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Green Jobs with Lasting Value

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See next issue for:
**Green Jobs with
Lasting Value
Part II**

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The purpose of this article is to explore some of the sustainable construction design-build job opportunities that the politicians in Washington and each state capitol would do well to familiarize themselves with this year and the years to follow. And job opportunities across our country need to include far more than “shovel ready” bridges, highways, municipal infrastructure and other public spending. While numerous “green” jobs have purportedly been created to benefit our society by growing corn for ethanol fuel additives that drive other costs for staples higher and further limit our buying power, there exists the opportunity for our country’s leadership to grow and facilitate a myriad of interesting, well paying challenging jobs in the design, constructor, quality control and quality assurance career fields.

With emphasis and focus, ecologically minded product and system designers and engineers, researchers, production and quality control work-forces, business development, sales, transportation, legal, financial, education, architectural, engineering, construction, testing, quality assurance, property management and maintenance professionals can move our country’s dependency on foreign oil and fossil fuels toward cost effective alternative energy sources and more readily toward greater energy efficiencies. It would be unacceptable to penalize locales enjoying affordable electricity from coal powered plants just as it would be unac-

ceptable for those locales to demand polluting population centers to pay penalties, or for these locales to demand sunny prairie fronts on tableaus with significant winds enabling wind turbine generated electricity. We live where we live and the only fair, straight across the board government involvement should focus on generous domestic resources, tax credits, education funding and revisiting the clean and efficient nuclear power options.

With historically low energy costs, policy makers and construction decision makers have ignored countless opportunities to design, build and fund more energy efficient buildings, and failed to dramatically improve energy savings and enhance energy efficiencies with existing facilities that range from the smallest residence to the largest skyscraper. Sadly, the new green movement shouldn’t be so new or so novel. Further, we’re learning a much more proactive Owner Advocate mindset needs to be a focus for everyone in the construction industry. Green jobs need to offer immediate and lasting value to construction, property management, investor and tax payer groups. Hopefully while reading this paper many additional proactive design and construction employment opportunities will occur to the reader. Look at too many service proposals and there is a glaring omission. Within the past twenty or more years, too much short-term focus has been

on designing and constructing on time and under budget. We see far too many instances where the third leg of the three-legged milk stool analogy applicable to the design-build industry, project quality, isn’t even mentioned and certainly doesn’t appear to be a focus. Even with invaluable, exciting, new generalist and specialty job growth areas such as BIM, LEED building status and various project delivery options, we perceive a marked increase in construction litigation and mediation. The increase is brought about because of a lack of attention to quality minded project deliverables. The deliverables apply to the designer as well as to the builder; and regrettably the Building Owner is too often left holding the proverbial bag.

Acceptable quality needs to be well **planned**, the **intent** adequately **documented**, **communicated** early and often, **monitored** by knowledgeable independent observers with integrity, **and documented during** each phase of a new or remedial construction project. Project needs, sufficiency of the design parameters meeting project needs, scheduling, cost analysis, financing, administration, specifications, CAD, BIM, submittals, mockups, quality control and quality assurance monitoring have never been more crucial to successful construction.

We want to share our Building Envelope observations with our valued clients and other individuals who may be interested in receiving our monthly publication. Call HCI today for cost effective solutions customized for your project.

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