Some general contractors might fall into a routine where they complete work without enthusiasm, but not DPR Construction. Instead, “We are] a unique technical builder with a passion for results,” the company says.

Based in Redwood City, Calif., DPR Construction offers commercial contracting and construction management services. “Whether [it’s] a multimillion-dollar technical facility or a conference room renovation, we execute every project with relentless accountability,” it states.

Founders Doug Woods, Peter Nosler and Ron Davidowski started DPR Construction in 1990. “Armed with $750,000 of pooled resources and a steadfast determination, the three construction veterans set out to do something different in an industry traditionally resistant to change,” the company says.

According to Woods, the three wanted it to be a customer-focused organization. “We’re not a hard-bid general contractor; we’re a negotiating general contractor that takes care of our customers,” he said in a statement. “To do that, we need great people who are happy and willing to work hard. That’s one of the things that started us, making us different from the very beginning.”

Over the years, the company completed hundreds of projects and opened regional offices in nearly every major U.S. technology center. “Since 1997, it has continued to rank in the top-50 general contractors in the country,” DPR says.

DPR says it strives to listen to clients’ goals and form strategies based on their businesses. “We do everything we can to earn [their] trust and build great lasting relationships,” it states.

Understanding Healthcare
DPR’s core markets include the healthcare sector, where it has completed more than $3.6 billion in projects, “ranging from miscellaneous repairs to new medical centers and assisted-living facilities,” the company says. “Our proven industry experts understand the unique needs and applications of the intricate systems that are the lifeline of healthcare facilities.”

DPR’s current healthcare projects include the renovation and expansion of the St.
David's Women Center of Texas in Austin. According to the Austin Business Journal, the $36 million, 91,000-square-foot expansion will increase the availability of women's services. The facility, which is expected to open in September, will include 20 neonatal intensive care unit beds, 18 antepartum beds and four new operating rooms. “We’re located in a rapidly growing part of Austin and we have the pull to reach patients from the north, south and east, with lots from Killeen, Temple, Seguin and San Marcos,” St. David’s North Austin Medical Center CEO Allen Harrison told the Journal. “With this expansion of services, we’re also going to be able to expand our geographic reach, especially in the field of antepartum pregnancy, because that care that’s largely not available in their own community,” he continued. “We regard this as validation with what we did with the creation of the women’s center and what we offered when it first opened.”

**Doing the Right Thing**

DPR stays on top of building trends, including sustainable construction. “Being green is no longer novel,” the company declares. “Building sustainable structures is simply the right thing to do – right for the environment and right for business. Sustainable projects, DPR notes, not only improve efficiency, but also marketability and employee productivity. “To assist owners in developing and implementing the best strategies, DPR combines experienced people, a collaborative methodology and custom tools to help address the triple bottom line: environmental, social and economic,” the company says.

The company’s portfolio includes nearly 150 LEED-certified projects worth more than $3 billion. “DPR's LEED-accredited professionals, located in every office across the country, not
only have practical green project experience but also continuously research and implement the latest green building practices and techniques to further improve sustainability,” DPR says.

It also utilizes custom tools to enhance the construction process. For example, “DPR’s greenBook, a custom application, helps teams determine with a higher level of certainty which sustainability measures make the most sense for a specific project’s goals,” it says.

A Living Lab
DPR’s green focus has led to the opening of a new San Francisco Bay Area regional office, which aims for Net-Zero Energy Building certification by the International Living Future Institute through its Living Building Challenge program. “The San Francisco office will be the third DPR office to serve as a living lab for sustainability – the Phoenix office achieved net-zero energy certification in 2013 and the San Diego office should receive certification in late 2014,” the company says.

Only 12 U.S. buildings have earned net zero energy certification from the Living Building Challenge. “The Los Altos-based David and Lucile Packard Foundation Headquarters is the closest net-zero energy building to San Francisco, on which DPR served as a general contractor,” the company says.

“We continue to see both our client base and workforce expand in the Bay Area, and to accommodate that growth we sought a larger work space that would also allow us to renovate and incorporate cost-saving and environmentally friendly features,” DPR Regional Manager Mike Humphrey said. “We intend for our San Francisco office to become the third DPR office to achieve net zero energy certification and serve our living lab to test the newest and most intelligent energy-efficient products on the market for others to see firsthand.”

One of the Safest
DPR has a strong safety culture and promotes an injury-free environment with the goal of zero incidents on every project. “Our teams measure and evaluate safety data daily,” it says. “We use a mobile safety audit system to collect and analyze raw data from each jobsite, which helps teams identify leading indicators – those elements that lead to incidents occurring – and develop meaningful and valuable prevention plans.

“Over the last three years, DPR’s OSHA recordable incident rate averaged 1.02, based on an average of more than 3.9 million total hours worked – making us one of the safest contractors in the country,” it says. “Based on nearly 800 customer surveys, DPR ranked significantly higher in safety when customers were asked to compare us with their best previous contractor experience.”

For the Kids
DPR contributes to communities through its DPR Foundation, created in 2008 to help disadvantaged children. Led by Nosler, “The DPR Foundation works closely with DPR employees to identify organizations to support, which are local to each office, that benefit grade school and high school-aged children,” the company says.

“Each year, the foundation provides grants as well as volunteer support to chosen organizations,” DPR says. “As of 2013, the DPR Foundation [had] awarded more than $3.2 million to 22 different organizations across the country.”

The foundation also gets directly involved with charities. “Our employees spend much of their time volunteering, planning events and even sitting on the boards of these organizations,” it says.