



ZONE

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creating more sustainable communities on every level

ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • ENVIRONMENTAL • SURVEY

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PROJECTS

LA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY SEESTHE LIGHT



The new public library for the City of La Grande, OR, focuses on providing light from the sun. In daylighting a library, the challenge is often in striking a balance between providing natural lighting while protecting the books and other materials from too much sunlight, as well as making sure the computer monitors do not suffer from too much glare. This single-level 19,000-square foot building has large perimeter windows with deep overhangs that help protect from heat gain. Clerestories and a large skylight filter and distribute the natural light within the open interior common space. Design features include exterior stone veneers that echo the surrounding historic buildings and a storytime enclosure in the children's area that utilizes wood panels and wood cribbing. The library's location at a terminus of a vital urban axis in La Grande, ensures easy access by public transit. Otak provided architectural, civil, survey, and landscape design services for this development.

VISUALIZING A NEW "MAIN STREET" FOR SCOTTSDALE



Existing conditions

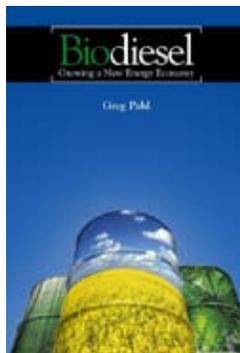


Visualization prepared by Otak

Scottsdale Road is a major arterial that extends for more than 25 miles throughout the City, one of the longest streets in the US. The street is a connecting force throughout the community, knitting together a diversity of districts and character areas, including the Southern Gateway district and Downtown. Otak is preparing a master plan and design guidelines for the overall corridor, as well as more specific design plans for these two southern districts of the 25-mile drive. The goal of the project is to create

a “signature” streetscape that embodies the history, culture, and community of Scottsdale, as the City’s namesake street. The signature streetscape will be conveyed through furnishings, trees, landscaping, creative lighting, public art, and other elements that build a brand identity and distinctive visual character. These improvements will also enhance the mobility and safety of Scottsdale Road for all travelers, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, and will enhance business and economic development opportunities along the corridor. The design incorporates the use of light and shadow, repeated geometric shapes, and experience sequences. By adding trees and plants, there will also be a cooling effect with shade and some evaporative cooling from the vegetation. What will the improvements look like? Otak’s John Gonzales specializes in 3D computer visualizations, which help clients and the public visualize the future of a site, building, or interior. John’s team has been working with the Scottsdale Road designers and artists on a set of visual simulations for the streetscape design concepts. His team can provide this tool for any type of project. As with the Scottsdale Road project, visualization is an effective tool in helping clients and the public see how the streetscape can be transformed from a heavily paved, auto-oriented environment, to a more visually pleasing and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly setting.

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN?



Book cover from Greg Pahl’s “Biodiesel: Growing a New Energy Economy”

What could make a gargantuan piece of construction equipment greener? Simply, its fuel — using biodiesel, for example — could help. Biodiesel, says the National Biodiesel Board is less toxic

than table salt and biodegrades as fast as sugar; since it is made in the USA from renewable resources such as soybeans, its

use decreases our dependence on foreign oil and contributes to our domestic economy; it contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. The EPA says that Rudolph Diesel demonstrated his diesel engine running on peanut oil at the 1900 World’s Fair. One Seattle area company, Earthwise Excavation, uses biodiesel exclusively in its construction equipment.

If you’re in the Pacific Northwest, check out The Business of Biofuels in the Pacific Northwest Conference on October 6 at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, OR.

NEWS

SOLAR & GREEN BUILDINGS TOUR IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA



Join the Sustainable Development Task

Force of Snohomish County and Solar Washington to celebrate solar and green building projects in Snohomish County during a self-guided tour. Residents and businesses are opening their doors on Saturday, October 7th from 10 am to 4 pm (unless otherwise noted). See low impact development strategies, green finishes, solar technology, net metering, and off-grid systems, as well as a solar-powered neighborhood vehicle. Look for YELLOW BALLOONS that mark tour site participants’ homes or businesses. Pick up a Snohomish County Tour Guide at the following kick-off sites:

Kick-Off Site 1 Pacific Power & Battery, 720 Cedar Street, Marysville.

Kick-Off Site 2 Snoqualmie Gourmet Ice Cream Parlor and Factory, 21106 86th Avenue SE, Maltby.

This event is part of the annual National Solar Tour including local events all over the country.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS: BUILT GREEN CONFERENCE IN EVERETT

The 2007 Built Green Conference & Expo will be held at the Everett Events Center March 13, 2006. Engaging



speakers are sought to share advanced technical knowledge, on-the-ground expertise, and visionary wisdom

on a wide range of topics. This annual green home building conference for industry professionals will feature a keynote speech from Hunter Lovins, a plenary speech from Joseph Lstiburek, a green products and services trade show, and numerous educational workshops on green building design, marketing, and real estate, among others. For more information email or call 425-460-8230.

DEFINE OTAK

Okay, so maybe this isn't really news, but we have discovered an actual definition for Otak. Otak architect Gary Hartnett discovered what many Thais already knew: Spicy Fried Fish Balls are called Otak-Otak. Yep. It's a Thai dish and there's talk 'round our offices of serving this up at office functions...

GREEN SKIING & WIND POWER

As ski season approaches, consider Vail, CO's, SkiGreen promotion that offers a free lift ticket to skiers who purchase wind energy to power their homes for a year. The Vail ski resort itself is now the second largest corporate consumer of wind power in the US, powering 100 percent of its operations through wind. In Washington State, wind power can be purchased in many areas including the Puget Sound region through Puget Sound Energy's Green Power Program, Snohomish County PUD's Planet Power Program, and Tacoma Power's EverGreen Options. In Oregon, Portland General Electric offers the Clean Wind Power Program and many other utilities have similar programs. Elsewhere in the country, find green power through the federal government's renewable energy online database.



PSE's Hopkins Ridge Wind Power Farm in eastern Washington

PEOPLE

OTAK RUNS A RELAY RACE



Just when you thought the people you know at Otak were normal, a group of Otak's runners do something crazy like run in the largest relay race in North America. The Hood to Coast Relay, started 25 years ago, features 1,000 teams plus hundreds more participating in the shorter Portland to Coast Walk, and ultimately including more than 12,000 runners and 4,800 walkers. One of our LEED APs, Sheryl Walsh (Vancouver office) along with Laura Becker (Kirkland office) are missing from the team photo shown above. Each runner completed three legs with a total distance of 15 to 17 miles. Otak's team finished in approximately 28 hours and was 469th out of 1,032 teams. Runners on the team included Margaret Donnelly, Gwynne Berkeley, Allan Grabinksi, David McCurry, Darrin Stairs, Scott Shumaker, Laura Becker, Andy George, Lindsay Mitchell, Sheryl Walsh, Ashley Cantlon, and Bob Schottman. Support crew included Amanda Owings and Shannon McKnight as drivers; Sarah McCloskey loaned her van; and Quinn Donnelly, Scott Ferre and Anne Samuel served as team volunteers from about midnight to 4:30 am. Scott is still recovering from an overnight stint working in the fog and dust!

FROM THE EDITOR

KIRKLAND, WA, GOES GREENER



The City of Kirkland, WA, promotes a Green Kirkland program that focuses on saving the urban forests and reducing stormwater runoff that causes erosion.

Now the business community in Kirkland is becoming more involved in green efforts and recently embraced sustainability in a luncheon devoted to green business in this eastside suburb of Seattle. Organized by Brenda Nunes of Associated Earth Sciences, the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce hosted 100 professionals for a panel discussion on “Green Living – It Just Makes Cents.”

It featured Kirkland companies that are contributing to the green economy in the areas of development, construction, transportation, and energy, including Otak. The Green Car Company shared its business model for selling biodiesel, ethanol, and fuel-efficient vehicles such as the tiny Smart Car. The Athena Institute, a high-powered think-tank on energy and power-related matters that is collaborating on the master energy plan for the 2010 Olympics, spoke on the overall energy issues facing our communities. King County’s Green Building Program brought the County’s positive perspective on green issues as well as introduced the tools it provides to facilitate the adoption of green practices county-wide.

And of course, Otak discussed sustainability from the design, engineering, and construction industry perspective. For example, when Otak worked on Kirkland’s emergency sewer program, it made sense (cents!) to recycle existing paving. Since the pavement needed to be demolished to dig a trench, it was ground on-site and used as backfill. It’s a relatively small consideration that has a bigger impact by reusing an existing material so that new, virgin materials aren’t used, reduces transportation costs of hauling new materials to the site, and eliminates dumping a reusable material into the landfill.

Kirkland is also home to one of the first green schools in the state to meet Washington’s Sustainable Schools Protocol. Ben Franklin Elementary School features daylighting, waterless urinals, non-toxic and low maintenance interior finishes, and native landscaping with outdoor classrooms!

Go Kirkland!

Robin Rogers

Otak is a member of



Parting Shot by Cliff Vancura — Solar panel in Ak-Tala, Kyrgyzstan

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