



Wells Fargo banks on green for new location

by Alison Ryan

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Wells Fargo's already known for its green - of the spending variety - but the company's new space in the Pearl District pulls the color of money into its design as well.

The bank, located inside the Riverstone Building on Northwest 11th Avenue opposite Jamison Square Park, will be the first local financial space to earn a LEED for Commercial Interiors rating through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. The combination of construction, design, furnishing and finishing decisions are expected to propel the project to gold certification.

"Wells Fargo's been backing a lot of people going for LEED, so I thought it was cool that they're showing they practice what they preach," said Andrea Bainbridge, president at project design firm Bainbridge Design.

Green elements were a priority throughout the \$500,000 renovation, and the bank worked with the Green Building Services consulting firm, building contractor R&H Construction and Bainbridge Design to keep the project on track. The result is energy-efficient lighting, heating and plumbing fixtures that'll lead to a 60 percent reduction in water use and a 25 percent reduction in water use, low- and no-volatile organic compound materials, maximum use of daylight and Energy Star-rated equipment.

But for the casual observer - and the customer - the environmental intent surfaces most visibly in the finishes. Panels in the lobby are made from recycled pearl buttons - an unintentional, yet fitting tie given the bank's location, Bainbridge said. The teller row is fronted with bamboo, and the row's writing surfaces are made from recycled newspaper. The floor is cork and rubber, and the carpet system was installed without toxic adhesives. And in the most visible reuse-recycle touch, the surface of the check-writing stand is made from recycled money.

Incorporating the existing Wells Fargo feel into the less suburban, hipper feel of the surrounding district was another design aim. The end result links to the bank's brand while still standing apart from the typical look, Bainbridge said.

"People who live down there are expecting something a little edgier," she said. "But we wanted people to come in and know it was still Wells Fargo."

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