

## The Firehouse

One of the 7 buildings on Ventura's campus is our Firehouse building. A turn-of-the-century fire station once stood at the corner of California and Santa Clara streets, a few blocks from our offices in Ventura. The Firehouse, which we use for office and meeting space, is a unique reincarnation of that building. In constructing this new model, we stayed as true to the original as possible, with necessary bows to function, cost, modern aesthetic sensibilities, and most importantly, environmental considerations.

The structure that occupied the site where the Firehouse now stands was **carefully dismantled**, shipped and then reconstructed in its entirety on the Oglala-Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Usually, demolished buildings end up as waste in a landfill. We **recycled almost 100% of the waste** generated during the construction process. None of the building materials ended up in a landfill. The framework used in the Firehouse is made with at least **98.5% recycled steel**. Steel studs have a minimum of 50% recycled steel content. Ninety percent of the **wood** used in the building is reclaimed, meaning it came from forest-fire downfall, old barns and bridges, etc The walls are filled with blown-in, **100% recycled and ground-up newspaper for insulation**. This insulation has a higher "R" value (the measure of a material's resistance to heat flow) than standard insulation and is 22% more efficient. The insulative material that was not blown in – but rather laid out in rolls – is certified to be 25% recycled glass with no formaldehyde content. Conventional insulation is fiberglass that is held together by formaldehyde. **Roof tiles** were recycled from a building in nearby Oxnard. **Shower tiles** are 70% recycled glass. The Firehouse is now on its second **carpet**, which contains a minimum of 25% post industrial/consumer fibers and is fully recyclable back into carpet fiber. The Firehouse's first carpet was sent to Dupont to be recycled into automotive parts. The **floors** in the bathrooms and food preparation area are Marmoleum: made of linseed oil, cork, wood and limestone (all natural products) with no toxins. It has a jute backing. We used state-of-the-art, laminated double-paned, and coated **windows** that are 72% more efficient than regular double-paned windows and 14% more efficient than triple-paned. They're called low "E" windows (radiant heat reflects back to its source, so the rooms stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter). The **window frames** are made of Fibrex, a wood composite made of reclaimed wood fibers and a special thermoplastic polymer.