



CENTRAL TEXAS
BALCONES

A Farewell Letter From Our Chapter's 2008 Chair Heather DeGrella

How fast a year can come and go! The speed with which 2008 passed has led me to start off the year reflective of how little time we each have on planet Earth - and how much work there is left to do. With this thought, the Chapter's Mission to accelerate the transformation toward sustainable building and land development practices in Central Texas through innovation, advocacy and partnerships meets with a growing sense of urgency. In a single year, the global economy has tanked. But at the same time, we have reached a watershed moment where the political climate and the will of the nation has come together to create the most opportune moment to date to make changes on a scale that will have a monumental impact on climate change. The economic down turn does not necessarily mean a slow-down for the sustainability movement. In fact, veteran greenbuilding guru, Jerry Yudelson, predicts that the green building industry will grow more than 60 percent this year. [Read Heather's letter](#)

USGBC Central Texas Chapter Sponsorships Now Available!

The foremost green building advocate group in Central Texas, the USGBC - Central Texas Chapter, asks that you join us in 2009 for our most expansive and influential year to date.



Our mission is to provide a visible catalyst for change in Central Texas. The USGBC supports the creation of communities that regenerate and sustain the health and

Upcoming Events

[Build San Antonio Green-Renovation/Remodeling Program](#)

Date: February 5, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[LEED Estimating for Green Buildings](#)

Date: February 17, 2009

Location: Waco, Texas

[Low Impact Development \(LID\) Workshop](#)

Date: February 17-18, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations Technical Review](#)

Date: February 27, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Gulf Coast Green 2009](#)

Date: April 16-17, 2009

Location: Houston, Texas

[Solar Fest 2009](#)

Date: May 2, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[2009 USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition](#)

Registration: Now until July 1, 2009

Submission Deadline: July 24, 2009

Eligibility: All university level

vitality of all life. Through education, advocacy, and partnerships we advance sustainable building and land development practices throughout a 55 county region, including Austin and San Antonio. We can't do it with out our sponsors. The pioneering handful that began the Central Texas Chapter of USGBC nearly six years ago has seen the chapter swell in membership to over 2100 members from across the state. Our ranks include some of the most influential and respected environmentalists, engineers, architects, advocates, and educators in the country. [Keep reading](#)

5 years of graduation

[Click for more events](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Visit the Chapter Website](#)

[Chapter Sponsors](#)

[Chapter Calendar](#)

[SCRC Information](#)



Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

From the modern day farmer who is part businessman and part heirloom geneticist, to the sustainability systems developer who will design and build the stochastic models for tomorrow's windfarms and smart-grids, Fast Company takes a look at the ten best green jobs of the next decade.

[Fast Company's Top Ten Green Jobs](#)

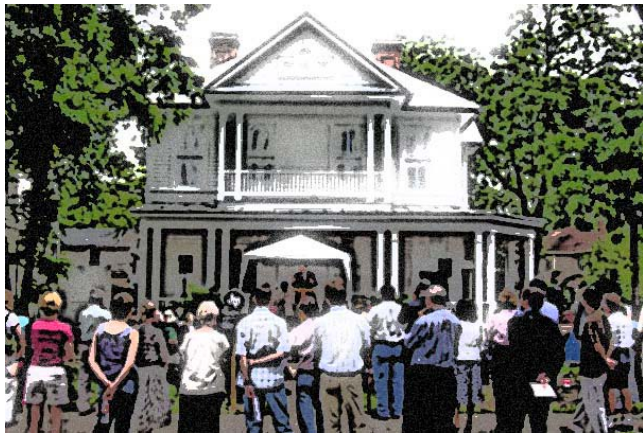
Historic Platinum: San Antonio's Nix House

From the San Antonio Express News

The first project in San Antonio to achieve the platinum rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program isn't a new eco-friendly office building or a Hill Country home bathed in solar panels. Instead, it's an 1899 New England-style Victorian in the King William Historic District.



Dell Children's Medical Center Goes Platinum



The Nix House is a Texas Historic Landmark known as the first home built by Atlee B. Ayres, architect of the private residence that became the McNay Art Museum. Now it's officially green, too, thanks to energy efficiency achieved without altering its historic character. "We've done a tremendous amount not to make this a McMansion," said Roy Pachecano, who bought the house in late 2005. Pachecano also is president of the development firm Portico Residential, which headed the project.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article

Dell Children's Hospital press release

Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, a member of the Seton Family of Hospitals, has become the first hospital in the world to receive the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum designation, given by the U.S. Green Building Council. "Even before the first plans were drawn up, we set our sights on creating a world-class children's hospital, and becoming the first LEED Platinum hospital in the world was definitely part of that," said Robert Bonar, president and CEO, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. "Our motivation to pursue LEED Platinum was not just environmental. Being a 'green' hospital has a profound, measureable effect on healing. What's good for the environment and good for our Mueller neighbors is also good for our patients."



Click [here](#) for the full article



Energy Saving Product You Should Know About

Green Switch is an easily retrofitted wireless system of control switches and slave outlets that help eliminate the drain of unused electricity in your home. By eliminating vampire energy, neglected thermostat losses, and forgotten lights, Green Switch can help you save in the vicinity of 20%, depending of course on the number of outlets you choose to connect to the network. Average payback is estimated at one to two years.

[Click here for more info](#)

Officers of the 2009 Board

Board Chair: Heather Venhaus; The Wildflower Center

Co-Vice Chair: Effie Brunson; Designated Tree Partners

Co-Vice Chair: Dr. Diana Glawe; Trinity University

Treasurer: Andrew Kelch; Wachovia Securities

Secretary: Liza Meyer; City of San Antonio

SCRC Board Representative: James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects

Past Chair: Heather DeGrella; Lake/Flato Architects

Member: Gary Acuna; TRI Recycling, Inc.

Member: Justin Doak; Austin Refuel

Member: Kathe Doran; CPS Energy

Member: Christopher LaRocque; DPR Construction, Inc.

Member: Anita Ledbetter; Metropolitan Partnership for Energy

Member: Sean Van Delist; Cement Council of Texas

Member: John Walewski; Texas A&M University

National Board Members

2009 Chair of the Board: Gail Vittori; CMPBS

South Central Regional Council Representatives

Board Representative; James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects

At-Large Board Representative; Kathy Zarsky; Balance-Wheel

A single gas powered leaf blower can emit as much pollution in a year as 80 cars.