1. **BACKGROUND**

The Center for the Built Environment (CBE) is an Industry/University Collaborative Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley, founded with support of the National Science Foundation. In collaboration with CBE’s Industry Partners—a diverse group of building industry leaders which includes manufacturers, owners, contractors, architects, engineers, utilities, and government agencies—CBE is undertaking an awards program to recognize excellence in building design and operation, with a unique focus on the indoor environment.

2. **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The CBE Livable Buildings Award will serve as mark of distinction for commercial buildings. It will be awarded to buildings that demonstrate livability, which we define as exceptional performance in terms of occupant satisfaction, resource efficiency, and overall design.

This program is unique among building industry awards, as it is the only one to include the preferences of building occupants in its selection criteria. To be considered for the award, buildings must rank among the top scorers in CBE’s Occupant Indoor Environmental Quality Survey. This survey, used to study occupant satisfaction with the quality of the indoor environment, has been implemented in over 500 buildings.

Buildings that show exceptional performance in survey results have been designated as finalists, and are qualified to participate in the award competition. For this year of the award, nine buildings met the finalist criteria, from 106 surveys completed in 2008.

Building owners wishing to participate are invited to submit information for review by a jury composed of CBE faculty and industry partners. This jury will select the top buildings to be named as winners and/or honorable mentions. An award announcement will identify both the award winners and acknowledge all finalists.

3. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

To encourage participation from finalists there is no cost to enter the competition, and submittal requirements have been kept to a minimum.

CBE requests the following information in electronic format, preferably consolidated into a single PDF document:

1. **PROJECT NARRATIVE:** Description of the project’s program, goals, innovations, and/or successes.
2. **PROJECT IMAGES:** Photos, drawings and other images that will help the jury understand and evaluate the overall design of the projects.

3. **ENERGY PERFORMANCE DATA:** Measured data is preferable, modeled (estimated) data is also acceptable if actual performance data is not available. If possible please provide annual total energy use in kBtu/ft² for a typical year, or specific year(s).

4. **PROJECT TEAM:** Please list all the firms that significantly contributed to the project.

5. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Teams may submit any other relevant information that will help jurors understand the project, such as LEED scorecards.

6. **BASIC BUILDING CHARACTERISTICS:** If they have not already done so, teams will be asked to complete the on-line building characteristics form that is part of the CBE survey process. The form is available at http://www.cbesurvey.org/bldgchar. (If login names and passwords are needed they will be provided by CBE.

7. **USE OF SURVEY RESULTS:** Please include an email to verify that CBE may show the aggregate survey results for your building (no occupant comments) to the project jury.

**DEADLINE:** Submittal information should be sent via email to noyh@berkeley.edu, and must be received no later than **NOVEMBER 16, 2009**. In your email submittal, please confirm that it is permissible for CBE review with the awards jury a summary of your building’s survey results.

Questions may be directed to Noy Hildebrand at noyh@berkeley.edu.

4. **AWARD RECOGNITION**

CBE hopes to announce the jury selections by the end of November 2009. We will post the winning projects on CBE’s website, and work with the UC Berkeley Media Center to distribute press releases and other publicity on the winning projects.

In addition to acknowledging the award-winning buildings, CBE will provide recognition of all finalists (pending building owner approvals).