



#### JAN KAHN RENOVATOR

**Green Girl Scout:** Jan Kahn, who owns Green Heart Construction, a home renovation and repair business, was an environmentalist long before it was fashionable. Born in California and bounced around the country as an "Air Force brat," Kahn says a radical ecologist who spoke to her Girl Scout troop made a big impression on her.

"I got flak for some of my ideas," she says, "but they aren't so crazy anymore."

**Not just for the rich:** Her business is not particularly unique, especially in uber-green Portland, but Kahn, 51, stands out as a longtime advocate for increasing environmental standards at all socio-economic levels. She spent several years as an assistant site supervisor with Habitat for Humanity before starting Green Heart in September 2006. Her business model is to get as aggressively green as possible, whether installing floors, fixing windows or repairing rot. She has signed on to the Architecture 2030 Challenge, a national nonprofit pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector. And she demonstrates her passionate belief that green homes aren't just for the wealthy through contract work with Portland Community Land Trust, a nonprofit helping working families become homeowners.



**Long live linoleum!** Her focus, Kahn says, is creating healthy homes rather than the "mold bombs" that often pass for low-income housing. Green methods might cost more up front, she says, but result in savings in a few years' time. Nontoxic substances that contribute to cleaner breathing environments, for example, cut down on asthma rates and, therefore, health care costs. Green surfaces like bamboo and linoleum are extremely durable. "Put a good vinyl floor in," she marvels, "and it's going to last forever."

#### DR. JASON MCMILLAN DENTIST

**Rustic yet modern:** In creating the country's very first LEED-certified dental practice, Dr. Jason McMillan of Mint Dental Works has married the rustic and modern.

McMillan, 35, and his wife, Rebecca, turned an old warehouse in Southeast Portland into a charming office filled with recycled and reclaimed touches. "People walk in and say, 'It doesn't look or smell like a dental office,'" says McMillan, a Louisiana native who's lived

in Oregon for 22 years. "That's the biggest compliment for me."

**Handy with a drill:** Beams and trusses were left exposed, and all the doors, including 10-foot fir beauties salvaged from Rejuvenation, are recycled. The doc made a funky table by placing a piece of floor from an old Portland bowling alley atop an industrial sewing machine stand.

**A sink-less office:** Then there's the medical side of things, all super-modern. "Trying to marry the new and old was a little tricky," McMillan says, but part of the fun. He orders toothbrushes with handles made from yogurt containers. Sinks were replaced with alcohol-based hand sanitation stations, reducing water usage, the number of fixtures and permitting costs. And McMillan plans to buy a piece of equipment that will allow him to mill and place crowns during a single visit, eliminating the need for materials to take tooth impressions and saving patients a return trip.

PHOTOS BY JAMIE FRANCIS

