

News Briefs

The Construction Excellence Awards Show Coming May 15

One of the biggest award shows in Northern California's construction industry, the Construction Excellence Awards (CEA) is coming to Concord, CA on May 15. The event recognizes the top achievements of large and small companies alike.



The show will honor contractor members that have performed exceptional drywall and plaster work in Northern California, while highlighting the brilliant work and technical merit of skilled wall and ceiling construction workmanship.

Award categories include both exterior and interior for retail, residential, commercial, POY green, EIFS, and institutional projects. An award for historical restoration interior will also be presented.

The industry event will be held from 4pm - 9pm at the Hilton Concord Hotel, located at 1970 Diamond Boulevard, Concord. Dress code is business attire. Early registration is suggested to secure a seat. Early registration rates apply for a limited time. Ticket prices are \$75 per person.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available as follows:

Platinum - \$2,500

Gold - \$1,800

Silver - \$1,000

Bronze - \$500

Support - \$350

For more information on sponsorship, contact Carmen Valencia at 925.523.3898.

For hotel reservations at the Hilton Concord Hotel, call (800) 826-2644. A special room rate is available per request under the name "Wall And Ceiling Alliance party." The cutoff date for requesting this special rate is May 1st.

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The Russ Building Earns BOMA

Shorenstein Properties LLC announced May 5 that the Russ Building has received the BOMA San Francisco Innovative EARTH Award for the company's "I Will if You Will" Energy Savings Challenge. The Challenge, part of Shorenstein's signature Flip the Switch tenant engagement program, empowers tenants to save energy and greenhouse gas emissions by tracking office equipment energy use with modlet monitoring outlets.

Bill Whitfield, The Russ Building's general manager, accepted the award at the April membership meeting of the San Francisco Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA). Whitfield helped Shorenstein design the "I Will if You Will" Challenge and pilot tested it with two tenants in 2013. Challenge participants committed to shutting off computers, monitors, printers, coffee makers, and other office devices, which are commonly left on after business hours. Overall, pilot tests of the Challenge demonstrated average energy savings of 45% over baseline measurements.

The "I Will if You Will" Challenge provides building occupants with personalized information and feedback on the impact of their energy management actions. Property Managers offer a fun reward such as a gift card raffle or pizza party if participants commit to adopting energy saving strategies for their office devices. Participants use modlets, made by ThinkEco Inc., to wirelessly transmit real-time office device energy use information to an online dashboard. The modlet, which earned a 2014 Top Product Award from Building Operations Management, is also able to save energy through an automated on/off schedule.

"Shorenstein's Challenge educates individuals about plug load energy use and prompts behavior changes. That is exactly what we designed the modlet for – to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from everyday appliances and electronics," says Jun Shimada, CEO at ThinkEco.

According to Whitfield, tenant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. "Participants are very excited about the modlet technology and the



opportunity to learn just how energy their computers and other use – and how much can be saved. For the ClimateWork Challenge, one of the Russ Building tenants, the Challenge allowed them to quantify the impact of their energy management practices and identify additional savings opportunities.

Shorenstein rolled out the challenge company-wide in January and will engage 30 tenants representing nearly 1 million sq-ft of office space across Shorenstein's national portfolio in 2014. Shorenstein's Climate (Green Real Estate Environmental Now) Committee created the challenge with technical support from the Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Corps program. The Challenge is designed "I Will if You Will" on the Earth Hour organization's campaign of the same name.

"The Challenge promotes sustainability for our tenants and broader conversations about energy efficiency and the environment," says Jaxon Love, sustainability program manager for Shorenstein. According to Love, approximately 10% of the energy used in the building is determined by tenant education and engagement. Critical to achieving deep energy savings in commercial properties is the Flip the Switch Program for equipping tenants with information tools, and incentives to make