

Becker Architects presumes that our clients are concerned with making their homes and offices more Green (sustainable, energy efficient and healthier). These are some of the things we look at:

Passive Systems	Plantings to achieve shading Maximize air circulation Shading Systems Orientation Daylighting
Landscape	Minimize Hardscape / Maximize Pervious Area Native plantings
Concrete	Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF)
Carpentry	2 x 6 @ 24" O.C. minimizes heat loss Structurally Insulated Panels (SIP)
Cabinetry	Use veneers from sources that maintain Sustainable Forest Management (FSC)
Insulation	High R Value / Blow in Blankets or Icynene™ Insulation
Roofing	Solar collectors Light colors Reflective finishes Green roofs
Windows	Low E, Insulated glass lites
Finishes	Painting : Non-toxic, zero-VOCs Flooring: Recycled materials, Linoleum, Certain hardwoods Counters: Recycled materials Try for materials that can be later recycled (e.g. certain carpets) Consider hypo-allergenic finishes
Fireplaces	Consider stoves that can actually heat your interior (versus woodburning fireplaces that are energy inefficient)
Appliances	Energy Star™ Read labels for annual energy consumption
HVAC	90% + Furnace High SEER (e.g. 15 SEER or higher if available) Geothermal Heat Recovery ventilators (e.g. Lifebreath™ or FanTech™) Air cleaners (e.g. RabbitAir™) Ceiling fans Programmable thermostats
Plumbing	90% Hot water heaters or Tank-less depending on loads Waterless urinals Hands free lav sets Low-flo toilets / showers (mandated)
Lighting	Compact fluorescents where feasible (dimming issues) Fixtures utilizing LED technology Dimmers on all hardwired lighting Occupancy Sensors