



USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition Program Summary 2009

OVERVIEW

The 2009 USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition provides an applied learning experience in the principles of integrated design, sustainability, innovation, and social consciousness, all of which are components of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™. Participants will compete in a regional competition, and the top winner will move on to compete as a national finalist at Greenbuild Phoenix in November 2009. The Cascadia Region Green Building Council, the regional Competition Host, will provide the regional awards as well as travel support and registration to Greenbuild (<http://www.greenbuildexpo.org>), USGBC's Annual Green Building Conference and Expo, where finalists' entries will be displayed and where final judging will occur.

The Cascadia Region 2009 Natural Talent Design Competition will address the issues of the Living Building Challenge and a building's integration into its surrounding transportation network. Judging will occur and awards will be given at Cascadia Region Green Building Council's (Cascadia) annual *unconference*, Living Future. Living Future 09 will take place May 6-8, 2009 at the Nines hotel in Portland, OR. See www.cascadiagbc.org/living-future/09 for more information.

COMPETITION OBJECTIVES

- Broaden environmental education in the building professions within the university system
- To empower students and young professionals to become future leaders in the green building movement
- Highlight the efforts, and initiative of students and emerging leaders in the green building movement
- Encourage the reduction of the dependence on fossil fuels within the building industry
- Connect students with esteemed individuals from USGBC and green building industries
- Promote exemplary designs of future designers by displaying them at Greenbuild
- Utilize LEED® as a guideline for building design and performance

- Recognize and award students and young professionals for their dedication, creativity, innovation, and commitment to sustainable design
- *Further the understanding of Living Buildings
- *Encourage innovative solutions to the challenge posed by designing a Living Building
- *Encourage the consideration of transit-oriented design and alternatives to single occupancy fossil-fuel vehicle transportation
- *Address regional issues within the Cascadia Bioregion
- *Consider the impacts on climate change through site design

**denotes objective per Regional level only and not identified as National competition objective.*

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ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to university students (of any discipline and level) and individuals within five (5) years of graduation. All entrants must be members in good standing with Cascadia as an Emerging Green Builder. Check with Cascadia to determine membership status, if it is unclear. Please note, Cascadia membership is not the same as USGBC membership.

- Teams and individuals wishing to participate in the competition will qualify to enter the nearest competition site to their residence. There is only one competition within the Cascadia Bioregion.
- Both individuals and teams are permitted to enter.
- Multi-disciplinary and international teams are strongly encouraged.
- Teams are to be no larger than five individuals.
- Only one entry per team/person will be accepted.
- We encourage teams to secure a faculty member or industry professional to play an advisory role. The Competition Committee will not recommend advisors but encourage participants to seek them out themselves. Please check the USGBC Web site for a list of LEED Accredited Professionals in your area, or contact Cascadia for help identifying an advisor.
- International entries will be accepted at both the regional and national levels. However, it is up to the international team to secure their own translation of the applicable program, as well as additional support for translation clarification. It will not be the responsibility of the regional or national host committees to translate.

REGISTRATION

1. Teams are required to complete an online registration form by visiting the USGBC national Web site at www.usgbc.org/egb; only one form per team. All information must be complete to be considered a valid entry. A confirmation email will be sent from the USGBC within seven (7) business days of receiving the registration, and will contain information on how to proceed. Registration is mandatory to receive additional instruction and information on project submittals.

2. Teams are required to identify a primary contact. This person will receive important information from the regional competition committee and is responsible for final submission. The team contact will be responsible for all communication between the design team and the Competition Committee. Additionally, the team contact should disseminate all information from the Competition Committee to their entire team.

3. Each team/individual may only enter one local competition. This competition should be the competition geographically closest to your current location.

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COMPETITION CHALLENGE

Transportation is one of the biggest issues facing the environment today. The automobile, North America's favorite method of transportation, often contributes to air, water and noise pollution, habitat loss and destruction, community dislocation and climate change. This design competition challenges competitors to design a building and program that explore the connection between transportation, community and the environment within the performance guidelines of the Living Building Challenge (www.livingbuildingchallenge.org):

Design a Living Building that has portions of its program dedicated to transportation, community and the environment. All projects must address the environmental impacts of transportation by designing spaces and circulation that celebrate sustainable alternatives to non-renewable fueled automobiles. The Living Building is an aggressive model and best suited to identify these solutions at a regional or community scale.

PROJECT CONTEXT & LOCATION

There are two (2) available site options for creating your design proposal:

Option A: Riverfront site in Portland, Oregon. Within the neighborhood district of St. Johns and in the shadow of the majestic and historic St. Johns Bridge, the site lies in a brownfield, south of Cathedral Park. Along the Willamette River and adjacent to the North of the site is Portland's Water Pollution Control Laboratory and bordering to the East is the Portland Railroad tracks. This site will seek to address increased transit needs to the Portland Central City and growth of the St. Johns and North Portland residential areas along the East bank of the Willamette River. See www.cascadiagbc.org/emerging-green-builders/NTDC for more site details.

Option B: Elect your own site. The elected site must physically exist within the Cascadia bioregion and adhere to the Living Building Challenge site prerequisites. A narrative of up to 300 words must be submitted to explain the choice of this site over the recommended site in Option A.

Note: No judging preference will be given for choosing either Option A or Option B. Option B is intended primarily for, but not limited to, university students to use a studio project focused on the Living Building Challenge as a competition entry. Unless a structured thesis program, students may not be able to choose the site of their studio project; though it may otherwise meet the competition requirements.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

All entries must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Transportation:** The project must confront the issues posed by transportation, seeking a solution alternative to the use of single occupancy fossil-fuel vehicles.
- **Public Space or Public Space Adjacency:** The project must include an area of public space, or be adjacent to easily accessible public space, forming a core element of the project's site design.
- **Mixed-use:** The project must incorporate both private and public space, and consider the interplay between public space and private development.
- **Solar Envelope:** All projects must consider the solar envelope of the site and the site's development on adjoining properties.

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (cont.)

Entries choosing recommended Option A must adhere to the following additional guidelines:

- Develop the site and create a Living Building(s) that facilitate a transit center between ground transit and a public water transit system(s). Include spaces that support the demands of a mixed-use development, simultaneously providing required support spaces of transportation systems that are proposed in the design. Ground and water transit systems will be proposed and integrated by the entrant.
- Incorporate the planned development of the Willamette Greenway Trail alignment as addressed by the City of Portland in the North Reach Riverplan.
- Include a controlled rail crossing onto the site
- Design to incorporate ground transit system(s) that will travel down Burlington Avenue to access the site and provide ground transportation network.
- Enhance the region by providing a transportation center that will stimulate the development from industrial use, into a vibrant, mixed-use area.

DESIGN GOALS

Evaluation criteria at the national level:

- Conceptual Design and Program fulfillment: how the project's vision has met the requirements
- Integration of green design strategies and applicability to LEED™ criteria
- Creativity in process, design and innovation
- Engagement of social, environmental, and economic aspects of program and site
- Overall energy reduction and its documentation

Evaluation criteria at the regional level:

- All national level evaluation criteria
- Understanding of the Living Building Challenge
- Design innovation in response to Living Building Challenge
- Overall improvement of transit systems
- Awareness and engagement of regional issues throughout the Cascadia Bioregion
- Consideration of Climate Change as a design element

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Submission at the Regional and National Level:

- *At minimum, submit two (2) presentation boards of a required image size of 24"x36", which must include:
 - Site plan providing context (scale at the discretion of the entrant)
 - Building Section
 - Floor plan
 - Illustration of key elements of sustainable infrastructure and building systems
 - Wall section OR detail illustrating special environmental features
 - *A regional circulation diagram, highlighting the flows of transportation at the site and surrounding adjacencies
 - **Do not** include names or the name of your team on the board
- *A narrative describing how the design addresses the Living Building Challenge prerequisites. It can be up to two (2) pages in length.
- All entries must remain anonymous at all levels.
- Each entry must also provide a digital file of the image as a JPEG or TIFF format at 300dpi, full size.
- Failure to follow the submission requirements could result in disqualification. This will be left up to the judges' discretion.
- A one-page written design analysis in PDF form to provide the judges with further insight into the submissions.
- All entries need to be submitted in English.

***Deadline for regional submissions is April 17th, at 11:59 p.m.** No submissions will be accepted after this date and time. Registered teams will receive instructions on how to submit.

*Note: Digital files of the boards and narratives are due by **April 17th at 11:59 p.m.** The digital submission process will be described in the submission instructions. Each team is also responsible for providing two boards to Cascadia's Portland Office, 721 NW 9th Ave, Suite 280, Portland, OR 97209 by **May 5th, 2009**. Teams that do not provide both the digital submission and the physical submission will be disqualified.*

**denotes requirement per Regional level only and not required for national submission. Only the regional winner will be eligible to submit at the national level.*

Other important notes:

- LEED® is a design guideline only. It is understood that this will not portray an accurate LEED® score.
- No LEED® credit interpretation rulings will be provided.
- Designs do not need to be engineered for construction. You should be mindful of conventional design practices, although no other codes other than ADA need to be explicitly met (e.g., local building code, IBC or UBC, fire code, etc.).

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FINALISTS

Finalists at the regional level will be given additional time to develop and detail their designs. Finalists may be required to provide two 30"x40" presentation boards for final presentation at Greenbuild in Phoenix. USGBC will provide more details regarding presentation requirements by September 2009. The finalists may be given specific LEED® credits to consider, including material samples and details. *All Finalists should include the submission requirements that are required for National submission, and not required to include requirements exclusive to the Regional submission.*

An electronic copy of the two boards for entry will be due to USGBC October 2, 2009. These electronic copies should be PDF files formatted to fit on an 11x17 sheet. Entrants are responsible for ensuring both boards are physically present at the Greenbuild Conference and Expo in Phoenix, for display and final judging. This will be coordinated with USGBC toward the end of September. Finalists are strongly encouraged to attend Greenbuild but are not required.

As earlier stated, final presentations can be further developed and modified from the original project submission, although not redesigned. There must be a clear relation to the original submission. *The Competition Officials at both levels reserve the right to disqualify any entry perceived to be redesigned.*

JUDGING

There will be two phases of judging in the 2009 NTDC competition. The first will take place at the Cascadia Regional level by May 6, 2009 and the winner of the regional competition will be announced at the Living Future conference in Portland, Oregon, May 6-8, 2009. Judging at the national level will take place at Greenbuild in Phoenix, AZ, by an esteemed panel of green building experts.

AWARDS

The regional jury will award a first, second and third place, as well as two Honorable Mention Awards. Winning teams will receive the following awards:

- 1st Place: \$1,000
- 2nd Place: \$500
- 3rd Place: \$250
- 4th and 5th: Honorable mentions

NOTE: Cascadia will provide first place winner with one registration and airfare to Greenbuild in Phoenix at either the student or full conference rate, depending on the age of the finalist. Although competition teams may include up to five members, only one person – as chosen by the team – will receive registration and airfare. The person attending will be expected to spend a minimum of one hour at the Cascadia booth at Greenbuild Phoenix.

National awards are as follows:

- 1st Place: \$5,000
- 2nd Place: \$2,000
- 3rd Place: Honorable Mention

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DISCLAIMER

USGBC reserves the right to refuse any entry. USGBC is not liable for lost or misdirected, late or substantially incomplete entries, as well as any entries containing text/images that identify the designer to jurors. The decisions and opinions of the jurors represent their professional viewpoints, not the opinion of USGBC. All prizes will be awarded at the discretion of USGBC and all decisions are final.

All drawings, photographs, photocopies and other physical materials submitted to the competition become the property of USGBC and will not be returned. It should be emphasized that this competition is purely conceptual, and the selection of finalists or prize-winners in no way indicates intent of the property owners to implement the proposed schemes. Upon registering for this competition, all competitors agree to waive any and all claims against USGBC as a result of the competition. Also, by registering, the entrants transfer unlimited use for publication, exhibition and electronic posting of all entries to USGBC. All images must either be created by the team or sufficiently cited. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Fill out and return the Image Use Form found on the USGBC website www.usgbc.org/egb prior to submitting for your local competition.

This competition, headed by USGBC, has no intention to award or grant any building contracts for the designs submitted in this competition.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

- **November 17-21, 2008:** Participating chapters announced at Greenbuild Boston.
- **December 1, 2008:** Regional registration goes LIVE on the national USGBC web site (www.usgbc.org and click on Natural Talent Design Competition).
- **April 17, 2009:** Regional deadline for submissions (digital-only).
- **May 5, 2009:** Physical board submissions are due to Cascadia
- **May 6-8, 2009:** Regional judging occurs and awards are given at Living Future in Portland, OR.
- **October 2, 2009:** National deadline for those chosen to compete at Greenbuild 2009 in Phoenix.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information on the regional competition, visit:

www.cascadiagbc.org/emerging-green-builders/NTDC

For additional information and questions visit the FAQ page at www.usgbc.org/egb

Local contact: NTDC@cascadiagbc.org

Contact designcompetition@usgbc.org with any questions not answered on the above site.

SPONSORED BY:

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<http://www.cascadiagbc.org>