

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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The Eco School House at Grant Elementary has been selected as an Honorable Mention project in the First Annual Inspiration Awards, a national competition sponsored by Contract Magazine to recognize 1) social responsibility in commercial interior architecture where design is used to improve the quality of life for those in need and 2) cause-related work by the commercial interiors community. The project, nominated by Peckham & Wright Architects, Inc. (PWA), will be highlighted at the Inspirations Event on March 25th in Los Angeles, California and featured in Contract Magazine, www.contractconnected.com and www.contractmagazine.com.



The interior of the recently completed Eco School House at Grant Elementary School features a bio-based tile floor made of rapidly renewable material.

Contract Magazine selected the Eco Schoolhouse out of 34 entries based on submitted photographs and the following information:

When the Columbia Public School District lost an overflow classroom trailer to arson fire, PWA proposed replacing it in a way that would best serve the School District, teachers and children. The Eco School House, an energy-efficient, economical building, designed as an alternative to trailer classrooms, is a cooperative collaboration with the School District and leaders in the design and construction community. Reminiscent of a one-room school house, the building is prominently located on a major street by the 99-year-old Grant Elementary School, offering the public a tangible example of the school's sustainability focus. With a design that met LEED criteria, the school is a teaching tool. It allows students to see, touch and learn about the building's environmental and socially sustainable components:

- *Photovoltaic panels provide a net-zero annual electric use*
- *Light-colored TPO roof reflects heat and lowers cooling load*

- *Energy-efficient heat pump system*
- *Low-e, double-glazed, argon-filled windows provide energy-efficient natural lighting and exterior views*
- *Tubular skylights offer added daylighting*
- *Structural Insulated Panel system provides R-24 walls and R-42 roof*
- *Rain barrels collect water for irrigating native Missouri plants*
- *Bio-based tile floor is made of rapidly renewable material*
- *GREENGUARD® compliant furniture*
- *Low VOC glues, adhesives and paints maintain healthy indoor air quality*
- *Fire-proof drywall to provide safety*
- *Acoustic panels improve sound quality*
- *Recycling receptacles in the cabinetry*
- *95% locally manufactured components*

The project created a “snowball effect” prompting the principal and teachers to integrate sustainability into the school curriculum and parents to donate time and materials to expand the garden. Most remarkable was the outpouring of community support for the project. 100% of the labor and services were completed on a pro bono basis with donations of design, materials and construction from over 150 people in 40 organizations. As lead architect, PWA is pleased so many companies gave materials, and some paid employees to work on the project - an act of sustainable kindness that will have a profound effect on the lives of children for many years to come.

Contract Magazine is a national publication devoted to highlighting creative interior design trends and ideas that shape the industry on a daily basis. Contract also provides comprehensive coverage of commercial interior design products and resources for use by the design industry.