

# NEWS



Architecture  
Interiors  
Planning

**FOR RELEASE: EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2008**

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**Celebrate Earth Day with GREEN Architecture and Interior Design**

Tucson, Ariz.—Green is THE color these days. What does it mean when it comes to architecture, building design and construction? When a building is labeled as "green," it means it is built by using resources (energy, water and building materials) efficiently and that the design and construction is completed with the least impact on the environment and on human health.

Also referred to as "sustainable design," "eco-design," or "design for environment," green design is the art of designing physical objects and the built environment to comply with the principles of economic, social, and ecological sustainability. Green design is achieved through tools such as life cycle assessment and life cycle energy analysis to judge the environmental impact or "greenness" of various design choices.

Sometimes people claim that a building is "green" because it uses a certain type of light bulb or appliances considered energy efficient. Making those changes is a good idea, but, additionally, a green building should:

- be made with materials that are manufactured close to the building
- use less energy than a traditionally built building
- create less pollution, and
- be as healthy as possible for the people inside of it by using healthier materials.

A Tucson firm for 31 years, ABA Architects continues to play a critical role in facilitating sustainable choices for new building development and renovation throughout southern Arizona. ABA Architects is a proud member of the U.S. Green Building Council and three staff members (two architects and one interior designer) possess LEED Professional Accreditation. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

Additionally, ABA Architects extends its commitment to being "green" by how it operates its office on a daily basis. ABA has instituted a "sustainable office plan" that includes recycling paper, cardboard and plastics; no more water bottles (filtered water at tap); lighting and energy use patrol; a Green Information Team; paperless archiving; "green" movable furnishings; low VOC finishes throughout the office; and the firm plans to soon purchase an alternative fuel vehicle for office use.

For more information about green/sustainable design, contact ABA Architects at 520-881-4512 or [www.aba-architects.com](http://www.aba-architects.com).

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