

Designed For You



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architecture/engineering/site
GARY GUY WILSON



planning/interiors
STUDIOS...

The Green Scene

Ask The Architect

Going "green" at work can be achieved by a number of changes we all can make. Here are a few:

- **"Green" your commute.**

Carpooling, taking public transit, and biking are a few alternate methods of transportation. (Americans spend an average of 47 hours per year in rush hour traffic, commuting to/from work. This wastes 23-billion gallons of gas per year.)

- **Wear "green sleeves".**

Instead of buying new clothes, check out a thrift shop. Many offer duds in near-mint condition for a lot less. If you do insist on new, find clothes made of organic or recycled fibers.

- **Bring your lunch.**

Packing a lunch, rather than going out, saves gas. Make sure you get reusable containers for less waste. If you order in, include your co-workers. A large order is more efficient than smaller, separate ones.

- **Watch Paper & Ink.**

When you do need to print something, save paper by doing it 2-sided. If you can email a document, instead of mailing a "hard copy", you will be practicing the "green" philosophy.

- **Recycle Paper.**

It's best to lean toward a "paperless" office, but when you can't, make sure to recycle any paper you discard. Freeway Office Park already has such a program in place. Our recycled paper is picked up by Silverado Puppies. After shredded, it is placed in the puppy cages.

- **Pull the plug.**

When you don't need to use a piece of equipment that requires electrical power, pull the plug. Many appliances—most especially cell phone chargers—still use electricity when not turned on.

Aquarius Hotel-Casino @ Laughlin

SPOTLIGHT

Mark J. Owens has provided such services as soils reports for multiple GGWArchitects projects, pad certification at Freeway Office Park, testing for construction at Tri-Delta, and a shear wave velocity profile for lateral stability of Laughlin's Aquarius Hotel-Casino to be remodeled—just to name a few. Architect Gary Guy Wilson is quick to report, "Mark's services have been accurate, informative, and useful to resolve all structural engineering concerns."



SPOTLIGHT

Mark J. Owens, P.E.

The relationship Mark J. Owens, P.E., President of Owens Geotechnical, Inc., has with Gary Guy Wilson Architects goes back to the late '80s before Mark owned his own business. Through the years, in addition to various commercial jobs and school additions, Mark provided the soils reports for the GGWArchitects offices on West Sahara.

He came to Las Vegas in 1982 from Boca Raton, Florida, where he was a Staff Engineer for 1 year at Dames & Moore. A recession was behind the move to Las Vegas, where his career looked brighter. He joined Kleinfelder for 2 years before settling at Western Technologies for almost a decade. Then Mark became Principal and Manager of the Geotech Department at Terracon. It was 8 years later, just 1 day before "9/11" in 2001, that he ventured out to create Owens Geotechnical, Inc. It was a day he'll never forget.

Mark's education and certifications certainly primed him to manage and operate his own company. With a Bachelor of Science from Western Kentucky University and a Masters of Science in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Texas, Mark is a registered Professional Engineer in Nevada, California, and Arizona. Starting with just 1 other engineer, Mark currently has a staff of 52. It has reached as high as 60 at peak workloads.

As President of OGI, Mark runs the engineering side of the company and also meets with clients, handles marketing and office administration, and takes care of the reports needed for project assignments. With 2 other Department Managers, Jim McNutt, PE (Grading and Offsites) and Kurt Schuetz, PE (Structural Inspections), OGI takes on a variety of projects, including single family residences, high-rise hotels and casinos, commercial developments and Public Works projects.

Mark has seen the geotechnical field grow considerably since arriving in 1982, when there were only 5 geotechnical engineering businesses in the valley. Now there are 25-30. Competition is stiff, requiring heavier marketing efforts. Mark relies on his Project Managers to play a key role in marketing through delivering exceptional client service. The majority of his business is through repeat clients and referrals.

2008 will be "a year of survival," according to Mark. Without many residential projects, they are turning their attention more to the commercial side. OGI is also, for the first time, providing services on projects where they didn't do the original geotechnical engineering.

As a consultant, Mark doesn't see the end result of the GGWArchitects projects, but he does admire the 39-year-old architectural firm's good relationships with the Clark County School District and Clark County. Mark interacts, on the job, with Architect Wilson and Les W. Travis; but it's G. Cash Wilson with whom he has a wider connection. Mark has a "standing" tee-time with Cash every Sunday at Spanish Trail, proving you can mix business with pleasure!

GGWArchitects²