Associations Partner to Promote Green/Sustainable Design

29 May 2002  The Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the International Facility Management Association (IFMA), and Metropolis Magazine have joined forces to found the Green Design Education Initiative. With over 30,000 members, these prominent US-based international associations and the magazine are pooling their resources to gather, share and disseminate information about green/sustainable design via an internet website.

In addition to providing interior design and facility management professionals with a comprehensive reference website, the initiative is also focused on the college education of future professionals. A primary goal of the initiative is to gather and develop course material into a comprehensive Teaching Manual on Sustainable Design. Susan Szenasy, Editor in Chief of Metropolis Magazine stated, “The initiative was first conceived by the IIDA College of Fellows. I joined the project immediately when, at their annual meeting, they spoke of a commitment to make this effort a legacy to the design profession.”

IDEC has been chosen as the server site. Michael Bourque, chair of the Green Design Education Initiative, stated, “IDEC was the logical choice to host an education-driven initiative, as it is the association of educators.” The website, www.idec.org/greendesign.html, currently posts a Call for Sustainable/Green Design Course Materials. It is a solicitation to educators for course materials to be submitted and juried for inclusion on the website. The course materials and other reference websites will be posted later this summer, in time for inclusion in college level fall curriculum.

Current sponsors of the Green Design Education Initiative include leading green advocates BASF, C&A Floorcoverings and Interface. A limited number of additional sponsors will be accepted to fund further course material development.

The committee members represent a “Who’s WHO” in interior design, facility management and education including Michael Bourque, IFMA, FIIDA; Dorothy Fowles, FIIDA, FIDEC, FASID; Cheryl Duvall, IFMA, FIIDA; Delores Ginthner, FIDEC, Allied ASID; Louise Jones, ArchD, IDEC and Eric Truelove, IFMA.

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The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is a professional networking and educational association of more than 10,000 members in eight specialty Forums, nine Regions, and more than 30 Chapters around the world. IIDA is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in interior design and advancing interior design through knowledge. IIDA advocates for interior design excellence; provides superior industry information; nurtures a global interior design community; maintains educational standards; and responds to trends in business and design. Additional information is available on IIDA’s website www.iida.org.