



OZONE

december 2007

creating more sustainable communities on every level

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

OZone is a monthly newsletter published by Otak, Inc.

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PROJECTS

A SUBURBAN STREET GETS A MAKEOVER IN REDMOND, WA



Bioswale treats stormwater naturally

One way to help curb global warming is with more walking and bicycle riding instead of using an automobile for transportation. Our gas-burning cars are the second largest source of U.S. global warming pollution, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. The infrastructure for walking and biking—sidewalks, bike lanes, and accessible recreational facilities—provides an added health benefit in creating the opportunity for greater physical activity. One study comparing cities found that “sprawl” contributes to residents weighing up to six pounds more and walking less. However, another report from the Federal Highway Administration shows that per mile traveled, walking can be a dangerous mode of transportation. Last year, almost 5,000 Americans died while crossing the street, walking to school or work, and through other normal walking activities. For the City of Redmond, WA, the challenge was to improve a section of Old Redmond Road between 132nd Avenue NE to 140th Avenue NE to make it safer, prettier, and more functional. Working closely with the city and soliciting input from adjacent property owners, Otak created a design that improves pedestrian safety by adding sidewalks, a mid-block crossing, and landscape strips to separate vehicle traffic. New Class II bike lanes improve bicycle safety. Left-turn queue lengths and the extension of left-turn pockets improve traffic flow and safety. New landscaped medians, landscaping along the right-of-way, and underground utilities provide a more natural and visually appealing aesthetic. We also completed the storm drainage system by piping and filling ditches, and providing detention/retention and water quality facilities, including a bioswale, to mitigate or eliminate downstream impacts. For information on how Otak can help with your transportation project email us at ozone@otak.com. To read more from the Natural Resources Defense Council on global warming visit <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/>.

PEOPLE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



Laura Antonson recently received her license as a landscape architect in the state of Oregon. Based out of Otak's Lake Oswego, OR, office, she has an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from the

University of Oregon. She works in Otak's development services group primarily on development projects that incorporate stormwater management, native plants, rainwater gardens, and swales. Laura is currently participating in the Portland Metro Integrating Habitats Design Competition that focuses on the urban-habitat interface and is interested in learning more about low-impact development and sustainable construction.

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN?

OR NOT. WHICH CHEMICALS MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH?

Scorecard's Chemical Profiles database provides information on the human health hazards of more than 11,000 chemicals—how they're used and in what products they reside. You can also search by health effect to discover which chemicals contribute to particular disorders/diseases. Although much of the comparison information has not been updated for several years (there's a searchable database by zipcode of U.S. communities that identifies top polluters in 2002), the chemical properties haven't changed. <http://www.scorecard.org/chemical-profiles/>

WEB RESOURCES

GREEN HOMES INFORMATION

One of the newest web resources for green homes is The Green Home Guide from the U.S. Green Building Council and its LEED for Homes program. The guide links to information about green home remodeling, single family, neighborhood development, and sustainable living. Several case studies are also offered from the LEED for Homes pilot program.



LEED Platinum Home in Salem, OR's Pringle Creek Community

GREEN BUILDING HOTLINE IN OREGON



Oregon's new phone and online Hotline provides information about green building strategies, resources, and incentives

for new and existing commercial and residential projects in the Portland region. The Hotline can answer questions about green materials, strategies to reduce a building's carbon footprint, financial incentives, renewable energy, indoor air quality, sustainable site development, construction material recycling, and stormwater management. Clackamas, WA and Multnomah, OR Counties, working with Metro and the Portland Office of Sustainable Development, launched this region-wide green building resource. The Hotline is part of the new Green Development Resource Center, developed by the Office of Sustainable Development. The service is available Monday through Friday during regular business hours at 503-823-5431 or online at <http://www.portlandonline.com/osd/>

NEWS

BUILDERS SHOW WILL FEATURE SOLAR POWER IN THE NORTHWEST

The Master Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders have collaborated to bring builders the latest, best building practices, including using solar energy to power, heat, and cool homes. Questions about whether or not solar power can work in the cloudy Pacific Northwest will be answered at the upcoming Northwest Builders Show December 10-12. Northwest solar



Mike Nelson with solar panels

expert Mike Nelson, of the Northwest Solar Center, will speak about technical, economic, and marketing strategies for including renewable energy in your project. The trade show of 150 companies will feature at least three solar exhibitors: Outback Power Systems, Puget Sound Solar, and Sunergy Systems. In addition, international sustainability expert David Johnston—an author with Kim Masters of *Green Remodeling: Changing the World One Room at a Time*—will speak about green building and remodeling and exhibits that compliment the educational passport. For more information and group rates, contact Lesley Odland, Director of Trade Shows for the Master Builders Association at lodland@mbaks.com or 425.278.0220.

FORBES IDENTIFIES AMERICA'S GREENEST STATES

The Pacific Northwest shines in a Forbes Magazine sustainability survey as Oregon and Washington take two of the top three spots (Vermont holds first place) for greenest states in the U.S. (Two other states where Otak maintains offices came in number ten, Arizona, and number 13, Colorado.) To find the greenest states (and the least green), Forbes ranked them on a per-capita basis in six equally weighted categories: carbon footprint, air quality, water quality, hazardous waste management, policy initiatives, and energy consumption using the most recent data available from the following sources: the American Lung Association's 2007 State of the Air Report, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's energy efficiency scorecard,

U.S. Green Building Council, the Energy Information Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, and the Sierra Club.



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EXTREME MAKEOVER HOME edition IN KIRKLAND, WA



Remember the Otak team that helped deconstruct a home in

Kirkland, WA, for the television show Extreme Makeover Home Edition? The show is scheduled to be aired Sunday, December 16, 2007 and will chronicle the creation of this completely “green” home. Check your local listings for the exact time.

FROM THE EDITOR

HOLIDAY TOYS & GIFTS

This year, especially, there's added concern about holiday toys. The good news is that there are plenty of online resources to help navigate the choices for healthier toys and other gifts.

TOYS—80 percent of toys are made in China and more than 25 million toys have been recalled this year, mostly for lead paint. Consumer Reports provides tips for purchasing non-toxic toys on its Not In My Cart website (<http://www.consumersunion.org/campaigns/notinmycart/recalls.html>) and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (<http://cpsc.gov/>) lists up-to-date recalls. The Daily Green has published a list of 500 toys not made in China. Additional online resources for toys information can be found at the Toy Info website (<http://www.toyinfo.org/>) and the Safe Kids USA website (<http://www.usa.safekids.org/>).

COSMETICS—Safecosmetics.org maintains the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics website where you can access the extensive Skin Deep Cosmetics Database that pairs 25,000 products against 50 toxicity/regulatory databases so you can search by type of product (children's products, shampoo, lotion, lipstick, etc.) to find its toxicity level.



ENERGY SAVINGS GADGET—This idea can be plugged anywhere: the Smart Strip that saves energy. The average home consumes five to ten percent of its total energy in wasted standby electricity—phone chargers that stay plugged in, printers and modems that stay on alert even when you turn off your computer, for example. Now, a new “smart strip” allows electronics to be plugged in with automatic shut-off. To read more from TerraPass visit <http://www.terrapass.com/>.

VOLUNTEERING—Responsible Travel (<http://www.responsibletravel.com/>) offers world-wide opportunities for families and individuals to help conserve animal and habitats, work on cultural projects, and help children. On the Volunteer Match website (<http://www.volunteermatch.org/>), you can enter a zipcode to find volunteer opportunities in any area.

However you celebrate the holidays, Otak wishes you and your families the best of times! We'll see you next year with the next issue of Ozone!

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