

Real Estate

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## Real Estate Women Talk About Green Benefits

The Commercial Real Estate Women of Los Angeles hosted its monthly dinner and discussion recently that included a tour of Robert Redford's Natural Resources Defense Council Headquarters in Santa Monica.

CREW is a network of industry professionals from all facets of real estate including law, brokerage, title insurance, construction, property management, asset management, appraisal, consulting, development and architecture.



**CREW's monthly get-together included a tour of Robert Redford's NDRC Headquarters in Santa Monica.**

Blair Seibert, a LEED accredited architect for WWCOT and a former CREW board member, hosted the tour and presented a discussion on how green buildings relate to the commercial real estate market for nearly two dozen attendees.

Seibert, who has been working on sustainable design projects for the past three years,

dispelled some of the myths of constructing or renovating green buildings and explored cost-effective options.

"The demand for alternative architectural products is increasing," says Seibert. "It's easier than ever to incorporate green products into a building's design. And we're finding that green choices may not cost any more and will likely save the owner money after move-in."

Seibert, whose firm recently partnered with nonprofit Sustainable Works, talked about the different choices that can have a critical impact on the environment and a company's bottom line.

A California building owner recognized \$57,000 in annual savings when employees separated white paper waste from general trash. "There are different levels of green," says Seibert. "It's easy to get started and achieve even the lowest rating without it costing anything additional."—*Becky Bergman*