

Sustainability Studio

Toronto office space breaks new ground for green

Sustainability issues gain wider public and political traction every day. The global economic crisis has only added to the interest – and the urgency. The business community is responding to the challenge in many innovative ways.

The Sustainability Studio is a good example. This 2,700 square foot commercial office space in Toronto includes a number of green design innovations that promote occupant health and superior environmental performance: abundant natural light, operable windows, bike-friendly facilities, and furnishing and material choices that promote superior indoor air quality and environmental stewardship.

“The Studio is an extension of our sustainability values and an attempt to reconstruct the way we view workplace through a showcase green office,” says Anthony Watanabe, president and CEO of The Innovolve Group, one of the building’s tenants.

“The office was designed by HOK, one of Toronto’s leading architecture design firms,” says Laurie Fawcett, an architectural account executive with Sherwin-Williams, whose zero-VOC latex coatings were used throughout the space.

“Sherwin-Williams not only provided all of the

paint for the project, we are also a corporate member of the facility.”

The studio’s mission, she says, ties in closely with Sherwin-Williams’ EcoVision, a company-wide commitment to look for and implement ways that reduce its impact on the environment.

Sherwin-Williams is committed, according to its website, “to being a recognized leader in the development of sustainable processes, products and activities that preserve natural resources, protect the environment and contribute to social improvement.” Among other things, that includes developing innovative products that reduce environmental impact, the promotion of natural resource conservation and considering the environmental impact of all company actions.

“Sustainability has layers of opportunity and layers of value as you move deeper into it, which add up to huge business benefits to doing all these things right,” says Richard Williams of HOK. **PPC**



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