



CBE LIVABLE BUILDINGS AWARDS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. 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. Our mission is to improve the design, operation, and environmental quality of buildings by providing timely, unbiased information on building technologies and design techniques. Our research serves CBE's Industry Partners, a diverse group of building industry leaders, including manufacturers, owners, contractors, architects, engineers, utilities, and government agencies. In collaboration with these Industry Partners, 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 for 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 close to 500 buildings. Numerous building owners and design teams continue to use the survey to document their buildings' performance.

Buildings that exceed a minimum performance level on the survey will be eligible to participate in the awards competition. Owners and design teams will be asked to provide project images, energy data, and other relevant information, to be reviewed by a jury composed of CBE industry partners, members of academia, and other building industry leaders. This jury will evaluate the projects and identify of one or more buildings to receive awards.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

Determination of eligibility: CBE will review the results of building surveys conducted in the previous calendar year, and identify the best performing buildings in terms of occupant satisfaction with the overall building and key characteristics of the indoor environment. (For the first year of the award, CBE will review all surveys implemented before 1/1/2007.) These buildings will form the set of finalists for the award.

Invitation to participate: CBE will then contact building owners and design teams of these finalist buildings and notify them that their buildings received high survey results and are eligible for the award. They will be invited to participate, and asked to provide information about their buildings. To encourage participation there will be no cost to enter, and submittal requirements will be kept to a minimum. CBE will request the following information in electronic format:

1. Basic building characteristics: Teams will be asked to complete the on-line building characteristics form that is part of the CBE survey process.
2. Project images: Teams may submit photos, drawings and other images that will help the jury understand and evaluate the overall design of the projects.
3. Energy performance data, modeled or measured
4. Other relevant information that will help jurors understand the intent and design of the project, such as LEED checklists (or equivalent), project narratives, or other information.

The invitation to participate will ask project teams which materials may be made public on CBE's website or in other publicity materials.

Jury formation: CBE will invite leaders from the building industry and academia to serve as jurors for the award program. Jurors will be invited from among CBE'S Industry Advisory Board, from UC Berkeley and other academic institutions, and in some cases from the building industry at large. The jury will be selected to represent the diversity of CBE's membership, and may include representatives from building sectors such as manufacturing, engineering, architecture, contractors, utilities, and government. To enable participation from a wide range of potential jurors, the review and selection of the projects will be done virtually, via the Internet and conference calls. To maintain a high level of objectivity, people from organizations that were involved in the finalist projects are not eligible to be jurors.

Jury review and award criteria: CBE will post the project submittals to a secure website for review by the jury, and schedule conference calls to explain the selection criteria and allow the jury to deliberate on the merits of the individual projects. Jurors will be asked to vote individually on the projects, and votes will be tabulated by CBE. The jury will then discuss the results of the votes and make a selection of projects to receive awards. Jurors will be instructed to use the following broad criteria in its selection:

1. CBE Occupant IEQ Survey scores
2. Energy performance and resource efficiency (green building effectiveness)
3. Architectural design and design integration

The jury will then make a selection of the top buildings to receive awards. (It is anticipated that in the first year of the award there may be more awards given than in the future, as the pool of buildings before 2007 will be larger than those in subsequent years.)

4. AWARD RECOGNITION

CBE will contact the winning project teams to announce the jury decision, and announce the winners at CBE's Industry Advisory Board meeting October 18th. CBE will also post the winning projects on its website, and work with the UC Berkeley Media Center to distribute press releases and other publicity on the winning projects.

In addition to the award winning buildings, CBE will provide recognition of all finalist buildings that met the minimum eligibility based on the occupant survey criteria.