



Minnesota

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U.S. Green Building Council Announces Winners of 2011 Natural Talent Design Competition

Students and Young Professionals Design Sustainable Affordable Housing for a Minnesota Community

Minneapolis – (August 19, 2011) – The City of Proctor, Minnesota has a new design for an affordable, sustainable home, courtesy of a hard-working team of young professionals who took first place at the 2011 U.S. Green Building Council – Minnesota (USGBC-MN) Natural Talent Design Competition.

Winning team, Rogue Arc Collective, with members Dane Steinlicht, Matt Sand, Brad Gelschus, Nate Tickner and Joe D. Lochner were selected from a pool of 20 teams that participated in the 4th annual design competition.

The competition is an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate design students as well as young green building professionals, to design a LEED for Homes project that is priced affordably and is functional. This year's competition used a residential site in the City of Proctor and challenged teams to design a single-family, three-bedroom, 1,800 square foot home that met LEED Platinum criteria for a budget if \$150,000.

View their designs here: [Include Link](#)

Winning Teams:

First Place - Emerging Professional Team: “Rogue Arc Collective, Minneapolis, MN:

Team members: Dane Steinlicht, Matt Sand, Brad Gelschus, Nate Tickner and Joe D. Lochner.

The design fulfilled all the requirements, on a \$150,000 budget (excluding land) of a LEED For Homes certified Platinum design. The team focused on, passive solar tempering, an open floor plan, and careful integration of the building with the site, resulting in a design that is a functional, beautiful and belongs in Proctor, MN. The team took into account the geographic location of the site. Close proximity to the Great Lakes and strong winter lake effect with wind shear dictated the building orientation. The team also incorporated passive heat gains through window placements, on-site water conservation and ease of construction by local trades.

Second Place - Student Team: “Judson 7”, Judson University, Elgin, IL:

Team members: David Montoya and Philip Goestenkors.

The team from Judson University took a no-nonsense approach that really satisfied the Judges. With the bulk of this house proposed to be constructed from local volunteer support and being built in an already established subdivision, this house looked like it was meant to be built there. Incorporation of energy savings through passive strategies and energy conservation construction with the design of a contemporary built home. Lots of thought went into their water conserving design for a LEED Platinum home that could be placed into an already existing housing development.

Third Place - Student Team: “Clo Mo”, University of Minnesota:

Team members: Roy Cloutier and Theresa Mozinski

The team from University of Minnesota-College of Design took a “concise” approach for this design. With budget and volunteer labor playing a large roll in the design, this home is basic, simple, beautiful and Platinum all rolled together. A key factor for this home was the landscape architecture’s inclusion in the design.

Honorable Mention was awarded to “Glass Block Collective” a student team from the University of Minnesota whose members are Lukas Buechs, Jonathan Dessi-Olive, Andrew Montgomery and Matthew Tierney and “Refining the Primitive” a student team from Judson University with members Kyle Mertensmeyer and Heather Juhl.

“USGBC- Minnesota is honored to host the 2011 Natural Talent Design Competition,” said Sheri Brezinka, USGBC-MN Executive Director. “The Chapter developed the competition to facilitate green building collaboration between aspiring architects and designers, the chapter and the professional community. This effort provides students and young professionals 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.”

A group of five judges used the following criteria to select the winning team: conceptual design and program fulfillment, integration of green design strategies and applicability to LEED criteria, creativity in process, design and innovation, engagement of environmental, economic and social aspects of program and site, overall energy reduction and its documentation and the feasibility for the city of Proctor, affordability and prospect of construction.

The competition was possible through the support of Minnesota’s leading design firms: Cuningham Group, HGA, Perkins + Will, Leo A Daly along with the University of Minnesota – College of Design.

About the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Minnesota Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of Minnesota, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The Chapter promotes the design, construction and operation of buildings and communities that are healthy places to live and work, environmentally responsible and economically viable on a lifecycle basis. The Chapter serves its members and communities by promoting best practices in design and technology usage, advocating green building policies and facilitating information exchange and education. The Chapter encourages the widespread acceptance and use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ and other complementary tools and standards. For more information, visit www.usgbcmn.org.

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