

## Building Specialists completes Clark Nexsen's new LEED certified office space for expanding staff.



**Roanoke, VA**-Clark Nexsen, an architecture and engineering firm located in the Wachovia Plaza downtown moved into it's newly designed and renovated offices this May. The firm had grown from 12 employees to 21 in less than nine months. Expanding from roughly 4,400 sqft to over 6,000 sqft, Clark Nexsen's goal was not only to create more space to house their growing staff, but to create an environment which will allow them to showcase their creativity and utilize the "green" design practices they promote to their clients while pursuing LEED Certification.



*"Designing our new space to qualify for LEED Certification was very important to us," Lora Katz, Director of Architecture said. "Although we are in a facility that has shared HVAC, which limits one of the main components of certification, there are many other choices a business can make that can really affect their energy efficiency and impact on the environment."*



Energy saving techniques like reconfiguring the work space to an open office design and positioning closed offices along interior walls, allowed the firm to maximize natural lighting throughout. This provided every employee natural light and minimized the need for interior lighting fixtures, which saved on upfront cost and will conserve energy in the future.

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GENERAL CONTRACTORS



Materials designed and specified on this project for LEED certified qualification were, Teragren Bamboo Wood Flooring, Armstrong natural linoleum, and InterfaceFLOR which is comprised of 35% pre-consumer recycled content and 33% post-consumer recycled content. All cabinetry was produced from green board. No urea formaldehyde was added during the manufacturing process of the cabinetry. It was finished with low VOC paints.



To keep the air quality as clean as possible, Building Specialists filtered out construction dust and debris by installing a MERV 8 filter on the existing HVAC system return during the construction phase.

*“In our industry we are seeing fewer business’ expanding, much less, focusing their budgets on meeting environmental standards,”* Bob Fetzer, President, Building Specialists, Inc. said. *“We applaud Clark Nexsen and all of our clients who work with us to bring green and sustainable building practices to the forefront.”*

*Clark Nexsen is a premier architecture, engineering, interior design, planning, and landscape architecture firm with over 89 years of experience. Clark Nexsen employs a staff of over 470 dedicated design professionals with offices in Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, and offices in Norfolk, Alexandria, and Roanoke, Virginia.*