

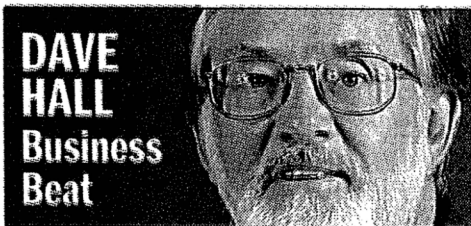
THE WINDSOR STAR

# Business

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[dhall@thestar.canwest.com](mailto:dhall@thestar.canwest.com)

## Green designs benefit budget and environment

A member of Greenpeace for over 30 years, Windsor architect Joseph Passa comes honestly by his commitment to designing environmentally-friendly buildings.

With dozens of his company's green designs popping up across the region, Passa Associates Inc. is among Canada's leading designers of environmentally-friendly buildings. A list of awards backs up their expertise.

"Green buildings have been my passion for decades," said Passa, who was trained in Canada and New Zealand.

"Now it's a growing worldwide movement which is drawing interest and commitment from across the globe."

In the past, it's often been thought that environmentally-friendly buildings are more expensive to design and build. While that can be the case, Passa said it doesn't have to be.

"We've designed schools for the local separate school board which have come in well under budget," he said. "We have to follow the same budget and constraints as any other architectural firm and we've shown we can do it without spending more money."



**Joseph Passa**

As examples, Passa said Our Lady of Mt. Carmel elementary school came in \$65,000 under budget while St. Christopher's was \$350,000 under budget when it was completed. Both exceeded the national energy code standards by between 40 and 60 per cent.

St. Christopher's was recently recognized as the most energy-efficient school in Ontario and the fourth most in Canada.

Buildings designed by Passa Associates are scattered across the area and include a new fitness facility at the University of Windsor, Glengarda Child and Family Services linen building, the Rotary Children's Safety Village, Lakeview Montessori School, South Walkerville Medical Centre, Clairmont Financial, Hofburg seniors residence, Parkpoint condominiums and Crystal Harbour condos among many others.

Passa and colleague David Rompf have just had an article published in the *Journal of Green Building*, outlining four of their local projects.

Next month, Passa will spend a week in Verona, Italy, studying sustainable aspects of stone construction at the 42nd international exhibition of stone design and technology on a scholarship awarded by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

In recognition of his commitment to green buildings, Passa has also just been named to a three-year term on the Ontario Heritage Trust. His mandate will be to devise ways of maintaining the historical integrity of heritage buildings while at the same time making them more energy-efficient.

Passa said one of the heritage buildings under retrofit consideration is Toronto's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres on Yonge Street. "We're hoping to renovate the building and make it more energy-efficient while retaining its history and charm."