



The Burnside Rocket building at East Burnside and 11th in Portland plans geothermal heat pumps and a rooftop garden.

KEVIN CAVENAUGH

# GOING GREENER

Innovations and acceptance stretch the boundaries of sustainable building.

By Jon Bell

Portland designer Kevin Cavanaugh had sustainability in mind when he drilled below his newest spec office building to tap into a water source for the geothermal heat pump that will heat and cool the four-story structure.

What he found down below, however, was an aquifer potable enough to provide water not only for climate control but for all the building's water needs, from drinking and flushing to watering a rooftop garden of salad greens for chef Leather Storr's new restaurant on the top floor.

"Every day he'll be up there harvesting bib lettuce

and arugula for his restaurant," says Cavanaugh. "That's pretty innovative."

While not all commercial buildings shooting for sustainability have their own water source and fresh produce, unique features such as those found in Cavanaugh's Burnside Rocket building highlight some of the more innovative ways that builders are pushing the green envelope.

"We've passed the tipping point in sustainable design," says Kip Richardson, marketing director for Ankrom Moison Associated Architects in Portland. "It's no longer about how you're going to do it, but how far you're going to push it."

Richardson says almost all of Ankrom Moison's projects these days have some sustainable design elements in them. At least two clients, developer Steve Ribeiro in Independence and Vulcan Inc. in Seattle, have charged Ankrom designers with taking sustainability to shades of green beyond Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications and other industry measures.

"They've said, 'We want you to explore how far we can go,'" Richardson says.