

### The Conference is Coming, the Conference is Coming!

Hopefully, by now, you've heard that Austin will be hosting the first annual International Green Building Conference and Expo on November 13 -15, 2002. The event is sponsored mainly by the United States Green Building Council, although several Green Building Program staff are on a number of the organizing and activity committees. Richard Morgan is on the Steering Committee and is Chairperson of the Host Committee. Mary McLeod and Maureen Scanlon reviewed abstracts to help the Program Committee select educational speakers. Marc Richmond, with Green Building Program member Chuck Lemmond of Newmark Homes, will present an educational session titled "Turning a Production Builder Green." Lee Gros and Rich MacMath have been busy choosing sites and mapping out the Green Building Tour that will take place just after the conference on November 16 and 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The tour will feature three residential and three non-residential projects. All six projects will be visited on Saturday, and again on Sunday, so you only need to sign up for one of the days. The three residential sites demonstrate a wide variety of green building practices:

- **Casa Verde Homes** - a neighborhood revitalization project that features several small, affordable homes.
- **The Pfeiffer Family Residence** - an architect's own custom-designed home
- **The Villas at Mia Tia Circle** - a multi-unit infill project with four detached units on a one-half acre lot

The three non-residential sites highlight a diverse selection of building types:

- **Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems** - a small research and design facility
- **J. J. Pickle Elementary School/St. John's Community Center** - a joint venture between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District.
- **Tivoli Software** - a large office building

Register soon for the tour - it's \$65 until September 14th and then the cost goes up to \$75. Lunch is included. In fact, register soon for the entire conference. We are expecting upwards of 2000 attendees and already have nearly a thousand people registered. Attendees will be from all over the US and the world. The trade show and expo space is completely sold out.

"This is the 'next generation' of Green Building Conferences," says Richard Morgan. "Green building has grown up during the nineties and this conference represents - and presents - the industry in a more sophisticated and organized way than ever before."

The Green Building Program will host a special workshop on Friday afternoon (November 15) covering "Green Building Programs: Past, Present and Future Lessons". Several Green Building Program members are also speaking at the conference including:

**Pliny Fisk III, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems** - "BaseLineGreen™ - A Geographically Based Green Building Input/Output LCA Specification Procedure"

**Doug Garrett**, [Building Performance & Comfort](#) - "Green Buildings Are Not Immune to Performance Failures"

**Stan Hass**, TeamHaas Architects - "Sustaining the Community: The St. John's Community Center/Pickle Elementary School"

**Charles Naeve, P.E.**, [Architectural Engineers Collaborative](#) - "Sustainable Structures: Case Studies"

**Peter Pfeiffer**, Barley & Pfeiffer Architects - "Beautiful Green: Arming Architects and Builders to Assure It Ends Up Green"

**Gail Vittori**, [Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems](#) - "An Agenda for Greening Health Care Facilities: A Work in Progress" also a Panel Member for the "Toxins and PVC" Panel

Other great speakers include:

**Doug Seiter**, Department of Energy, Denver Regional Office - A Panel Moderator for the "Green Building Programs: Past, Present and Future" Panel

**Dr. Stephen A. Moore, AIA**, University of Texas - "Design With Climate at the University of Texas"

**Bob Berkebile, FAIA**, [BNIM Architects](#) - "Healthy Buildings: University of Texas School of Nursing"

**Jeff Salmon**, [DPW Environmental Division](#) - "Green Building: The Fort Hood Story"

**David Johnston**, [What's Working](#) - "Indelible Marketing: Meeting Buyers Where They Live"

A complete list of speakers is available on the USGBC website. We also highly recommend attending the LEED Workshops. Full conference registration is not required to attend the LEED Workshops. The introductory session is Friday afternoon (November 15) with full day intermediate and advanced sessions on Saturday.

### Please, Park on the Grass

The new parking lot at the Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, doesn't look like a parking lot at all. Although it's capable of holding nearly 19,000 vehicles, the expansive grass field more closely resembles a park, complete with shade trees, in this urban neighborhood. The lot was designed using a paving system developed by Invisible Structures, Inc. called Grasspave<sup>2</sup> and will serve as primary parking for all events at the stadium, which opened in August 2002. Covering 317,000 square feet, it is believed to be the largest engineered porous grass-paved surface in the world.



**Yes, it really is the parking lot.**

Since it was designed to handle the weight of heavy trucks, this parking area is ideal for a variety of uses, such as tailgates and concerts where heavy vehicles are necessary, yet a hard surface pavement would not be feasible during the hot summer months. Having a cooler grass lot will



**This invisible paving structure can support the weight of motor homes and trucks.**

allow the stadium to hold many more events throughout the year including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo each spring. The paving structure also allows for safe access, without the threat of getting stuck, even following a rainstorm Grasspave<sup>2</sup> is made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastics (predominantly HPDE) which means that the parking lot at Reliant Stadium diverted 60 tons of plastic from the landfill. The paver system also has the ability to collect and filter over 60,000 cu. ft. of water, relieving some of the stress

the development puts on the stormwater system following a rainfall. The choice to pave this lot with grass, instead of an impervious pavement, will supply oxygen to over 6300 people each year, reduce the heat island effect, and be a beautiful addition to the urban landscape.

For more information on Grasspave<sup>2</sup>, see the [Invisible Structures, Inc.](#) website.

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## Member Bulletin Board

### New Residential Rating System Goes Into Effect October 1!

The residential group has been working on updating our rating system over the last few months. We have worked to make it a better system by including choices/credits for new products and practices, eliminating rarely-used credits, eliminating some credits which have become code or standard practice in the industry, clarifying wording on old credits, and eliminating software bugs. This will be our fourth version of the rating system, since our program's inception 10 years ago. Many members have already reviewed the latest draft versions and given their valuable comments. Finishing touches to the system and companion manual are almost completed. We will have this system ready for use shortly before October 1st, which is the beginning of our fiscal year and the time at which we will no longer accept the ratings for version 3. All program members can expect to receive an electronic copy of the rating system and companion manual before October 1st. If you are nearing completion on a project and would like a preview copy of the system before the mass mailing, please contact your staff representative.

### Bugged by MECcheck

Green Building Program staff had some trouble with the newest [MECcheck](#) software release, MECcheck 3.3. We installed it on a laptop running Windows 98 and the software repeatedly crashed the machine. Our fix? We upgraded our laptop to Windows 2000. No problems so far.

For those of you who don't want to change your computer's operating system, contact MEC*check's* Tech Support.

### Agriboard Industries Comes Back to Life

Many of you may be familiar with [Agriboard](#), the structural insulated panel made with compressed straw sandwiched between two layers of OSB. The company, purchased by Ryan Development Company, has spent the last three years perfecting the product and the manufacturing process. They have especially improved the frame and core system over older versions of the product. The product currently is being manufactured and is available for sale for residential and commercial projects. You can reach the company's sales contact, Frank Coble, at (903) 814-2716.