



## USGBC CT-B Member Edgar Farrera: "No Bribes for LEED Exam Tips"

by Christina Gonzales, LEED AP

USGBC Central Texas member Edgar Farrera, AIA, LEED AP is an Associate and Director of Sustainable Design at Marmon Mok Architecture. This past March, Edgar was one of about 30 people invited to Washington DC by the Green Building Certification Institute to spend four days drafting the new LEED Building Design & Construction exam. Although he is not allowed to discuss the content of the new exam, he did offer valuable insight about changes to the LEED accreditation requirements.

Q. What can current LEED APs expect in regard to new credentialing requirements?

A. Well, first of all the GBCI (Green Building Certification Institute) is rolling out the changes as part of their new Credentialing Maintenance Program (CMP). This new Program is intended to add value to the LEED AP credential by introducing a number of changes as well as a new tiered-credentialing system.

[Read full article](#)

## San Antonio's Northside ISD to Open First 'Green' School



### Join Our Local Chapter.

By becoming a member you will have access to discounts, members-only events, and voting rights.

### Upcoming Events

Emerging Green Builders  
LEED Green Associate  
Study Group

Date: Mondays Aug 10-  
Sept. 21, 2009

Location: San Antonio,  
Texas

ASHRAE 90.1 2007 -  
Update and Overview  
Workshop

Date: August 12, 2009

Location: San Antonio,  
Texas

Green By Design Workshop

Date: August 15, 2009

*from San Antonio Express News*

When Martin Elementary School opens in August of 2010, it will claim at least two firsts. Martin will become the first NISD elementary school to be built inside Loop 410 since 1980 and it also will be the first officially "green" NISD school. Construction, which started earlier this year, is following a strict protocol established by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The LEED rating system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization based



in Washington, D.C. In order to earn a LEED certification, everything about the school must be environmentally

friendly, from the recycling of materials during the construction to the energy efficiency of the building once it's finished. "We feel that eventually, the state Legislature will mandate that school districts meet some level of green building criteria and we want to be prepared," said Vernon Dunagin, assistant superintendent for Facilities & Operations. In addition, "Northside ISD is committed to protecting the environment and our natural resources." Read the rest of the [article](#)

LEED Building Design and Construction Workshop  
Date: August 28, 2009  
Location: San Antonio, Texas

LEED EBOM Workshop  
Date: September 1, 2009  
Location: Austin, Texas

"Looking to Europe for a Greener Tomorrow"-USGBC  
Lecture by Jerry Yudelson  
Date: September 2, 2009  
Location: San Antonio, Texas

2009 PCI Convention  
Date: September 12-15, 2009  
Location: San Antonio, Texas

Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair  
Date: September 25-27, 2009  
Location: Fredericksburg, Texas

## QUICK LINKS

Visit the Chapter Website  
Chapter Sponsors  
Chapter Calendar  
SCRC Information



## Sustainable Concept House Outside Boerne is Complete

*from San Antonio Express News*

After more than nine months of construction, the Sustainable Concept House in Tapitio Springs outside Boerne is ready for visitors to stroll through its 21st century interior. Owners Griz and Karen Adams are opening their home Saturday through Aug. 9 so that people can see green-building concepts such as energy-efficient siting, solar hot water heating, natural building materials that don't emit volatile compounds and a 40,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system.

[Read the full article](#)

## USGBC CT-B Membership Survey Results

*by Diana Glawe, Co-Vice Chair*

The results of our Chapter's membership survey are in! A big thank you to all of you who took part. By doing so, you showed a commitment to helping us achieve our mission of and it will help us tailor chapter efforts to best suit our members' needs. The response was encouragingly overwhelming with 218 of you participating, which is significantly higher than the norm for a survey. The top three reasons for

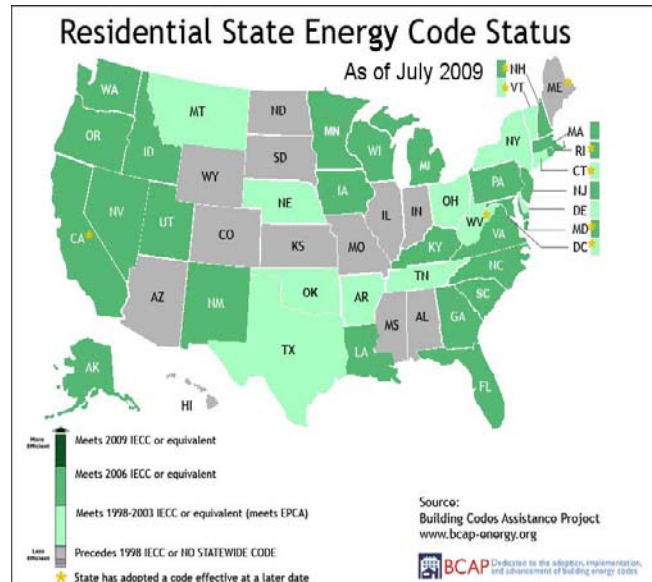
## The Case for a National Building Energy Code

*from Grist*

Recently, there has been a good deal of media attention given to building energy codes, generally and specifically, the codes provision of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), both good and bad. A couple of these articles piqued my interest by asking if building energy codes should be a matter of federal importance or if it should be left to states and localities.

becoming a chapter member are professional networking, learning opportunities and commitment to sustainable development and the environment. The most popular chapter events are lunch-n-learns, green building tours, and green drinks, although almost all events received interest of more than 30%. As we grow, the opportunities for professional networking will increase. One benefit highlighted by the survey is the diversity of our chapter membership. Of the survey participants, the primary role in green building for 32% was as Sustainability/LEED consultants, 27% are architects, 23% in construction, 14% are engineers, and 11.5% are home owners, not mutually exclusive.

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



I am fascinated by this issue, as before coming to NRDC I worked in the commercial building industry where beating code was how you were evaluated as an engineer. The sum of those energy decisions made by architects, engineers, and builders drive the largest portion of our energy consumption and our national energy policy. Much of the recent press has focused on the feds taking responsibility for something that has historically been a matter of local concern, but this miscasts the issue.

Click [here](#) for more



Land-force.com takes a look at 20 conceptual designs for the future of vertical farming. While not entirely viable for present day implementation, the vertical farm concept is advancing and present day trials like that in El Paso, TX, are helping pave the way. Vertical Farming Concepts

## Officers of the 2009 Board

Board Chair: Heather Venhaus; The Wildflower Center

Executive Director: Jane Baxter Lynn

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: Anita Ledbetter; Metropolitan Partnership for Energy

Member: Sean Van Delist; Cement Council of Texas

Member: John Walewski; Texas A&M University

Member: Erin Zayko; Lockheed Martin Energy Services

## National Board Members

2009 Chair of the Board: Gail Vittori; CMPBS

SCRC Representative: Robert Harris; Lake/Flato Architects

## South Central Regional Council Representatives

Board Representative; James Andrews; Overland Partners Architects

At-Large Board Representative; Kathy Zarsky; Holos Collaborative

**Bernie Madoff** will serve out his life sentence in a **LEED-certified** federal prison