

# Coulson Designs firm is taking the LEED

COWICHAN VALLEY - David Coulson of Coulson Design gives new meaning to the term, "multi-tasking."

With anywhere between 12-24 projects on the go from Duncan to Victoria and beyond at any given time, he's more than busy.

Coulson Design handles every sort of job from residential bathroom remodels to enormous commercial and industrial design - from custom built homes to heritage renovations - from designing brew-pubs to building giant waterfront developments.

Coulson relocated to Vancouver Island in 1986 after successfully restoring historic Barkerville and Wells in BC's interior. In Victoria he has worked on well-known projects such as the **Wharfside Eatery**, the **Dominion Hotel**, the **Emily Carr House**, **Helmcken House** and many others. But he says one of his most exciting assignments was in Nova Scotia - a project he designed from 4,000 miles away.

"It was fabulous. I was working on buildings from the 1700s and earlier and I got to do every single thing. I designed the

water system, the air handling systems, the cutlery - even the menu. And they followed it right to the letter!"

He adds that flying out to look at the finished project was one of the proudest moments of his life.

"I expected to see the usual changes and alterations to the plan - but every single detail was there as though it had been peeled right off the plan."

Coulson is about to become one of the few Leed (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified designers and builders on Vancouver Island

and he says he is especially proud of that because he has been building with the environment in mind long before the certification came into effect.

In fact he is currently building a new office space in Duncan with custom hand hewn timbers, bamboo walls and terrazzo floors that will showcase his design sensibilities. His aim, he says, is to build with a feel-

ing for the environment, an eye to esthetics and a desire to make his clients happy. He achieves all three goals in his work time and again.

"I love to see the pure joy - I love see their lives altered. It's great fun. The more we can do that - the more we can bring joy to people's lives, that would be my goal."