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King + King Architects New Offices are First in CNY to Achieve LEED Platinum Status!

King + King Architects today announced that it has achieved LEED Platinum (NC) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for superior sustainability practices at its downtown offices. It is the first building in the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County to achieve this status.

The firm transformed a dilapidated warehouse into a showcase for sustainable design two and a half years ago. Located at the edge of an economically-challenged downtown neighborhood, the building has opened commercial development of the area. The property's cutting edge sustainable features encompass: air quality, day lighting, roofing, heat reduction, ventilation, flooring, restrooms, parking areas and equipment. The building also provides a healthy, comfortable work environment for employees that increases productivity overall. The firm uses the facility as an educational center, encouraging other businesses and groups to tour the building to see sustainable design in practice.

Richard Fedrizzi, CEO/Chairman of the USBC was on hand to officially present the firm with its formal certification recognition award and applauded the firm's efforts and practices.

"So many green building projects do something right. This building gets everything right...Its stunning," said Fedrizzi.

City of Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner was also in attendance. City of Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner was also in attendance. "The City of Syracuse is committed to creating a green and sustainable community and we are thrilled to be a city of 'firsts' in this effort. We were the first community in the nation to complete GreeningUSA's 12 Traits of Sustainable Communities Assessment and receive the "Sustainable Community" award. And now – thanks to King + King Architects – we are home to a building that is tied for first in total points in the State in the LEED Platinum new construction category."

"It's hard to believe that it was just a little over two years ago, when we moved into this building and were standing here at our ribbon cutting ceremony," said Peter King, Managing Partner, King + King Architects. "Yet before we cut that ribbon, we were already working toward our goal of achieving LEED Platinum certification status for our new home here in downtown Syracuse."

King put the achievement into the following context:

- In the LEED for New Construction category, only eight other buildings in the entire country achieved more points than King + King did. Five others matched the firm's achievement. This puts King + King in the top .2% nationwide.

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- In New York State, the King + King building and one other have achieved the highest number of points (59) in the LEED for New Construction category ratings.
- There are just 12 other LEED for New Construction buildings that have received Platinum level certification in New York State and King + King is tied with just one other building as the highest scoring buildings.

“Yet, this is not about the numbers. It’s about the results of the effort. We have a social responsibility to reduce our energy usage, to minimize our carbon footprint and provide our employees with a healthy work environment,” said King. “This building does all of that – from the floors to the roof and everywhere in-between.” (SPECIFIC DETAILS ABOUT BUILDING BELOW)

“The Central New York community has been good to King + King since 1868. And we intend - through this LEED Platinum certified building - to continue to return the favor and pay it forward,” said King.

Over the years, King + King has designed a number of the buildings that make up Syracuse’s skyline including the National Grid building, CenterState CEO headquarters, Onondaga County Courthouse, Manley Field House, Bird Library, Crouse College and so many more.

Overview of King + King Office Building Features:

PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS: Installed to the roof, the panels convert sunlight to energy so the building generates some of its own energy. Other needed electricity is purchased from NYS Wind Power.

GREEN ROOF for HEAT REDUCTION: Sections of the roof are covered by vegetation, which reduces rainwater runoff that drains to the sewer system. The vegetation, along with light reflective materials on the roof, help reduce heat in and around the building in warm weather.

EXISTING STRUCTURE: The brick walls, trusses, and most of the roof deck are original to the building.

DAYLIGHTING: 95% of work and meeting areas receive day lighting. A daylight harvesting system detects natural light via sensors that dim lights when enough natural light is available.

AIR QUALITY: High efficiency air filters detect the slightest amount of dust or pollen and eliminates the particles.

DISPLACEMENT VENTILATION: Low-velocity displacement ventilation provides comfortable heating and cooling at workstations, reducing heat & cooling loads and energy use. The ventilation flows from the floor up, rather than being pushed down from the ceiling, creating a stratified conditioned layer at “people level”. Above this, the air is not heated or cooled, using less energy.

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KITCHEN APPLIANCES: All appliances and vending machines are Energy Star approved. Kitchen consumables have been replaced with flatware, china & ceramic.

COUNTER TOPS and CABINETS: Countertops are made of wheat board and cabinets are made of wheat board and recycled wood particle – all rapidly renewable materials.

LINOLEUM FLOOR: Flooring is made of natural resources including linseed oil, wood flour or cork dust and a burlap or canvas backing.

RESTROOMS: 50% less water is used than in a typical new building. ½ gallon per minute faucets with occupancy sensors are featured in the restrooms.

PARKING LOT: Employees who carpool or drive fuel-efficient vehicles receive preferred parking.

King + King Building at a Glance:

- 52,000 square feet
- \$6 million construction project
- Designed by King & King Architects
- Uses 50% less energy and water than a typical new building.
- 95% of the building's original structure has been reused.
- More than 75% of construction waste was recycled or reused during the restoration.
- 30% more fresh air is produced than code requires.
- All cleaning products used on-site are environmentally friendly.
- The healthy, comfortable and pleasant work environment results in increased employee satisfaction and productivity.
- As a LEED-certified building, energy and water bills are lower, greenhouse gas emissions are lower, and employees and visitors have less exposure to mold, mildew and other indoor toxins.