News Wave
CSHQA

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NATIONAL GROCERY CHAIN MARRIES RUSTIC WITH SUSTAINABLE

Whole Food's New Basalt, Colorado Store is a Green Globes Contender

Located in Basalt, Colorado the Roaring Fork Whole Foods Market serves the communities of Basalt, El Jebel, Carbondale, and Aspen. The current site was originally planned for a larger store and multi-use housing and office structures. Then the economy saw the project put on hold and scaled back. Revived in 2010 the current store footprint is 31,914 sf with approximately 12,500 sf of retail floor space.

CSHQA, a design collaborative of architects, engineers and interior designers led a highly interactive team to coordinate the program with Whole Foods, the local developer, local architect Lipkin Warner on exterior design, and city planning entities. In addition to meeting Whole Foods' corporate standards the design features recycled materials, creative storage solutions and excellent lighting design.

The result is a rustic, Western style façade comprised of a metal roof, metal siding – some of which has been rusted and sealed – and sustainably harvested Ipe wood. Reclaimed wood, hinting at the regions' long mining and timber history, also found its way into interior accents. A small back room footprint led to a "storage cabinet" concept with cabinets built above the product shelving in the sales area to house additional inventory. Lighting solutions include louvered fluorescent fixtures, clear acrylic pendant lights with clear glass lenses, various can lighting, track lighting and subtle wall wash lighting to enhance decor. Special attention was given to achieving consistent lighting in the main product aisles. Noting that the lighting on the bottom shelves is as good as at the top, the regional Vice President said "…it's the best lighting of any store I've worked on."

CSHQA engineers were also instrumental to the project's success, providing integrated electrical and mechanical design services. The combination of well-designed energy systems and controls with sustainable materials will certainly enhance its Green Globes consideration. (in progress as of 9/12)

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Headquartered in Boise and with offices in Sacramento, Phoenix, Denver and Glide, OR, CSHQA (**www.cshqa.com**) provides full service architectural, engineering and planning services for retail, educational, aviation, medical, commercial and government clients in throughout the Western US.

Operating more than 325 stores nationwide Whole Foods (www.wholefoodsmarket.com) strongly supports renewable energy through extensive wind and solar power purchases. Whole Foods was recently named a Green Power Leader by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is their fourth such award including awards in 2006, 2007 and 2010.

EPA award source: Retail Today 9.25.12

