

Sustainable Design

Sizeland Evans believes becoming a legitimately green business starts from the ground up



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— Georgi Sizeland, co-founder, Sizeland Evans Interior Design Inc.

Georgi Sizeland is designing with the environment in mind.

Although the movement toward sustainable business practices is gaining support, Georgi Sizeland of Sizeland Evans Interior Design Inc. cautions that there are companies claiming to be green that are... well... only partially green.

“There's a term out there called 'green wash,' which means that everyone tries to jump on the green bandwagon, but they only want you to look at one aspect of it and you can be fooled,” Sizeland says. “When you want to be green... it isn't just the product you pick, but how it's manufactured. You really want to look at the bigger picture.”

With that bigger picture in mind, Sizeland Evans has redesigned residential properties and the offices of major Calgary corporations, including Telus Corp., Husky Energy and Enbridge Inc. The company also collaborated with the Cohos Evamy Partners architecture firm to update the Calgary International Airport — a project that mandated the use of environmentally sound materials wherever possible, from carpeting and ceramic tiles to paving stones.

One of Sizeland Evans' recent initiatives was bringing noted American sustainability guru Ray Anderson, CEO of Interface Inc., to Calgary last year to speak to their clients. Having set a goal for his carpet manufacturing company to have zero environmental impact by 2020, Anderson proved an inspiration to Sizeland Evans' clients and staff alike. Since his visit, two employees have completed their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, and another seven have signed up for the course.

Moreover, Sizeland claims that “everyone was able to contribute through their jobs and see how they could be more sustainable.” ■