

The Green Scene

Why Build Green?

The USGBC (United States Green Building Council) has a wealth of information available on this Subject. And, one can find much more about it by contacting ggw@ggwarchitects.com. One piece of information that is very helpful in condensing the voluminous amount of information available, is a small but pointed brochure/publication called Why Build Green?

Informative highlights about answering the question posed, includes the following:

1. A primary purpose of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is to reduce energy consumption, conserve on water use, conserve on resources while at the same time deliver immediate savings, lower cost to operate and to improve your bottom line.
2. LEED gives you the tools to you need to plan, design, construct and operate high performance "Green" buildings.
3. Some interesting statistics: U.S. Buildings account for 65% of electrical consumption, 36% of energy use, 30% of raw material use, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of waste output and 12% of potable consumption.
4. Buildings, Green by Design and using the LEED system of Credits and Points to evaluate various building systems, can reduce energy use by 30-50%, reduce carbon emissions by 35%, reduce water use by 40%, and through recycling means reduce 70% of solid waste while at the same time provide a healthier environment.
5. Average payback time is 12-24 months. Average payback, (cost savings) over the building's lifetime is 20%, with an average initial cost premium of only about 1-2%.

Then Why Build Green? To SAVE energy consumption and cost, SAVE water and cost, SAVE resources and cost, SAVE on operating cost, SAVE on down time due to illness, SAVE, SAVE, and SAVE...

We will talk about more "Why Build Green" in future Green Scene Articles. Do you have Questions or Comments regarding "Green" considerations in your life? **"ASK THE ARCHITECT/LEED AP"** at ggw@ggwarchitects.com.



SPOTLIGHT *Teresa LaPorte*

GGWArchitects client, Teresa LaPorte of Carefree Footwear, is excited about the exterior facelift GGWArchitects will be handling for her store at 1618 East Charleston Boulevard, even though it won't happen until 2010, when re-development funding becomes available.

Teresa's dad, Jerry Fullerton, opened Carefree Footwear in June, 1990, after a 20+ year career in orthotics and prosthetics. An accidental electrocution on the family farm in Amargosa Valley, Nevada in 1963 resulted in the loss of Jerry's left leg. His rehabilitation entailed training for a career in prosthetics. Because he'd received his medical care in Las Vegas and saw the opportunity here, he opted to start his new career here, also. He began at Superior Limb & Brace before opening the current location. Teresa "officially" joined the family business in 1975. Her mom, Dixie Fullerton, took care of the administrative duties, while Teresa assisted in the back and in the office, as needed. After an apprenticeship and some short courses, she became a certified Pedorthist. She went on to earn additional certifications as a Prosthetist and Orthotist.

After Teresa's dad, Jerry, passed away in 2008, Dixie became full owner and continues the bookkeeping. Teresa's brother is a shoe fitter for Carefree Footwear. Teresa's husband, Bob, and her son, Daniel, did, however, pursue different lines of work. Bob performs I.T. services for Agilyss, and Daniel is a stage hand.

Carefree Footwear is flanked by walls of shoes and related accessories. Many of Teresa's customers are diabetic patients. Customers, who require prescribed orthotics (braces, corrective shoes, etc.) or prosthetics (limb replacements) are fully evaluated, the paperwork is processed, and the prescribed products are sold or made. Customers with prescriptions are by appointment only. However, the public is more than welcome to drop in.

Teresa is especially eager to show off their full line of Z-Coil shoes, with coiled spring attached at the heel. The construction of the shoe absorbs shocks to the foot in the wearer's daily movement. In fact, one of the first changes to the building exterior will be to update the shoe graphic to a Z-Coil, says Teresa.

Carefree Footwear business has dropped off noticeably. People, who have lost their jobs, have also lost insurance. There's hope, though. Her customers in the hotel industry are seeing an increase in week-end traffic!

Teresa's experience with GGWArchitects "has been wonderful." Jason M. Andoscia contacted them through the downtown re-development campaign, and GGWArchitects produced a CSP for their property. From there, the wheels were put in motion for "updating the face and signage, changing the look of the building." Teresa is very pleased with how open we've been to their suggestions. She's enjoyed getting to know Jason, as well as Tyler W. Johnson, Mark V. Martino, and Kristine T. Czach.