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KlingStubbins is runner-up in Metropolis Magazine's Next Generation Design Competition

Design Team shows resourceful perspective on Los Angeles GSA building redesign



Image from KlingStubbins' Submission to Metropolis Magazine's 8th Annual Next Generation Design Competition, 2011

Raleigh, NC – May 31, 2011 – KlingStubbins is honored to have been selected as a runner-up in Metropolis Magazine's Eighth Annual Next Generation Design Competition. This year's contest challenged young designers to propose ideas on retrofitting a circa-1965 Los Angeles federal building to attain a net zero energy status. The theme adheres to President Barack Obama's mandate that federal agencies lower their greenhouse gas emissions, prompting the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to set a 30 percent reduction goal for its federally-owned buildings by 2020.

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The existing federal building, designed without the sustainability standards now considered customary, consumes large amounts of energy and is riddled with inefficient systems. The KlingStubbins design team of David Cole, Keegan Brochu, and Nick Hammer proposed rehabilitating the current building with several energy saving solutions, including: waste-to-energy onsite generation, rainwater/condensate collection, and greenhouse water and air filtration systems. In addition, the design virtually eliminated the commute between work and home by creating three residential-unit towers erected on top of the existing building. The atypical residential towers would allow for vegetation throughout and bring air into the building using greenwall ventilation, sun shading, and passive cooling techniques. "It can't be just about reducing consumption," says Cole. "Until these buildings become active producers of energy, we'll never get to net zero."

GSA Chief Architect Leslie Shepherd says he and his fellow jurors were impressed with the sophistication and inventiveness of the submissions, noting, "With appropriate testing and validation, certain Next Generation strategies could be replicated across a wider swath of our Great Society-era buildings."

The full article, list of winners and additional images can be found in Metropolis Magazine's May 2011 issue.

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