.*