



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Marks, Thomas Architects

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Architecture and Interior Design Firm

Member since May 2010

Management and Leadership

Environmentally Preferable Procurement

Marks, Thomas Architects realizes the benefits of sourcing locally. Not only does it benefit the local community, but it benefits the environment by reducing environmental impact. As we designed our offices, careful consideration was paid to sourcing local products and selecting materials based on having a high percentage of recycled content (carpet, metal studs, drywall, etc) and that contain rapidly renewable content (bamboo floor and wall tiles, rubber bathroom tiles with recycled cork, etc.).

All printing is done on recycled paper with soy based ink and Marks, Thomas Architects also has enacted a Green Cleaning Policy and a Green Pest Control Policy.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Marks, Thomas Architects offers award-winning sustainable design services to our clients. Tom Liebel, FAIA, LEED Fellow, NCARB is one of the nation's first 25 LEED Accredited Professional and mentors our staff. Currently, 50% of the staff are LEED Accredited Professionals.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Marks, Thomas Architects has been providing monthly Green Futures Lecture Series for our staff and the public since 2006. Our staff is active in a wide variety of community groups that focus on environmental stewardship, including

the American Institute of Architects, United States Green Building Council, Neighborhood Design Center and Architecture for Humanity.

Waste

Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

We reviewed our standard purchases and by changing to glass for our drink ware, we have helped reduce waste to the landfill and received a cost benefit. Previously, we were spending \$700 year on plastic drinking glasses. By changing to drinking glasses in 2008, we made a one-time purchase of \$200, which saved us \$500 the first year and \$700 each year thereafter.

Recycling

Marks, Thomas Architects have designated recycling centers in our office to recycle paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum and steel.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

During our renovation, we used low-emitting materials for adhesives and sealants, paint, carpet, etc.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

In May 2008, Marks, Thomas Architects relocated our offices to new space within the building we had been located at for three years. In the original 10,000 square foot office space, our monthly utility bills averaged over \$1,200 per month, or approximately \$1.44/square foot/year. When we decided to relocate within the building, we also decided to pursue LEED-CI Gold Certification, with a focus on energy savings.

By incorporating higher efficiency light fixtures, occupancy sensors, better glazing, Energy Star equipment, better mechanical equipment and an energy recovery ventilator into our 12,000 square foot new office space, we have reduced our costs to roughly \$250 per month, or approximately \$0.25/square foot/year – an 83% reduction in utility costs!

Transportation

Employee Commute

Located in Baltimore City, Marks, Thomas Architects anticipated employees using alternative transportation and provided bicycle storage and changing rooms when we renovated our new LEED-CI Gold office space. A shower was incorporated into the office design in order to encourage employees to walk or bike to work. 6 employees walk or ride their bikes on a regular basis.

Efficient Business Travel

Marks, Thomas Architects has been using teleconferencing for years and also uses video conference when needed. Our employees employed ridesharing long before it was seen as a green initiative; it just made sense to us. We also include carbon offsets as a standard reimbursable for international business travel.

Water

Water Conservation

Marks, Thomas Architects was able to achieve a 40% reduction in water use (below the Energy Policy Act 1982) by using low-flow plumbing fixtures, .5 gallon per minute (gpm) aerators on all sink faucets (rather than the 2.5 gpm allowable) and a 1.28 gallon per flush (gpf) toilets (rather than the 1.6 gpf allowable). We also placed a waterless urinal in the men's restroom.

Green Building

LEED Gold - Commercial Interiors (LEED-CI v2.0)

Other

Firm member USGBC

Awards for Sustainability

1414 Key Highway

Maryland Chapter, USGBC, Special Recognition, 2010

Baltimore Business Journal, Green Development of the Year, 2009

SEED School of Maryland Dormitories

Maryland Chapter, USGBC, Special Recognition, 2010

The Cottages at Greenwood

Maryland Chapter, USGBC, Social Economic Impact Award - Wintergreen Awards, 2013

Union Mill

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Sustainable Growth Award for Smart Growth Community, 2013

Baltimore Heritage – Preservation Project Award, 2012

Preservation Maryland – Phoenix Award, 2012

Baltimore Chapter, Urban Land Institute - WaveMaker Award, 2012

Bosley Hall (Historic Baltimore County Jail)

Maryland Historical Trust – Preservation Partnerships Award, 2011

Baltimore Chapter, Urban Land Institute - WaveMaker Award, 2011

Miller's Court

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials – Award of Excellence in Community Revitalization, 2011.

United States Environmental Protection Agency – National Award for Smart Growth Achievement, 2010

Urban Land Institute - Jack Kemp Models of Excellence in Workforce Housing Award, 2010

Council of State Community Development Agencies – Presidential Award for Innovation, 2010

Baltimore Heritage – Preservation Project Award, 2010

Maryland Historical Trust – Preservation Partnerships Award, 2010

Maryland Chapter, NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association – Best Historical Renovation, 2010

Maryland Chapter, NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association – Community Impact Award, 2010

Baltimore Business Journal Heavy Hitters, Best Residential Development, 2010

Maryland Chapter, USGBC, Special Recognition, 2010

American Institute of Architects, Residential Knowledge Community – 2009 Show How You Re-Green: Green Housing Award, 2009

Baltimore Chapter, Urban Land Institute - WaveMaker Award, 2009

Finalist, National Housing & Rehabilitation Association - J. Timothy Anderson Awards for Excellence in Historic Rehabilitation, 2009

Profile Updated July 2013



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

