NEW AIA CEU REQUIREMENTS

Washington, D.C. — During the March 2008 AIA National Board of Directors meeting, it was approved that starting January 1, 2009, all AIA architects will be required to take four Learning Units of Sustainable Design coursework to meet AIA continuing education requirements and retain AIA membership. The requirement for “Sustainable Design” is that 75 percent of the course content must relate to this topic — in particular, carbon reduction/energy efficiency supporting AIA’s Sustainability 2030 goals for carbon neutral projects by 2030. All existing AIA-approved courses will be re-evaluated to meet new sustainability standards. Visit www.aia.org/ces_default for more information.

NEW STUDIES CONFIRM SAVINGS SIGNIFICANT IN LEED, ENERGY STAR BUILDINGS

Washington, D.C. — Two recently released studies, one by the New Buildings Institute (NBI) and one by CoStar Group, have validated that third-party certified buildings outperform their conventional counterparts across a wide variety of metrics, including energy savings, occupancy rates, sale price and rental rates.

In the NBI study, the results indicate that new buildings certified under the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) LEED certification system are, on average, performing 25 to 30 percent better than non-LEED certified buildings in terms of energy use. The study also demonstrates that there is a correlation between increasing levels of LEED certification and increased energy savings. Gold and Platinum LEED certified buildings have average energy savings approaching 50 percent.

The study also shows that buildings that have earned the EPA’s ENERGY STAR label use an average of almost 40 percent less energy than average buildings, and emit 35 percent less carbon.

But beyond reduced energy use and reduced carbon emissions, the results from both studies strengthen the “business case” for green buildings as financially sound investments.

According to the CoStar study, LEED buildings command rent premiums of $11.24 per square foot versus their non-LEED peers and have 3.8 percent higher occupancy. Rental rates in ENERGY STAR buildings represent a $2.38 per square foot premium versus comparable non-ENERGY STAR buildings and have 3.6 percent higher occupancy. And, ENERGY STAR buildings are selling for an average of $61 per square foot more than their peers, while LEED buildings are selling for an average of $171 more per square foot.

The group analyzed more than 1,300 LEED Certified and ENERGY STAR buildings representing about 351 million square feet in CoStar’s commercial property database of roughly 44 billion square feet, and assessed those buildings against non-green properties with similar size, location, class, occupancy and year-built characteristics to generate the results. Visit www.usgbc.org for more information.

LODGE WINS “SUSTAINABLE HOTEL OF THE YEAR” AWARD

Denver — The historic Zion Lodge in Zion National Park was named the Sustainable Hotel of the Year at the HotelWorld Global Hospitality and Design Award Ceremony and Expo in Las Vegas. The award was presented in recognition of the many environmental programs implemented by Denver-based operator Xanterra Parks & Resorts.

Xanterra last year created six eco-friendly suites at Zion Lodge. The goals of the project were to incorporate as many environmentally sustainable features as possible, and to ultimately reduce the consumption of natural resources and eliminate waste. The suites feature sustainable bamboo floor entryways, recycled content carpet, dual-flush toilets, filtered drinking water, organic cotton sheets and linens, all-natural biodegradable soaps and other amenities, shampoos and moisturizers in bulk dispensers, compact fluorescent lighting, automated heat and air-conditioning sensors, use of biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners, complimentary organic coffee and tea, key card lighting controls and LED nightlights.

In addition, renewable solar energy and wind energy are used to power 85 percent of the property’s energy needs. Other lodge-wide practices include reducing water usage by only serving water on demand in restaurants, discontinuing the use of table cloths, composting food waste, providing in-room recycling containers, avoiding chemical pesticides, replacing bottled beer with beer on tap, restoring two acres of non-native grassland to its natural state and offering sustainable food choices in restaurants. Xanterra also purchased electric and hybrid vehicles and retrofit two other vehicles to propane. The company installed an energy-efficient, on-demand propane boiler in place of a polluting diesel-fired boiler.

The lodge has pursued third-party verification of its environmental programs. Its environmental management system is ISO 14001-certified, and the lodge joined the EPA National Environmental Performance Track program and is an EPA ENERGY STAR Partner.

Designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the 1920s, Zion Lodge features 81 motel-type guest rooms and 40 Western-style cabins. After a fire in 1966, the lodge was rebuilt in 100 days with the top priority being to restore guest services. The lodge was restored to its original classic appearance in 1990, and the cabins were restored by Xanterra in 1998.

Visit www.zionlodge.com for more information.

HOTEL INDUSTRY CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCED BY 37,000 TONS

Alpharetta, Ga. — The Refinishing Touch, a provider of on-site environmentally safe, furniture re-finishing and re-upholstery to private and public organizations, reports that it has completed refurbishing 3,000 armoires to date, this year, for the hospitality industry. This has prevented their disposal in landfill sites and saved the hotel industry from outputting an additional 37,500 tons of carbon dioxide into the environment. Since the introduction of flat-screen televisions, many armoires have become redundant in hotels, and many hotels dispose of them. By re-

There have been no significant changes in the energy consumption of the hotel industry since the adoption of LEED certification.
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