

## Debra Evans Becomes a LEED AP

Debra Evans has passed the LEED for Commercial Interiors exam and is now a LEED Accredited Professional (AP). She has been an interior designer for 20 years. Ms. Evans is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and a New York State Certified Interior Designer (CID). She has experience in both residential and commercial design and works with Minuta Architecture of New Windsor, NY on a project-by-project basis.

LEED for Commercial Interiors is a green building rating system that is used for developing sustainable interiors for tenant space. According to the US Green Building Council, "The intent for LEED for Commercial Interiors is to assist in the creation of high performance, healthful, durable, affordable and environmentally sound commercial interiors."

Since most people spend an average of 90 percent of their time indoors, professional interior designers play a crucial role in protecting the health, safety and welfare of building occupants. Interior designers create interior spaces that meet the proper building codes. They specify appropriate products and consider ergonomics, proper lighting, acoustics and special needs in their final design solutions.

The LEED for Commercial Interiors system provides strategies for designers to:

- Create better indoor air quality
- Save resources
- Increase comfort for occupants and therefore increase productivity
- Use space planning techniques to employ day-lighting strategies which will make connections for occupants between the indoors and outdoors
- Specify materials that release few or no volatile organic compounds
- Specify furniture, finishes and materials that meet green standards
- Specify plumbing fixtures that help reduce water usage
- Specify lighting fixtures and controls which will reduce energy consumption
- Reduce waste volumes going to landfills by reusing existing building interior elements and specifying products with recycled content.

As a LEED AP, and with her experience working with other design professionals, contractors and vendors, Ms. Evans is qualified to coordinate the design process and LEED certification process from start to finish. One of her goals in the present economic climate is to work with companies who have downsized their staff but perhaps not their building space to find innovative, environmentally sustainable solutions to their current interior space requirements. This will aid companies to function more efficiently with their limited resources.