

FACILITY MANAGERS CITE PLANTS AS A COST-EFFECTIVE BENEFIT

Corporate and facility managers recognize that interior plants affect employee attitude and retention, according to a recent released study by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). The top three reasons cited by corporate and facility managers for using plants were color, employee attitude and retention, and "making an environmental statement." Almost 50% of the facility managers questioned said that they use interior plants in 75% to 100% of their buildings.

The survey of 670 facility and corporate managers identified plants, artwork and sculpture as the key interior building enhancements, which could influence higher occupancy and retention. According to the survey, facility managers used plants to add color and enhance a building's appearance and make a positive environmental statement.

Other reasons cited were that plants are an accepted part of contemporary building interiors, improve indoor air quality and promote the marketability of building space and retention of clients. "This survey confirms our own impressions of why and how extensively plants are used in the corporate environment," said Connie Hom, President of Buckingham Greenery. "If businesses want to attract high-quality employees, they have to provide enhanced work environments and plants are now considered basic to that environment."

"This survey supports the research that living plants improve employee morale, adding to a sense of well being and productivity," said Dick Ott, ALCA Interior Initiative Chair. "Corporate and facility managers use plants to demonstrate a positive company image, which makes a statement about the operation as a whole. These managers have told us that the trend of livable office environments begins with plants."

Strong use of plants in the office environment is attributable to a number of factors, including; decision-makers accepting employee attitude and retention as a key factor in use of plants, plants being viewed as delivering a better package at a lower cost than art or sculpture and continued recognition of the practical benefits of having a professionally designed, installed and maintained interior landscape.

Call Buckingham Greenery, Inc. at 1-800-322-4711 for more information.