

Student Employment Opportunity at the Green Building Research Center

Internship Position: User Interface and Information Design for an Ecological Building Dashboard

Background

The Green Building Research Center (GBRC) was created to advance and promote sustainable building design and operation on the UC Berkeley campus. One of the Center's primary goals is to contribute to the quality of green buildings on the Berkeley campus by monitoring energy use and other indices of green building quality.

Project Description

The GBRC has received funding to develop an Internet-based Ecological Building Dashboard (EBD) that will provide users with historical and real-time performance metrics for UC Berkeley campus buildings. The system will consist of two main types of information: (1) monthly representations of energy, water, and other metrics, and (2) real-time displays of data from buildings for which network accessible data is available.

The EBD will enable benchmarking and automated comparisons between periods of time, and/or between campus buildings. The ultimate goal of this project is to help shape the behavior and decisions of campus faculty, students, and staff in creating a more sustainable campus.

There are several important performance and environmental metrics that the EBD will be capable of reporting. Monthly data may be provided for energy and water consumption, refuse generation, and recycling of mixed paper and containers. This information is available for all or most buildings on campus. The system could provide methods of comparing the performance and ecological impacts of individual buildings, in both absolute terms, and in terms of square-foot measures; the system could also provide this information for the entire campus as a whole. These metrics could be explained to users through visual displays of information, for example displaying ecological building footprints, ecological report cards, or dashboard visualizations.

Job description

The User Interface and Information Designer will work with faculty, research staff, and other interns to develop Web-based solutions that are simple, scalable, visually appealing, and that require no user training. The UI designer is comfortable with abstract ideas and high-level concepts as a starting place for designs. S/he brings both strong visual design, information architecture, and interactive design skills. S/he is experienced in effectively communicating design concepts via sketches, wire-frames, and prototypes. S/he will work with other interns and student research assistants that will develop the database(s) and other applications that will drive the EBD.

The ideal candidate also has an understanding of, and passion for energy conservation, sustainability, and/or green building topics.

Responsibilities

- Develop information display concepts, page layouts and prototypes.
- Collect non-automated data from a variety of campus sources, interact with a number of campus groups and individuals
- Ensure design consistence across Web properties and applications
- Proactively seek and incorporate feedback on visual and interaction designs from team members and potential users

Requirements

- Experience with user-centered visual and interaction design
- Experience for the web including working on web-based applications
- Experience working in highly interactive, team-oriented environment
- Good communication skills, professional demeanor, and attention to detail
- Visual design skills including the proficiency with Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, HTML, CSS, and some knowledge of database-driven Web technologies
- Ability to work independently while meeting project goals and deadlines.

How to Apply

Send a cover letter and resume to lehrer@berkeley.edu. The position will remain open until filled. Please include the job title in the subject line. (Posted November 1, 2006)

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