

## REVIEWING PLANS FOR A GREEN COMMERCIAL PROJECT AT VMI ARCHITECTURE

The Marin Employment Connection in collaboration with the WIBs in Solano, Sonoma and Napa has launched Project GREEN, to provide green building career training for unemployed and under-employed construction workers. Two successful participants, Mohit Garg and Karen Quinto, are pictured here.

VMI Architecture learned of the CEWTP Project GREEN retraining program in Marin through the collaborative efforts of Marin BERST (Building Energy Retrofit and Solar Transformation). The firm had gone through layoffs and reduction of hours for the remaining staff who found themselves underemployed as a result of the decline in the construction industry.

Now a year later, commercial projects seem to be picking up. Mohit said, "I wanted to have a multi-dimensional professional skill set in architecture. Now as a Certified Green Building Professional and a Green Point Adviser, I can bring more to the table both for my employer and our clients." The certification requires an understanding of sustainable building practices and their application to home building design.

Karen Quinto, an underemployed Production Associate at VMI Architecture, took advantage of the opportunity to advance her credentials. Karen held a LEED AP and was eager to learn more about energy efficiency and green building. She completed Title 24 certification and became a Certified Green Building Professional. She continues to do green building consulting in her expanding role with VMI.

VMI employees have now returned to full-time schedules and look forward to additional projects that will utilize their green building knowledge and principles in the future.



**MOHIT GARG  
AND  
KAREN QUINTO**