

Global Shift In Values Requires Expanded Knowledge In Building And Design

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The building industry is changing: we are no longer designing and constructing buildings in the same way we have always done. The green building movement offers an unprecedented opportunity for innovative professionals to respond to significant challenges of our time, including global climate change, dependence on non-sustainable and expensive sources of energy and threats to human health. Advancements in building science, technology, operations and education are now available to designers, builders, operators and owners who want to build green and maximize economic and environmental performance.

According to a 2006 McGraw-Hill Smart Market report, every business day \$464 million worth of construction registers with LEED proving that global changes in values are creating a new environment in construction and design. It is estimated that the value of green building construction is projected to increase to \$60 billion by 2010. By 2009, 82% of corporate America is expected to be greening at least 16% of their real



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LEED Accredited Professionals.

These statistics reflect changes in global attitudes and the consumers desire to be environmentally responsible. On the forefront of standardizing this change in values is the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This organization is best known for the development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Rating System. LEED defines standards for environmentally sustainable design and construction and now represents a new standard in education and professionalism in the construction and design industry.

Green building professionals can become LEED accredited, which acknowl-

edges the professionals depth of knowledge and practical understanding of the LEED rating system and its application. These individuals are permitted to use LEED Accredited Professionals (AP) acronym after their name, indicating they have passed the accreditation credential requirements and exam administered by the Green Building Certification Institute, (a third party organization that now handles the accreditation process for the USGBC.)

estate portfolios; of these corporations, 18% will be greening more than 60% of their real estate portfolios. As a result, according to the Green Building Certification Institute, (GBCI), as of June 30, 2009 there are 131,724

From 2001 to June 2009, LEED accreditation required that candidates only pass one exam to earn their LEED Accredited Professional designation. In June 2009, a three tiered approach to LEED accreditation was established. Candidates are now required to pass a series of LEED exams and must have documented professional experience on a LEED project in order to obtain their LEED AP designation.

The LEED Credentialing Process Explained

Any individual can become credentialed with the Green Building Certification Institute. The credentialing system is broken into three tiers as outlined below. (Credentialing for the LEED Green

Associate does not require previous documented professional experience; LEED AP designations require professional experience)

The three tiered credentialing system includes;

Tier I: LEED Green Associate

The LEED Green Associate exam is a required first step covering the general understanding of the U.S. Green Building Council and the LEED Green Building Rating Systems. The LEED Green Associate Credential is for professionals that want to demonstrate green building experience in non-technical fields of practice. The LEED Green Associate credential denotes basic knowledge of green design, construction and operations.

Tier II: LEED AP with Specialty

The LEED Accredited Professional credential with specialty signifies an advanced depth of knowledge in green building practices. The designation also reflects the ability to specialize in a particular LEED Rating System. Individuals may attain multiple specialty designations by passing multiple exams.

The new LEED AP specialties are as follows:

- Operations + Maintenance
- Building Design + Construction
- Interior Design + Construction
- Homes
- Neighborhood Development (available 2010)

Tier III: LEED AP Fellow

The Green Building Certification Institute is working on a third designation currently referred to as the LEED AP Fellow credential. LEED Fellows would be part of an extraordinary class of leading professionals noted by their years of experience and contributions for achieving continuous improvement in the green building field.

A broad sector of professionals in architecture, construction, real estate and development will have a distinct advantage by attaining a LEED credential.

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