



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Winners of U.S. Green Building Council's 2009 Natural Design Competition

*New format for 2010 competition will focus its sights on the rebuilding effort in New Orleans in collaboration with Salvation Army*

Washington, DC (Nov. 18, 2009) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced the winners of its 2009 Natural Talent Design Competition at last week's Greenbuild International Conference & Expo in Phoenix, Ariz. The competition, now in its seventh year, gives students and young professionals the opportunity to apply sustainable design concepts to local community building projects.

"The winners of this year's competition are tomorrow's green building leaders and the innovation that they've shown gives us great hope for the future of the built environment," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council.

The competition engages young designers in a unique way by presenting them with the opportunity to have a hands-on learning experience designing with the principles of LEED in mind including integrated design, sustainability and innovation.

National 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner: Team Grow Harlem, The Emerging Green Builders of the Urban Green Council, USGBC's New York Chapter. Team members: Irmak Turan, Daniel Bersohn, Ryan Moy, Shefali Sanghvi and Christopher Jones.

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: Team Phoenix, USGBC North Carolina Triangle Chapter. Team members: Patrick Gorham, Ron Wilson, Eli Barrett, Josh Lee and Larry Carr.

Honorable Mention: Team Talud, USGBC Colorado Chapter. Team members: Frank Romero and Michael Deleon

Design teams compete in local competitions held by the participating chapters and host committees in USGBC's national chapter network. The winning team from each local competition moves on to compete for a national award at Greenbuild. This year, 23 chapters hosted local competitions and sent their winning project teams to Greenbuild to compete for the national prize. The winners were chosen at Greenbuild by a jury of design professionals and were announced at the "Student and Young Professional Master Speaker Session."

A new format for the 2010 Natural Design Competition was also revealed. In partnership with Salvation Army's EnviRenew Initiative, the 2010 competition will focus its sights on the rebuilding effort in New Orleans, Louisiana. Competitors will be divided into students and young professionals groups and will design a LEED for Homes project that is priced affordably and is functional for elderly occupants. Up to four designs will be selected from the local competition finalists to be showcased at Greenbuild 2010 and, for the first time, the designers will see their projects built in New Orleans' Broadmoor neighborhood.

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Once the homes are built, they will enter a measurement and verification phase in which they will be graded on energy efficiency, water reuse and indoor air quality among other categories. The design team whose home performs best during measurement and verification will be awarded the final grand prize. See [www.usgbc.org/naturaltalent](http://www.usgbc.org/naturaltalent) for more details.

"The vision of USGBC to engage students and young professionals in the mission of making home-ownership a financially sustainable solution through energy-efficiency, and quality of life improvements through design" said Captain Frizzell, Area Commander for New Orleans, "will develop better social equity considerations and meet the defined needs of a recovering population"

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## **U.S. Green Building Council**

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 80 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

## **About Greenbuild**

The U.S. Green Building Council's Greenbuild International Conference & Expo convenes the industry's largest gathering of representatives from all sectors of the green building movement. Three days of extensive educational programming, workshops, a vast exhibition floor and ample networking events provide unrivaled opportunities to learn about the latest technological innovations, explore new products, and exchange ideas with other professionals. Greenbuild is the three time recipient of IMEX Green Meetings Award. The 2009 show was held on Nov. 11-13, 2009, in Phoenix, Ariz. The 2009 conference drew more than 28,000 attendees and featured more than 1800 exhibit booths. Visit [www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org) for more information.

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