

The Best in Retail Sustainability

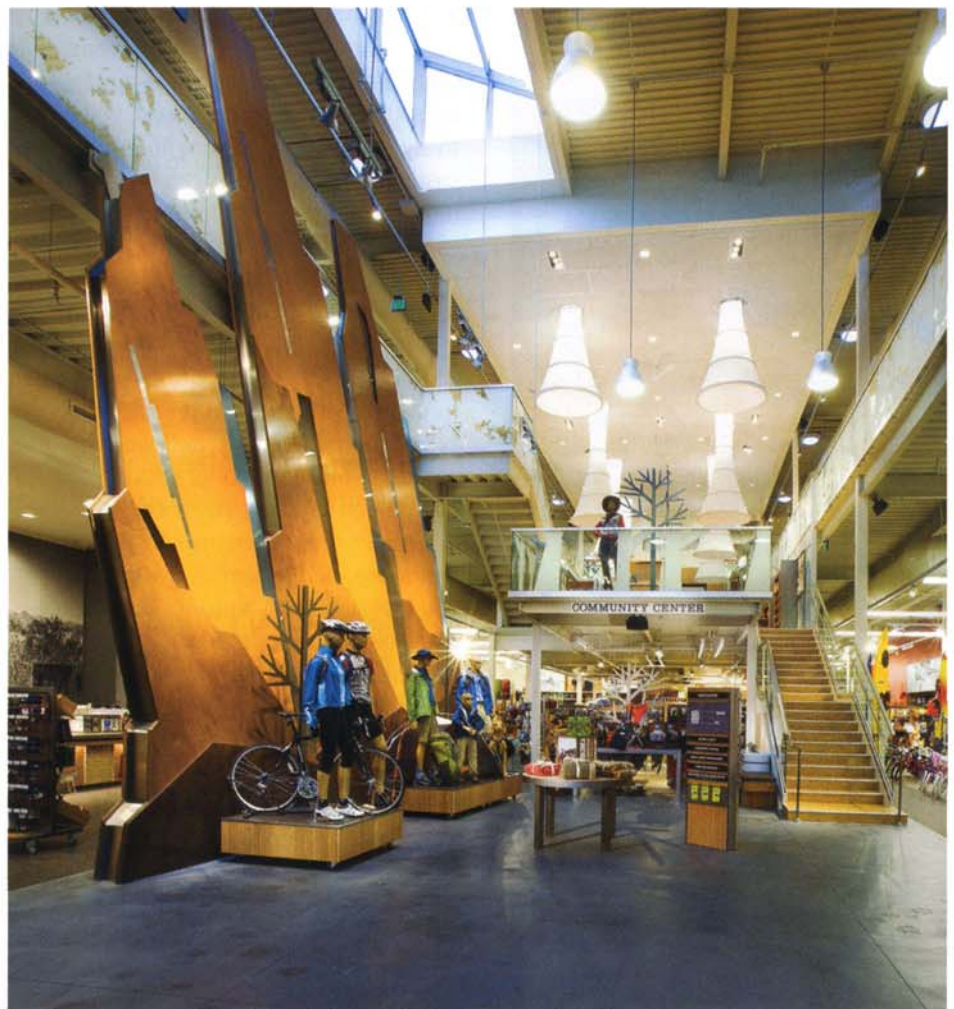
A.R.E.'s first-ever Sustainability Awards recognize excellence in sustainable retail environments *By Jo Rossman, LEED AP*



A.R.E.'s inaugural Sustainability Awards showcase some of the latest developments in green retail projects. Judges awarded the highest honors to projects that not only had comprehensive sustainability programs, but balanced environmental goals with design aesthetics and functionality. In addition to the overall awards, judges singled out specific elements for commendation.

For this inaugural year, projects that were submitted in the 2009 A.R.E. Design Awards competition were eligible, and entrants were invited to submit additional projects. To eliminate the need for travel, entries were reviewed in electronic form by A.R.E.'s Sustainability Council, a group of designers and suppliers with various perspectives and expertise in sustainable retail design. Judges rated the entries in three areas:

- **innovation** in design, which recognizes the overcoming of difficult challenges as well as new or unusual design and engineering solutions;
- **integration**, which recognizes comprehensive sustainable project programs, as they bring disparate parties together for holistic solutions; and
- **benchmarks**, which recognizes the attainment of acknowledged industry standards such as product certifications, project rating systems, and identified measurable goals.



REI Round Rock received the first Project of the Year in A.R.E.'s Sustainability Awards. The Texas store marries a comprehensive sustainability approach with outstanding design aesthetics and functionality, proving that sustainable design is not an oxymoron.

The North Face Boise, ID

Design JGA, Southfield, Mich. ARE

Fixtures The Carlson Group Inc., Portland, Ore. ARE

General Contracting Engineered Structures Inc., Boise, Idaho

Retailer VF Outdoor Inc., San Leandro, Calif.

Visual Elements Imagine Visual Service, Seattle ARE

THE RESTORATION of previously closed-off windows with high-efficiency glazing contributes daylighting and passive solar heating to this space, which features reused building materials, low-VOC paints, and high-efficiency lighting, HVAC, and air filtering systems. Recyclable, sustainably harvested wood feature walls complement fixtures and backroom storage shelving of CARB-compliant bamboo plywood and powder-coated metal. Particleboard used in the cashwrap and backwrap is manufactured without added formaldehyde of EPP- and SCS-certified 100 percent pre-consumer recycled wood fiber. Flooring consists of low-embodied-energy, recyclable porcelain tile with low-VOC, 15 percent-recycled-content grout and 19 percent-recycled-content setting material; sustainably harvested hardwood produced without insecticides or laminating adhesives; recycled-content vinyl installed using low-VOC adhesive; and a yarn and renewable fiber carpet with recycled content, featuring EPP and California Gold and Platinum certifications and installed using a product with a 90 percent lower environmental footprint than traditional glue installation.



Photography: Leslie Bryant Photography Inc., Rockley, Mich.



SPECIAL AWARDS

To draw attention to sustainable measures that can inspire other projects as well as to reward achievements in specific areas, judges awarded special commendations.

Photography: Mark A. Steele Photography Inc., Columbus, Ohio



Creative Use of Reusable Materials

Timberland PRO Las Vegas

Design JGA, Southfield, Mich. ARE

Fixtures Concept 360 Exhibits, Doylestown, Pa. ARE

Retailer The Timberland Company (Retail), Stratham, N.H.



DESIGNED WITH END OF LIFE IN MIND, this trade-show exhibit booth incorporates reusable materials in unique ways. Fully 82 percent of the booth is recyclable at the end of its five-year targeted life span. For instance, translucent wall panels that allow some light to filter through are constructed of the same recyclable material as postal