



## Hospitals Taking Healthy Environments to Heart

*from The Wall Street Journal*

A small but growing number of hospitals is embracing ecologically friendly design and practices as a way to combat skyrocketing health-care costs and improve the health of patients, employees and communities.



While the number of hospitals that are going "green" remains low, these facilities paint a picture of a future in which patient stays are shorter, more pleasant and maybe even less expensive, experts say. Thanks to six courtyard-style healing gardens seeded with native plants, sunlight streams into 80% of the nearly 500,000 million-square-foot Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas in Austin. Most interior spaces are within 32 feet of a window, and even the dining room, which is 30 feet underground and features a waterfall, has natural lighting thanks to shafts. "It's been intuitive for a long time, but now we have [studies] that indicate that patients who have a room with a view and plenty of sunlight require less analgesia and a lower length of stay in the hospital," said Robert Bonar, the facility's president and CEO. [Read full article](#)

## The Annie Residence: A Look at an Austin-based Prefab Design

*from Inhabitat*

This modern and warm prefab home is a stunning example of the beauty and quality you can achieve

## Upcoming Events

[LEED for General Contractors/Construction Managers](#)

Date: May 11, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Central Texas Green Building Symposium](#)

Date: May 12, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[LEED for Schools Technical Review](#)

Date: May 20, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[2009 Green School Symposium and Awards](#)

Date: May 21, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[Corporate Sustainability Summit](#)

Date: May 28-29, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

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

Date: June 2, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Solar First Saturdays](#)

Date: June 6, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Third Annual "There's No Place](#)

through the efficiency of prefab construction.. Inspired by multiple cultures, this eye-catching design by Austin-based Bercy Chen Studio features outdoor living space, water features and lots of windows to create a comfortable and attractive home.



The home is constructed with a modular steel frame and thermasteel panels for an efficient and waste-minimizing design. With two families living in this home, the architects divided the house, providing separate, but inter-connected living areas for each family. The Annie Residence, located in Austin, Texas, is made up of two pavilions, one for each family, which are connected by a glass hallway. The home also combines design traditions from two different cultures, which is particularly apparent outside where a garden, a water feature and flexible space extend the living area outdoors. Moorish influences can be found on the roof where a shading canopy stretches over the elevated landing. [Keep reading](#)

Date: June 10, 2009  
Location: Austin, Texas

[Spotlight on Design Reception](#)

Date: June 10, 2009  
Location: Austin, Texas

[Solar First Saturdays](#)

Date: July 4, 2009  
Location: Austin, Texas

[2009 USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition](#)

*Registration:* Now until July 1, 2009

*Submission Deadline:* July 24, 2009

*Eligibility:* All university level students and individuals within 5 years of graduation

[Click for more events](#)

## QUICK LINKS

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Cool Link for your Viewing Pleasure!

From the folks at Tech Radar, a brief run down of ten massive renewable energy projects that are currently up and running or will be in the not-too-distant future. What do we mean by massive? How about a 1GW solar array in China's Qaidam Basin or a 708MW geothermal field in the Philippines? HUGE projects my friends. Take a look...

[Ten Big Green Projects](#)



## Green Building Product You Should Know About



Toilet flushing is the largest single water consuming activity in most buildings. The ECOS Dual Flush Water Closet Flushometers from Sloan are a convenient retrofit that can drastically reduce consumption and pay off rather quickly. The dual flush function offers either a 1.1g or 1.6g manual flush override on top of an automatic battery operated sensor which determines flush strength depending on time spent in front of the sensor. A recent retrofit of Dual Flush Flushometers in the Portland International Airport saves them 177,000 gallons of water daily.

[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**.