



U.S. CARIBBEAN
CHAPTER

USGBC Natural Talent Design Competition US Caribbean Chapter: Program Summary 2009

USGBC at Paradise

OVERVIEW

The USGBC Natural Talent 2009 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 local competitions, and the top winner of each will move on to compete as a national finalist at Greenbuild Phoenix in November 2009. The Competition Host will provide the local 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 final judging will occur.

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 work 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.
- Provide an applied learning experience in the principles of integrated design, sustainability, and innovation; all of which are components of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all university level students (of any discipline and level) and individuals within five (5) years of graduation.

- Teams and individuals wishing to participate in the competition will qualify to enter the nearest competition site to their residence. This will depend largely on the chapters participating.

- Both individuals and teams are permitted to enter.
- Teams are to be no larger than 5 individuals.
- The team shall have a maximum of 3 individuals from the same discipline.
- Multi-disciplinary and international teams are strongly encouraged.
- Only one entry per team/person will be accepted.
- We encourage teams to secure faculty member or industry professional to fill an advisory role. The Competition Committee will not recommend advisors but encourage participants to seek them out themselves. Please check the USGBC site for a list of LEED Accredited Professionals in your area, or contact your local USGBC chapter for help identifying an advisor.
- International entries will be accepted at both the local and national levels. However, it is up to the international team to secure translation of the applicable program, as well as additional support for translation clarification. It will not be the responsibility of the local 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 National within seven (7) business days of receiving the registration, and will contain information on how to proceed. Registration is mandatory to receive additional instructions and information project submittals.
2. Teams are required to identify a primary contact. This person will receive important information from the local 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 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.

COMPETITION CHALLENGE

Design a LEED Platinum, multiuse facility that will serve as the USGBC Caribbean Chapter Headquarters. An important part of the challenge to our designers is to provide building facilities that showcase the best of tropical green building practices, while sensibly preserving the building character, structure and historic relevance in the Rio Piedras' neighborhood.

Besides the Chapter's administrative offices, this facility will also be the host of continuous green building educational programs. We strongly recommend the use of flexible and multiuse spaces to satisfy the program needs. This facility shall be integrated into the community and surroundings, paying special attention to the possibilities of providing and/or activating open public spaces.

An important characteristic of the project is to be a 'Living Laboratory Facility' that should be located on the rooftop area. This area will provide a suitable space, capable of testing and monitoring the integration of a variety of new sustainable materials and technologies in our characteristic bioclimatic conditions.

The project will utilize LEED for New Construction and Major Renovation as the design standard to achieve LEED Platinum certification.

Site: [Former] Paradise Theater Building, locally known as ‘El Paradise’

Ponce de León Ave. 1060
Corner of Paseo Borinquen
Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

> Enter the following coordinates on the Google Earth browser to find the exact location:

18 23'59" N, 66 3'9" W

PROJECT CONTEXT & LOCATION

Historical Facts on the Paradise: Inaugurated on December 12, 1945, the Paradise was a movie house which was built and operated by the Ramos Cobián Theater’s Chain and was marketed during its inauguration as "**The best in the Antilles**". When it was built the capacity was 1,200 seats and it had a Mezzanine. The inaugural show was "**Rhapsody in Blue**," a movie about George Gershwin, which had been released in 1945 and was nominated for two Oscars.

For over half a century this theater, located on one of the most important roads in Puerto Rico for the time, Ponce de Leon Avenue, was considered a great movie house at the Caribbean scale. The rescue of the movie theater under the leadership of the USGBC: US Caribbean Chapter, joining together with government agencies, academia, community leaders, and businesses, is an example worth emulating.

The Paradise was much advertised during its Inauguration as a Modern Movie Theater, designed by Puerto Rican architects, with all of the latest gadgets, bells and whistles that the modern times provided and required.

One of the largest movie theaters built in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan; it was constructed in the 1940's during World War II.

Movie theaters today are a part of our daily social life; however that was not always the case. During the 20th Century the moving image, and places dedicated to it, provided a space to develop fiction, fantasy and dreams.

Paradise and the University

This was a new center of culture, diversion and art, within walking distance of the largest campus of the University of Puerto Rico, the Rio Piedras Campus. The academic community was boasting with civic pride with a movie theater, which was up to the new standards of culture, and progress that the modern times were affording. The cultural elite was demanding a new quality movie theater.

Preservation reflecting the collective memory of Puerto Ricans

For almost seventy years, this space presented the people of Rio Piedras and Puerto Rico with the advances of the moving images, cultural spectacle, and a space of entertainment. Historic events were also celebrated. The restoration of this space as a meaningful spot for the community is important.

The people of Puerto Rico grew up with the moving images technology during the 20th Century, as did the rest of the world; we have been transformed by the Magic of the Movies. Many of these spaces have been lost and are only present in the memory of generations, which remember them with a touch of nostalgia. Loosing these spaces has been a tragedy for the buildings; the town and citizens also suffered a loss of recreational spaces within walking

distance of their residences. In any intervention it will be important to keep the essence as an important gathering place for the community.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Areas are approximate; layout should provide maximum flexibility, and design shall provide functional ability to circulation areas. Teams are allowed to reconfigure areas according to their own criteria.

First Floor

○ Lobby	150	sf
○ Receptionist area	80	sf
○ Corner Café	1,800	sf
○ Conference Hall (100 persons)	3,600	sf
○ Storage room for tables and chairs	40	sf
○ Bathroom		as per code
○ Janitorial	30	sf
○ Elevator	36	sf
○ Kitchenette with access to large conference for buffet	80	sf
○ Showroom and Resources Area (spaces shall be provided for computers, books, magazines, displayed products and exhibitions)	1,000	sf
○ Recycling center		as required
○ Mechanical room		as required
○ Electrical room		as required

* Alley can be considered as part of the Café dining area.

Second Floor

○ File & marketing materials storage room	100	sf
○ Copy room	64	sf
○ Executive offices		
▪ Executive Director	140	sf
▪ President	140	sf
▪ Shared conference	100	sf
○ Secretary (for executive offices)	80	sf
○ Lobby/reception	100	sf
○ Bathrooms		as per code
○ Janitorial	30	sf
○ Elevator	36	sf
○ Conference Room (6-8 persons)	120	sf
○ Conference Room/Board of Directors (12-20 persons)	500	sf
○ Living Laboratory/LAB/OFFICE/MEETING ROOM	2,000	sf
○ Living laboratory roof area for experiments		unlimited
○ Mechanical room (as required)		
○ Electrical room (as required)		
○ Excess area to be leased and used for future expansion		
> Approximate total site area	6,346	sf

DESIGN GOALS

- Conceptual Design and Program fulfillment: how the project's vision has met the requirements
- Creativity in process, design and innovation
- Engagement of social, environmental, and economics aspects of program and site
- Inclusion and activation of existing underused urban areas, such as the Plaza Robles in front and the adjacent alley.
- Overall energy reduction (accompanying documentation must be submitted).
- Integration of green design strategies and applicability to LEED™ criteria.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- At minimum, boards submitted at the national level must include:
 - Site plan providing context (scale at participant's discretion)
 - Building Section
 - Floor plan
 - Illustration of key elements of sustainable infrastructure and building systems
 - Wall section or detail illustrating special environmental features
 - Do not include names of participant's and/or team on the board
- 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 according to 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.
- 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.).

Deadline for submissions is June 12, 2009. No submissions will be accepted after this date. For entries delivered by mail, send boards to the following address:

USGBC Caribbean Chapter
P.O. Box 11913 Caparra Heights Station
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-0992

Personally delivered entries will be accepted exclusively at:

RMA Architects, PSC
Calle Resolución #54 Suite 402
Caparra Heights Station
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00920

FINALISTS

Finalists at the local 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.

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. Finalist's attendance to Greenbuild is not required but strongly suggested.

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 competition. The first will take place at the local level on **June 20, 2009**. Judging at the national level will take place at Greenbuild in Phoenix, AZ, by an esteemed panel of green building experts.

AWARDS

Local Competition:

The local jury will award a first, second and third place, as well as two Honorable Mention Awards. Winning teams will receive the following awards provided by your local competition host:

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

***NOTE:** The local host chapter will provide first place winners with registration to Greenbuild in Phoenix at either the student or full conference rate depending on the age of the finalist.*

National Competition:

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

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/legb 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

- December 31, 2008: Registration starts.
- February 24, 2009: LEED 101 Webminar.
- June 12, 2009: Deadline for local submittals.
- June 20, 2009: Local Jury and announcement of local winners.
- October 2, 2009: National deadline for those chosen to compete at Greenbuild 2009 in Phoenix.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Local contact:

- Brenda L. Martínez, EGB: USGBC Caribbean Chapter: egb@usgbccaribbean.org
- Hugo J. Rojas, EGB: USGBC Caribbean Chapter: egb@usgbccaribbean.org