

Designed For You



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The Green Scene

Common Sense & Going Green

There is a lot of talk these days about **Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's)**. CFL's have been around for over 20 years, and are just now reaching the point where they are a serious contender for the "light of choice" in the market place. The acceptance of CFL's has been slow coming.

For years, they were considered expensive, in the price range of about \$25 each, when compared with the **Standard Incandescent Lights, (SIL's)**, and, they were not readily available. There have been concerns about trace amounts of mercury in the lamps. And, in addition they were strange "looking", not at all what a light bulb should look like. What wasn't easy to see and believe was a 75% reduction in energy use and a 10,000 hr life expectancy compared to 2000 hours for SIL's.

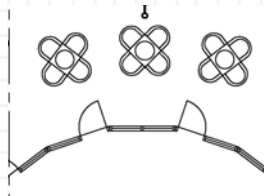
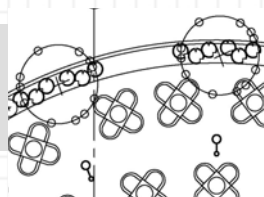
As the demand for Compact Fluorescent lights has very slowly increased, the initial cost has reached a point that common sense is telling the market place that if you can purchase a light for 3 or 4 dollars and have it last 5 times longer, while at the same time consume only 25% as much electrical energy; then it makes sense to purchase and utilize.

At the same time, methods of disposing old bulbs are available, and, once you get used to them, the funny shape is really not so bad. It may even be interesting, and CFL's are seldom exposed anyway. They are manufactured inside more familiar glass shapes and lighting fixtures to control the lighting and the aesthetics.

Of course it's just a single, small thing, but, many small things can add up to great energy efficiencies. Such energy efficiencies in building design and construction add up to producing sustainable, energy efficient buildings that add up to producing sustainable energy communities. The small steps count.

LEED is a tool for measuring, quantifying, giving credit and certifying the collection of those many small things that lead to a more sustainable, cost effective and energy efficient community.

We will talk about more "Common Sense and Going Green" in future Green Scene Articles. Questions or Comments regarding "Green" considerations in your life? **"ASK THE ARCHITECT/LEED AP"** at gqw@ggwarchitects.com.



SPOTLIGHT

Jovan Zec & Gayle Ivans

While so many companies are struggling right now, GGWArchitects client, ADJ Contracting & Development, Inc., is thriving. Principals, Jovan Zec and Gayle Ivans, opened their doors in 2007 and have established the general contracting firm to target, primarily, the hotel/casino and gaming industries for renovations, where Jovan has 20 years experience, overall. They reached their financial goal their first year, exceeded it their second, and will end 2009 with their best year ever!

"We follow the business practices of Warren Buffet," says Gayle. "We started small and have re-invested." They finance everything themselves without relying on loans. If a prospective client doesn't appear financially sound, they will opt not to take on their project.

Jovan got his start in construction after his college basketball career was sidelined by an injury. He left college to join the "school of hard knocks." His father, a carpenter, and stepfather, an electrician, were huge influences. "I always had something in my hand to build stuff. I liked it, and I became good at it." Jovan moved to Las Vegas from Fairbanks, Alaska in 1987 for the prime job opportunities. His construction experience eventually led him to join the Stratosphere Hotel & Casino, in its second phase, where he remained 6 years, as Director of Facilities and Construction Manager. When Jovan was asked to oversee the conversion of Laughlin's Flamingo Hilton to the Aquarius Hotel & Casino in 2006, "we were given a ridiculous deadline, but GGWArchitects helped make it happen." He says it was because of the expedited drawings and our "great administration and communication with the Building Department."

It was at the Stratosphere where Jovan met Gayle in 2001. She was in revenue management. Jovan and Gayle's "entrepreneurial spirit" brought them together to form the ADJ Corporation in 2005. They carefully put together a sound game plan.

"We wanted to do full build-outs. We didn't intend to be renovators," explains Jovan. "As a young company, those are the only jobs we were given. We did small remodels and construction and kept doing more. Our capital and stock grew, and now we are proud to call ourselves renovators." This has kept them above water, too. "The hotels are not going to build new buildings for the next 5 years. They will expand their existing theme and remodel, changing from within rather than on the outside," adds Gayle. ADJ "self performs" every aspect of the remodel, except the M,P, & E jobs, in order to keep control of the product and the service. They are hoping to expand their core staff from 10-15 to 40-50. They are marketing the business through Internet videos and plan to become licensed in California, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. Once ADJ Contracting takes on larger-scale projects, Jovan is certain our paths will cross again. Les Travis keeps in regular contact, further cementing the relationship.

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