



Green Architects & Builders

ARCHITECTS

BluPath Design LEED-accredited team Laura Blau and Paul Thompson are known for, in Blau's words, "gently coaxing our high-end clientele into supersmart design ideas"—projects with long-lasting bones, tech-savvy efficiencies and an acute sensitivity to green-design detail. Their boutique firm has redone PhillyCarShare's offices—with wheatboard cabinetry and Knoll furnishings—made over Rittenhouse penthouse gardens—with plantings and white rubber roofs—and eco-tricked-out their home/office with radiant floors and passive solar light. **1005 South 7th Street, 215-467-0885, blupath.us.**

Brett Webber Architects Clean, modern lines that harmonize with historic city environs—see their three-story townhouse on Girard Avenue and their chic urban achievements in restaurants Lolita and Water Works—are as much a signature of this boutique agency as are the green principles of adaptive reuse, infill development and high performance. **2400 Chestnut Street, 215-568-9751, bwadesign.com.**

Down to Earth Design "If you can build with wood, you can build with straw," says nationally renowned architect and environmental consultant Sigi Koko. She takes a seriously hands-on approach to each of her sig-

nature straw bale buildings (opposite, top). The result is homes both rustic and modern, some with living roofs, some with earthen floors, some with the timeless grace of England's famous 500-year-old cob farmhouses—and all with price tags comparable to (currently) conventional methods. **12 Forest Avenue, Ambler, 215-540-2694, buildnaturally.com.**

Interface Studio Architects This young, six-person, Penn- and Drexel-educated firm is one to watch. Founder Brian Phillips has made a mission of "restoring faith in the Philadelphia

urban fabric," which, so far, includes reviving a circa-1797 house in Society Hill, designing affordable (and *Dwell*-worthy) homes in North Philly, and creating minimalist-chic multi-family condos with a green roof and natural light in Northern Liberties. **1400 North American Street, 215-232-1500, is-architects.com.**

Kieran Timberlake Associates It's not just that this prolific 50-person firm—the AIA's current firm of the year—is designing efficiently mass-customizable homes for Brad Pitt's Make It Right in the Lower Ninth Ward. It's not just that

they've created stunning, LEED Platinum academic edifices: Yale's green-roofed Sculpture Building and a renovation of Sidwell Friends Middle School, complete with constructed wetland. It's that they've dreamed up Loblolly House (below), a computer-modeled dwelling that fits together like a puzzle, requires zero HVAC, stands on piles and, let's be honest, has a look that's left us quite obsessed. **420 North 20th Street, 215-922-6600, kierantimberlake.com.**

Paul Macht Architects Long before the rest of us jumped on the green bandwagon, this mostly residential Rydal team was superinsulating envelopes, creating passive solar oppor-



Kieran Timberlake Associates

BARRY HALKIN PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE), SIGI KOKO/DOWN TO EARTH DESIGNS (TOP), TOMBERNARD (BOTTOM)



Down to Earth Design

grand windows to bring surrounding landscapes inside homes (bottom right). Examples of the firm's work range from small—simple deck additions—to massive—a 9,000-square-foot, S-shaped, radiant-heated estate in the Great Smoky Mountains. But the finest testament to Macht's talents might be his own woodsy, restored cottage beside a beautifully renovated chicken coop that serves as the group's office. **1231 School Lane, Rydal, 215-572-7511, machtarchitects.com.**

Re:Vision Architecture This 12-person Manayunk outfit is easily one of the country's top—and fastest-growing—green firms. Re:Vision designed PA's first LEED Gold home—one of the first in the US. Now, principal Scott Kelly is piloting high-impact, high-visibility, net-zero-energy, completely environmentally responsive "living

buildings" and residential developments in Chestnut Hill, Graduate Hospital, West Chester and Bella Vista that surpass LEED standards—threefold. **133 Grape Street, Manayunk, 215-482-1133, revisionarch.com.**

BUILDERS

Looking for a contractor who knows the nuts and bolts of

green? The remodelers at **Buckminster Green** (484-432-2692, buckminstergreen.com) specialize in the low-profile-but-makes-a-diff things like energy-efficient windows, FSC-certified doors, and no-formaldehyde insulation. **Greensaw Design & Build** (215-779-4489, greensawdesign.com) carpenters perfectly fit houses with architectural salvage finds (see "Saved!" on page 64). Thirty-plus-years-in-the-biz **Sunpower Builders** (610-489-1105, sunpowerbuilders.com) makes running your whole house on the sun's wattage less of a crazy futuristic concept and more about lowering your next energy bill by as much as 95 percent. Since moving here from San Francisco in 2006 to form **K Group** (215-849-2001, kgroupphilly.com), Alex Keating has installed custom formaldehyde-free millwork in a Wynnewood home, renovated a Rittenhouse kitchen with Plyboo, PaperStone and IceStone, and greenly tackled serious structural jobs. At Mt. Airy's 7-year-old **Stock Group** (215-510-0647, thestockgroup.net), specialties are radiant heating, high-efficiency plumbing, renewable finishes and green roofs.



Paul Macht Architects

5 FIRMS GOING GREEN

Cecil Baker + Partners Architects Center City firm debuting its first Energy Star-rated home—a West Cape May cottage with a green roof, natural pool and glassed-in courtyard. **215-928-0202, cecilbakerpartners.com.**

Earth Rising Homes New Phoenixville firm planning a Chester Co. community of homes with solar energy, geothermal heating and cooling, and zero toxins. **610-650-7755, earthrisinginc.com.**

Jibe Design Boutique firm with modern vision and growing interest in sustainable design for city lofts, brownstone renovations, and tiny courtyards (see p. 26). **215-834-9872, jibedesign.net.**

RethinkTANK Small, multi-disciplinary design studio doing a LEED renovation of a three-story row, with PaperStone countertops and a modified solar chimney. **267-205-0244.**

Seiler + Drury Architecture Norristown team just partnered with eco-conscious interior design venture Studio Flavia to create sustainable spaces with a rustic-chic vibe. **610-272-4809, sdarc.com.**

WHAT GREEN MEANS

CARBON FOOTPRINT: The measure of your total energy and environmental consumption, in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, from mileage to lighting. To find out your carbon footprint, check out the online calculator at carbonfootprint.com.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: According to a 1987 U.N. commission that coined the term: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In other words, using what you need but leaving enough for your grandchildren.

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