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<sup>1</sup> photo courtesy of Bunting-Coady Architects

<sup>2</sup> photo courtesy of National Gypsum Company



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# Riding the wave of trend

by / Jessica Krippendorf

## Designing a vision

Call it trendy or accept the reality: construction projects are going farther with less ... and making better time. Sustainable building and fast-track deadlines are considered the biggest trends to sweep the industry for 2008 and designers, contractors and product manufacturers are meeting the shift away from traditional building practices with innovation and optimism.

Teresa Coady, chief executive officer and founding partner of Vancouver's Bunting Coady Architects, points out that the need for attention to the ecological footprint of new development can no longer be ignored or considered supplemental to good building practices.

"Green building is not a trend or a fad, but a global way of thinking that is here to stay," she says. "It's impossible now to put building together without considering its environmental aspects. When you think of the environment we see green building as essential."

Bunting-Coady realizes its vision to create "living, breathing buildings" through wall and ceiling design where building components replace mechanical and electrical systems. With the use of cleaner, more open spaces, higher ceilings and the increased use of daylighting and washable materials, the company is creating new standards in the true integration of architectural, mechanical and electrical systems.

Teresa Coady explains: "We use a building's mass to cool the space. If a building doesn't have a lot of mass, we suspend radiant ceiling panels that have a heating and cooling function and become radiators in the ceiling.

We also look at opening up the plenum space in a ceiling and keeping it clean, choosing rated ceilings rather than spraying the structure. If rating isn't a concern, we can open the ceiling creating clouds rather than edges that are 100 percent closed in."

Exterior wall reflectors and ceiling light shelters reduce the amount and type of lighting required and dramatically affect the height and function of a ceiling, as can the use of radiant sheet cooling to replace traditional HVAC.

As green building becomes the norm and industry professionals adjust to the resulting changes in design, processes and materials, Coady says, besides mitigating time and cost, fast-track deadlines can ease the learning curve.

"It brings contractors to the table earlier so they can discuss integrated design issues and really get the sustainable building approach," says Coady. "We have to shape the building intelligently and design the building responsibly so we can use less, but create higher performance. When we work with the contractor and he understands the goals up front he's more open to non-traditional systems." Visit <[www.bunting-coady.com](http://www.bunting-coady.com)> to learn more about BCA's company vision and extensive list of projects.