

# Morris Member Discusses Green Architecture on Television Show

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By Allison Freeman, Vice president of marketing and communications, Morris County chapter

NJAWBO Morris member Faith Zimmerman, who owns Zimmerman Architects with her sister Hope in Denville, discussed ecologically viable architecture on the cable television show *New Directions for Women*.

One of the most basic concepts in "Green Architecture" is the idea of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," Faith Zimmerman told viewers of the show. "This is something we do in our daily lives, in our business and in our practice of architecture."

The segment "*Women Architects-Building a Greener World*," aired in July on several cable stations and can now be viewed in three segments on YouTube. *New Directions for Women*, which is produced by the Morris County Chapter of the National Organization for Women, has aired for more than 16 years.

Faith Zimmerman, an 18-year member of NJAWBO, said she and her sister discussed the fundamentals of "Green Architecture" and sustainability on the show and notes that "ecologically friendly, ecologically viable and green are all the latest buzz in many industries including the building industry. Ecologically viable design means using green design principles rather than just green materials."

Architects practice this concept by reusing existing buildings-adaptive reuse, evaluating a building's viability-consider renovation rather than demolition and renovate and build an addition, Faith Zimmerman said. "Updating an old house or building to current living standards makes it less likely to be torn down in the future."

This concept can apply to smaller spaces where architects recommend reconfiguring an existing space rather than putting on a large addition. "In this way, you can have a smaller and more efficient well-designed space rather than making it bigger," she said. It will require fewer natural resources to build, require less energy and be more economical.

"To really be "Green," a project must be designed in a way that is inherently green, rather than just slapping "green" materials or products on a "non-green" project," Zimmerman notes. Some environmental factors that must be considered include natural ventilation, natural daylighting and using the natural features of a site.

"Great design isn't necessarily about size," Zimmerman said. "It's about smart use of space as well as the right products to do the job. We all need to live smarter without necessarily living larger. Often it will automatically be "green" in some aspects if it is designed well."