

IN FOCUS

INTERIOR DESIGN



Interior designer Suzie Hall is applying for LEED platinum certification for the Banner Bank branch.

Green interior design Products scarce in Idaho

By Lora Volkert
IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW

Green interior design can be a challenge in Idaho, where there are few local suppliers of green building products, Cornerstone Design President Suzie Hall said.

Much of what constitutes green interior design comes down to the materials used in a project, said Hall, whose green projects include McAlvain Construction's new headquarters, her own offices, and the Banner Bank Building in downtown Boise as well as Banner Bank's tenant space inside it.

In the Banner Bank Building, she used EnviroGlass countertops, which are made from recycled glass aggregate mixed with an epoxy resin. She used

toxin-free paint on walls, and chose glass partitions for cubicles positioned so sunlight can reach all work stations and the building can cut down on electricity for lights.

The Banner Bank branch Hall designed has applied for platinum certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's commercial interior program. If it receives the designation, it could be the second double-platinum LEED building in the world, she said.

In her own office, Hall incorporated a shower and bicycle racks to make it easier for employees to bike to work. And each of her projects incorporates lighting controls that turn down or turn off lights if no one is in the room or if there is enough sunlight to see by.

She also uses Energy Star-rated computer equipment and appliances, certified wood from forests that were not clear-cut, and cabinets, fabrics and flooring made from recycled materials.

However, to get many of the materials for her projects, she has to go out of state. She uses an Oregon vendor for cabinetry. Although LEED encourages using local projects that do not have to be trucked in, the closest eco-friendly cabinet supplier was in Oregon.

There are a few good local suppliers who can order in environmentally friendly products if they don't keep them in stock, said Hall, who recommends Wood Products in Boise. Several local door and flooring companies are on board as well, she said. And while she doesn't buy materials at Second Chance Building Supply, she sends recyclable products from her projects there and refers the store to people who need its services.

To contact the author of this story, send e-mail to: lora.volkert@idahobusiness.net.

Hall used furniture made from certified non-clear-cut wood and recycled fabric in Banner Bank.



Hall's offices at Cornerstone Design use recycled glass countertops.



See more about interior design in this month's Idaho Construction Review.