



PHOTO COURTESY: SUMMERTOWN INTERIORS

Aiming for gold

SUMMERTOWN INTERIORS' LEED ENDEAVOUR HAS HELPED THE COMPANY ACHIEVE A 32 PER CENT REDUCTION IN WATER CONSUMPTION AT ITS JAFZA PREMISES

When Summertown Interiors, the UAE-based corporate turnkey design and fit-out solution specialist, set out to build its new corporate headquarters and showroom in JAFZA as a green building, the company's top management decided that the ultimate goal would be a LEED Gold certification.

Marcos Bish, MD, Summertown Interiors explained that corporate social responsibility (CSR) was a key motivating factor behind the decision to go green. He said, "As organisations, governments, and individuals, we need make sure there is a better tomorrow for future generations. We also have a responsibility towards all the stakeholders, whether employees, shareholders or the

population at large, to develop high-performance sustainable interiors. Moreover, buildings account for nearly 40 per cent of the consumption of raw materials and energy." Another motivating factor was an opportunity to demonstrate first hand to existing and potential clients how to create an eco-friendly work environment that is also cost-effective and productive

As a part the LEED endeavours, Summertown has implemented water efficiency measures in its new premises. Bish said, "LEED has six main characteristics of which one is water efficiency. Maximising water efficiency reduces the burden on municipal water supply and waste water systems. An additional motivation is the financial benefit of reduced water bills."

Summertown's green building consultant conducted a feasibility study which indicated a 30 per cent reduction in water consumption by executing an environmental friendly design.

Bish explained, "The feasibility study indicated that installing conventional water closets, urinals, hand wash fountains, shower and kitchen sinks would result in