

the "green" renovation project.

"Our goal was to utilize local manufacturers and vendors to reduce CO2 emissions," said Grace Sielaff, founder of M. Grace Designs, a member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Demolition of existing walls was minimized, while most of the products specified were obtained from locally approved suppliers. Materials used, such as paints and adhesives, were low in VOC (volatile organic compounds). Additional green design and development features included: 3Form products made of 40 percent post industrial, reclaimed material, and formaldehyde free and non-toxic Flor carpet tiles.

Located on the 17th floor of the Merchandise Mart Design Center, the showroom's welcome desk was made in Chicago, reducing the environmental impact resulting from transportation elsewhere.

The Dan Wolf Toyota of Naperville dealership, slated for completion by the spring of 2009, is utilizing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) construction techniques. Its shop is filled with natural light from high-tech skylights, employs bay doors that open quickly to avoid heat and cold loss, and uses oversized, 24-foot-wide ceiling fans that help reduce or eliminate heating and cooling costs, in addition to dozens of other environmentally conscious features.

Built to maximize local and recycled materials, the facility is made up of elements which conserve energy and water. Some of the highlights of the dealership include self-sustaining landscaping that requires minimal additional watering, an energy efficient inductive lighting systems, and sun-tracking skylights to optimize natural daylight use and lower interior light use.

Although the size of the new dealership is nearly double that of the current facility, due to high efficiency insulation, heating, cooling and ventilation systems, energy use will be less than many dealers half its size. It will be located at 1500 W. Ogden Road, Naperville.

The Fox Valley Land Foundation, an organization dedicated to conserving the

disappearing land in the Fox Valley, has merged with The Conservation Foundation.

As a result of the merger, Fox Valley Land Foundation projects, programs and mission will all continue to be carried out; Fox Valley Land Foundation members are now members of The Conservation Foundation; and the restoration ethos and dedication of Fox valley Land Foundation will continue and spread to the larger region served by The Conservation Foundation.

Contact news editor Jeremy Stoltz at jstoltz@thebusinessledger.com or at 630-428-8788.

