

# Historic Moraga Barn Goes Green

Canyon Construction has always blazed green trails. They built a sod-roofed, recycled-content home way back in 1969. They are the first (and still the only) builder in Moraga to be certified by the Contra Costa County Green Business Program.

Now Canyon aims to apply their green values where their employees work. This summer the company will finish renovating and moving into the historic Moraga Barn. Outside, the two-story building that began as a hotel and ended up a bar (with the "N" added to skirt a state law during prohibition) will look much like it did almost a century ago. This time, however, it will have energy-saving solar shingles, a rainwater catchment system, and balconies made of reclaimed redwood. Inside, the thoroughly modern offices will boast natural lighting, soy foam insulation and locally sourced stone floors with radiant cooling and heating.

An employee garden, bike rack and outdoor shower will round out the super-green office building. "It's exciting to be at the forefront," says Avant. "I hope it shows businesses and homeowners what's possible."



"The Barn" is likely to earn Canyon a prestigious Platinum LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, says president Chris Avant. "Few other U.S. buildings have it."