

INTERFACE ENGINEERING

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland's Interface Engineering Wins Design Awards for Its Work on OHSU's Center for Health & Healing

PORTLAND, OREGON Proving that top-level green building design can be achieved within a conventional budget using integrated design, Interface Engineering's work on Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Center for Health & Healing has earned the firm two engineering awards.

Consulting-Specifying Engineer magazine awarded Interface with its 2006 ARC Award for Project of the Year. The ARC Awards ("Advancing, Reinvigorating and Cultivating Engineering" Awards) honor engineers and engineering firms that have incorporated unique mechanical, electrical and plumbing design elements into building projects. *Consulting-Specifying Engineer* magazine is the industry's premier integrated engineering source for nonresidential building systems. According to *Consulting-Specifying Engineer* magazine's Editor-in-Chief, Jim Crockett, the Center for Health & Healing stood out among the entries when looked at from the perspective of integrated engineering, teamwork and problem solving and thus earned the Project of the Year award. "The building has so many different kinds of systems. It was like designing software, with each line of code carefully sequenced to make it work," explains Andy Frichtl, PE, Interface Principal and Lead Mechanical Engineer on the project.

Interface was also the recipient of the Oregon 2007 Engineering Excellence Award, Project of the Year from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACEC Oregon). The Engineering Excellence Awards recognize engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity. Projects from all over the world are rated on a long list of criteria including uniqueness and originality of the project, future value to the engineering profession and sustainable development consideration.

Oregon Health & Science University's Center for Health & Healing was one of the first buildings completed in Portland's new South Waterfront neighborhood. It is on track to be one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the nation and the largest in the United States to achieve a Platinum LEED rating from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. The Center for Health & Healing is a 400,000 SF 16-story mixed-use building including a three-level 210,000 SF underground garage and an associated central utility plant. It houses physician practices, outpatient surgery, a wellness center including a pool, research labs and educational space. With a \$30 million engineering budget, Interface Engineering had complete responsibility for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing design of the base building, tenant improvements, underground garage and central utility plant, as well as commissioning. Exceeding the building owner's goals, Interface completed the design of the building for 10 % less than budget forecast.

Interface Engineering is a 38-year-old, full-service firm-distinguished by its breadth of specialty expertise and deep commitment to sustainable practices. Currently, Interface is engaged in nearly 50 LEED registered projects, has completed 11 LEED certified projects and has 30 LEED Accredited professionals on staff.

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Additional Information:

Lessons learned and the systems used to create this building have been recorded in the publication, *Engineering a Sustainable World*, compiled and edited by Interface Engineering. The building has developed interest worldwide, as is evident by over 7,000 requests for the book to date. A copy of the booklet can be obtained upon request.