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## **USGBC-Los Angeles Chapter Announces Inaugural Sustainable Innovation Awards at 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Gala, Enjoys Record Attendance**

Los Angeles, CA (November 4, 2011) - The Los Angeles Chapter of the nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council launched its Sustainable Innovation Awards last night during the chapter's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Gala—with a record 500+ in attendance—at the LEED® Certified JW Marriott at L.A. Live. Projects were awarded across seven categories, recognizing exceptional achievement and innovation in each LEED category for countywide certified projects from the past two years.

Selected by a distinguished group of jurors, the projects were judged for innovation, community impact and team collaboration, and awarded regardless of LEED certification achieved.

The jury was comprised of notables in the private, public and non-profit sectors: Jennifer Berthelot (Shangri-La Construction), David Hodgins (Sustento Group), Mia Lehrer (Mia Lehrer + Associates), Steve Lewis (Thinking Leadership), Lisa Matthiessen (Buro Happold), Kent Peterson (P2S Engineering), Gwynne Pugh (Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio), Lauren Rank (L.A. County Office of Sustainability), and Walker Wells (Global Green).

The Sustainable Innovation Award for Project of the Year were bestowed by Eduardo Xol, author, activist and star designer on ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The two projects honored included:

- Existing building City National Plaza (LEED EB Gold-rated) was demonstrated as a prime example of how effective team collaboration, sustainable vision and commitment to change can result in a building retrofit that lowered cost, increased efficiency and return on investment, and addressed environmental and economic challenges faced by those existing buildings in today's unstable market. "The improvements and renovations on the plaza have contributed and revitalized a central part of downtown," says Juror Mia Lehrer of Mia Lehrer + Associates. "It went from an under-utilized and barren place to a people place."
- The Walter & Leonore Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology (IST) at Caltech (LEED NC Gold) demonstrated the true value of interdisciplinary coordination, research and teaching, both at the project team and operational levels. Kent Peterson of P2S Engineering notes, "The use of a chilled beam system in tandem with a hybridized operable window system makes this project unique and effective in reducing annual energy use while optimizing thermal comfort inside the building."

Sustainable Innovation Awards were also bestowed in the following categories:

**Water Efficiency** (dual award):

Award: PUNCHouse Design Group's PUNCHouse 234  
Award: Abode Communities' Casa Dominguez

**Energy & Atmosphere:**

Award: PUNCHouse Design Group's PUNCHouse 234  
Honorable Mention: Thomas Properties Group's City National Plaza

**Materials & Resources:**

Award: Marmol Radziner's Glendale Childcare Center  
Honorable Mention: The Related Companies' The Century

**Indoor Environmental Quality:**

Award: Caltech's Walter & Leonore Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology  
Honorable Mention: Caltech's Schlinger Laboratory for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

**Innovation in Design - Education:**

Award: Westridge School for Girls Sustainable Science Building  
Honorable Mention: Abode Communities' Casa Dominguez

**Innovation in Design - Technology:**

Award: City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works' Water & Power Operational Building  
Honorable Mention: USC's Eli and Edyth Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research

The theme of the 2011 Green Gala was "Branching Out," reflecting the Chapter's broadened focus on engaging new members and communities beyond the building industry who have sustainable living initiatives, as well as information and goals that are parallel to that of USGBC-LA.

Keynote Speaker Jason McLennan—author of the Living Building Challenge, international speaker and CEO of the Cascadia Green Building Council—laid the groundwork for the evening. Considered one of the founders of the green design movement in the United States, his speech challenged everyone in the room, asking "Are you branching out in a way that will make things a beautiful, elegant place, or is it just 'less bad'; in which case, it's a failed state." Continuing on this path, he noted that that "Green Building is changing the paradigm of how people think" because "Green Building is about the people inside the buildings, and not about the technology." Finally, referring to the concept *Zugunruhe*—the name of his new book and a German word meaning 'migratory restlessness'—he said migration isn't sudden, there is preparation. "The rules have changed, and it's a question of how we're going to be prepared."

With the record attendance, the gala reaffirmed its status as the single largest annual vehicle for communication, celebration and bridge-building among those who think, act, design and build greener throughout the County of Los Angeles and its metropolitan areas. The annual Gala attracts influential guests across its industry, including architectural designers, landscapers, builders, local and regional governments, nonprofits, utility companies and those interested in collaborative sustainable initiatives that affect communities.

The Green Gala was co-chaired by Glen Folland of P2S Engineering and David Summers of Glumac. Megan Folland of Abode Communities chairs the Sustainable Innovation Awards. Entertainment was provided by the Martini Kings.

Sponsors included: Collaborative Project Consulting, Gensler, GLUMAC, Greenberg Glusker, Swinerton Builders, ZGF Architects, ARUP, Callison Architects, P.C., Chinese Delegation, Gaia Development, Matt Construction, ReGreen Corporation, SEIU United Service Workers West, Turner Construction Company, Abode Communities, AEG, AON Construction Services Group, Bernards Builders and Management Services, Brightworks, Brookfield Properties, Cal Tech, Cuningham, Davis Langdon and AECOM Company, GGLTS Green Dinosaur, Kilroy Realty, Knoll,



LACCD, Morley Builders, P2S Engineering, Parsons, Pica + Sullivan, Port of Long Beach, PUNCHouse, Southern California Gas, Syska Hennessy, The Energy Coalition, Thomas Properties, USGBC-LA Board Table, Vanir Construction Management, Inc., and Willdan Energy Solutions.

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### **About USGBC-LA**

The United States Green Building Council – Los Angeles Chapter (USGBC-LA) is a high-performing nonprofit organization incorporated in 2002 by a motivated and diverse group of individuals with a common interest in environmental conservation. USGBC-LA's MISSION is to promote sustainability in LA County's built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. For more information, please visit [www.usgbc-la.org](http://www.usgbc-la.org) or contact Katy Robinson, Director of Operations and Communications at (213) 689-9707 or via email at [krobinson@usgbc-la.org](mailto:krobinson@usgbc-la.org).