USGBC CENTRAL TEXAS JULY NEWSLETTER

Baylor First Texas University to Earn LEED Certification for Existing Buildings

Baylor University has become the first university in Texas to earn a coveted environmental rating by meeting stringent standards set out by an international building council. Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary has been awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification by the U.S. Green Building Council in its existing buildings rating system. "Baylor is committed to sustainable construction and being a leader locally and nationally in earning LEED certification for existing buildings and new construction," Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, said. "I am delighted that Baylor has the first fully certified LEED designation in Waco and McLennan County." Read full article

Green Building in Healthcare: Challenges and Choices in a Time of Change

from Consilience: the Blog

Green building design, construction and operation practices have gained widespread popularity in the healthcare industry in recent years, even considering the current challenging economic climate. This trend is likely to continue because green building

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Upcoming Events

Sustainability Thru Technology Symposium
Date: July 9, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Regional Urban Forest Conference
Date: July 10, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Gardening San Antonio with Dr. Jerry Parsons
Date: July 11, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Solar San Antonio Workshop
Date: July 17, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Wet Workshop: Steven Colley Greens Your Home!
Date: July 18, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

AIA Luncheon Speaker Series
Date: July 21, 2009

practices result in both decreased overall life cycle costs and healthier building occupants. This article will briefly examine green building background, discuss the unique needs of healthcare facilities (in relation to green building practices) and finally examine the choices and challenges faced by healthcare facilities in determining whether to design, construct and/or operate a green building facility, with a specific emphasis on legal issues therein.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), green building is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. Read the rest of the article

AIA Continuing Education Seminar
Date: July 22, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Specifying Green Products
Date: July 22-24, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Nature Crafts with the Southwest School of Art and Craft
Date: July 25, 2009
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Home Energy Rating (HERS) Training and Certification
Date: July 27-31, 2009
Location: Waxahachie, Texas

QUICK LINKS

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Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

Here's another great slideshow from TreeHugger: 15 slides describing the changing technologies and architectural uses of green roofs. "Are green roofs being used as a form of 'greenwrapping' to put buildings where they shouldn't be? Or are they actually creating opportunities for better planning?"

Green Roofs Are Changing Architecture

USGBC Seeks Help to Close Performance Gap in Buildings

from CleanTech

The role that buildings play in the health and well-being of the environment and human health is

EPA Announces Energy Star Homes Reach Nearly 17% Market Share for 2008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that nearly 17 percent of all single-family homes built nationally in 2008 earned EPA's Energy Star label, up from 12 percent in

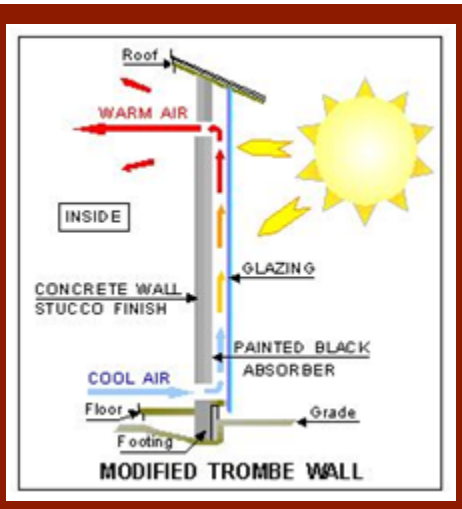
becoming more widely understood. Reducing our built environment's use of energy is reflected in LEED v3, the newest version of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system-more so than in any previous version. Energy use in buildings is paramount to all structures but is especially important in the health care field. Research shows that health care organizations spend over $8.3 billion on energy each year to meet patient needs and that every dollar saved on energy is equivalent to generating new revenues of $20 for hospitals or $10 for medical offices. Green health care facilities are contributing to a positive bottom-line economic trend-specifically in the areas of improved staff recruitment and retention, reduced patient length of stay, and the preferred facility when patients have a choice. These measurable benefits are important in a competitive health care market where hospitals and other health care facilities compete for the best medical expertise and for patients. They also contribute to a spectrum of community benefits and allow health care facilities to reposition their operations around a mission of health and healing versus taking care of sick people.

Click here to read the entire article

2007. Both home builders and home buyers are continuing to invest in high performing homes that save consumers money on their utility bills and help protect the environment.

"Every year more Americans decide to cut their energy bills and help keep the air clean in their communities by buying a new home that has earned EPA's Energy Star. Features like properly installed insulation, high-performance windows and high efficiency heating and cooling can reduce home energy needs by 20 to 30 percent, saving American families thousands of dollars on their utility bills,' said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Even in a difficult market, the interest in Energy Star qualified homes keeps rising. We're helping builders and homebuyers to protect the environment, safeguard our health, and move the country into a low-carbon energy future."

Click here for more



Green Building Technique You Should Know About

A Trombe wall, also referred to as a "solar wall", is a sun-facing wall designed as a passive solar collector; people can enjoy its benefits in the toasty comfort of their homes. Instead of running your home heating system, you can use the radiant heat flow from an original design. The system is becoming an increasingly popular addition to home designs because of its heating benefits, energy efficiency, low maintenance, inexpensive, and quick construction.

Click here for more info

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