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Sustainable Landscape Solutions

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Team of Seattle Green Building Professionals Forms to Make an Ultra Sustainable Building a Reality – For Free

The Restorative Design Collective to Create New Science Building for the Bertschi School

SEATTLE –December 15, 2009– A team comprised of some of the region’s leading green building professionals have formed The Restorative Design Collective to build a cutting-edge green science building for the Bertschi School, an independent elementary school on Capitol Hill in Seattle. Working pro bono, the team is designing the new science building to meet the standards of the Living Building Challenge, a deep-green building program which encourages projects to achieve self-sufficiency by generating all of their own energy with renewable resources, harvesting and treating all of their own water on site, and operating at maximum levels of efficiency with a healthy indoor environment.

The Restorative Design Collective was founded by Stacy Smedley and Chris Hellstern of KMD Architects. “We were inspired at Cascadia’s Living Future Conference last May and saw an opportunity to use our collective brainpower to gain valuable experience working on a Living Building project while making a difference,” said Smedley. “With The Restorative Design Collective, the team gets to strengthen our skills and build our knowledge, while the next generation of leaders at this local school can learn how sustainable systems work through observation and first-hand experience in their new classroom.”

With only a handful of local construction projects following the Living Building Challenge’s guidelines, Bertschi School’s new science building – slated for completion in November of 2010 – has the potential to be the first Living Building finished in the State of Washington.

“With the integration of sustainability into our curriculum, we encourage students to become engaged as thoughtful stewards of local and global communities,” said Founder and Head of School Brigitte Bertschi. “This science building will truly bring learning to life, offering an unparalleled educational experience to not only our students but the greater community in Seattle and beyond.”

The Restorative Design Collective:

Project Team

Architectural Design: KMD Architects
Landscape Architecture: GGLO
Civil Engineering: 2020 Engineering
Geotechnical Engineering: GeoEngineers
Structural Engineering: Quantum Consulting Engineers
Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing: Rushing
Sustainability Consultant: O’Brien and Company
Food Systems Consultant: Back To Nature Design LLC
Public Relations Services: Parsons Public Relations
Preconstruction/Construction Services: Skanska

Key Collaborators

Organizational: Cascadia Region Green Building Council
Jurisdictional: King County GreenTools

Jurisdictional: City of Seattle Department of Planning and
Development Green Building Program

The Living Building Challenge:

Since its inception three years ago, the Living Building Challenge has gained global recognition as the most radical and revolutionary green building standard. The Living Building Challenge is a program initially launched and currently operated by the Cascadia Region Green Building Council. It serves as a challenge to builders, owners, architects, engineers, and design professionals to create buildings that are net-zero energy, net-zero water, and use resources efficiently and for maximum beauty. There are currently more than 70 proposed Living Buildings in the design or construction phase, as well as three completed projects in the one year verification phase, awaiting certification.

The Bertschi School:

An independent elementary school known for its integrated, innovative program, Bertschi School has a strong commitment to sustainability and incorporates this focus into both its curriculum and operations. In 2007, the school completed construction on its main building, The Bertschi Center, which is the first LEED Gold certified elementary classroom building in Washington State.

The Restorative Design Collective:

Founded in 2009 by Stacy Smedley and Chris Hellstern of KMD Architects, The Restorative Design Collective is a group of Seattle-area design professionals who share the desire to push themselves and their firms to the forefront of the sustainable building movement. Members of the Collective recognize and endeavor to further the Living Building Challenge which plays an essential role in raising green building standards, meeting the 2030 Challenge and creating net zero buildings.

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