

REGREEN Trained Certification

REGREEN Trained™ certification is a program that fosters best practice guidelines for environmentally friendly, safe and healthy living spaces. Through this certification, designers can expertly guide homeowners in the most efficient, natural and non-toxic products and strategies for design and renovation projects. Created through a partnership between the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Foundation and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), REGREEN certification enables professionals to make retrofit decisions that improve home performance and

indoor air quality, preserve the environment and save homeowners money. Additional information about this program can be found at www.regreenprogram.org

Congratulations to three ASID NJ members who recently achieved REGREEN Trained certification: Lori Jacobsen, Allied ASID; Jill Ryan, Allied ASID and Tracey Stephens, Allied ASID.

Why REGREEN?

Lori Jacobsen, Allied ASID

A Little History

I was involved in incorporating "green" attributes into my design projects from the beginning of establishing my firm. In 2001, upon starting with a new client, the assessment portion of the initial interview became important in deciding which elements we would be keeping and which would be replaced. Repurposing existing materials and furnishings was discussed, along with the importance of using nontoxic paints, adhesives and finishes whenever possible.

The next stage in incorporating green building practices into my philosophy was to become certified by a recognized organization. At the time, REGREEN Trained was not available and LEED certification was not applicable to my projects. However, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) offered a whole house approach to incorporating green principles into residential building without elevating the construction costs. After completing the requirements of class work and testing, I earned their Certified Green Professional designation.

REGREEN Trained

While I am very happy with my CGP designation, the NAHB is not my primary affiliation for a professional association. I am an active member of ASID who participates in chapter functions and was committee chair for the 2009 Design Summit. Having the REGREEN Trained designation provided by my professional association was important to me. After the initial registration for the training, I found the process of taking the online sessions and the full-day in-class seminars valuable in adding to the whole



Above - After



Below - Before

house approach in residential design. It added to my knowledge, provided tools to help

with specific projects, and is a great resource for any interior

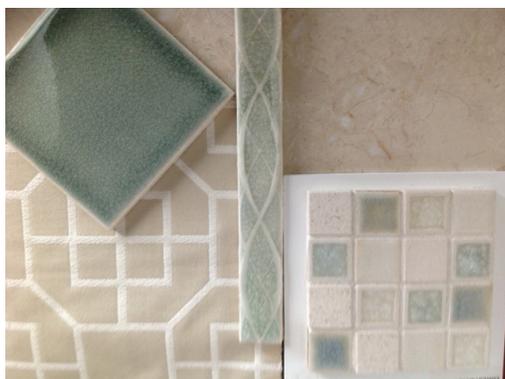
design job. The full-day seminar was particularly helpful in that the instructor was exceptionally knowledgeable and did a great job in encouraging discussion among our group. I felt that the REGREEN trained program was extremely well planned and executed by professionals. The 18 hours in training not only reinforced my existing knowledge but added to it. Most importantly, I feel that being a part of a designation through ASID created a partnership of REGREEN Trained practitioners who use each other as sounding boards and resources for ongoing projects.

If you are interested in the REGREEN Trained certification program, keep in mind that the full-day seminar has specific dates when it is offered in each region. You may have to wait months before a session comes to a convenient location.

The photos here are of a basement space. The “before” shows the unfinished area. The client needed to relocate the home office downstairs. Requirements were to be as sustainable as possible in reusing existing furniture, repurposing office furniture from a nearby supplier and finishing the existing concrete flooring into a finished element. The “after” photo shows how the new office was configured within the requirements. We were especially happy with the used lateral file drawers configured into the work station, updated with new hardware. The wall cabinets were also configured from used bookcases bolted together, then adding the sliding doors. The stained then polished concrete floor turned out to be an eye-stopper for those who visit the space. Mythic paint was used on the walls.

Jill Ryan, Allied ASID

I started my REGREEN training process with a series of five online courses (total of 10 credits), followed by a



workshop course which led me to become the first in NJ to earn REGREEN Certification in April of 2013. This full-day course is the hands-on portion of the certification that is eight credits, and was the most enlightening part too. It is taught by an instructor well-versed in green products and guidelines.

The focus was on how to research products and what key points to look for when specifying interior surfaces and furnishings. I learned about “green washing;” what chemicals to avoid and what furnishings and surfaces may contain. It is up to the designer to then utilize the information and learn how to apply the principles to everyday practices. Having REGREEN Certification means being capable of planning a well thought out project that is healthier for both the client and environment.

Since becoming certified, I have not had a project that was solely green, but have had many projects with green aspects to them. I have two bathroom renovations in progress, and the clients each chose to use many green

products. I stayed within the footprint of the original house which is one aspect of green design, as well as specified natural stone tiles, low flow shower heads for water conservation, low VOC paints. I also sourced local custom cabinetry, and used a “green” tile company (they recycle their water, use solar panels for energy and recycle their clay).

I also have a client with allergies, so to reduce this we used natural fiber area rugs and organic cotton fabrics. It is challenging at first to figure out how to use the guidelines when designing a project but once you do some research to find reliable sources, you can specify those manufacturers all the time. There are also many false claims out here, so it’s wise to read up! I feel every client can benefit from my new found knowledge from REGREEN training, as well as Mother Earth.

Tracey Stephens, Allied ASID, CID

One of my business goals for 2013 has been to learn more about sustainable design, in particular how to “green” my kitchen and bath renovations, so I was really excited to learn about the REGREEN training created by ASID and USGBC (US Green Building Council).

REGREEN offers a very comprehensive green residential renovation certificate program with 18 hours of education. The two-hour online self paced modules were an extremely convenient way to learn new material.

I love the online strategy generator “Green My Project Tool,” which I frequently check in with to find sustainable alternatives to traditional, but often toxic, building materials or practices.

(www.regreenprogram.org/resources/strategy-generator#/IDP5).

At the very informative and inspiring all-day session in NYC, I learned so much practical information. For example, that week I needed to source a window for a tub/shower area. I learned about fiberglass windows which are suitable for wet locations and a green alternative to vinyl.

I completed the training in April and am the first designer in Essex County, and one of the first in N.J. to be certified. As a result of the training, I have revised my mission statement: Helping smart homeowners to upgrade to stylish, high-performing, healthy interiors.