



AIA San Francisco
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

**NATIONAL ARCHITECT GROUP AWARDS FUNDING
FOR ARCHITECTURAL PODCASTS IN SAN FRANCISCO**

*San Francisco Architects Receive Funding from The American Institute of Architects,
Celebrating its 150th Anniversary*

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (January 26, 2007) – The American Institute of Architects San Francisco Chapter (AIA San Francisco) has been awarded \$5,000 of grant funding from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington, D.C. to develop a pioneering initiative that provides residents, developers and builders detailed podcast walking tours of significant structures in San Francisco. The podcasts will be part of the popular “ArchCasts” series, the first podcast program developed by an AIA Chapter to help demystify and explain the design process. The San Francisco Chapter also received an additional grant of \$4,000 by the American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC), a statewide component of AIA.

The grant award is a part of AIA’s community-based initiative “Blueprint for America” celebrating its 150th anniversary. Initial ArchCasts, feature Bay Area architects discussing issues of relevance to architecture and design. While the series is designed to educate the general public, it can be used by professional architects, students and design enthusiasts alike.

The podcast walking tours are designed to take the visitor to several noteworthy buildings, including the newly renovated AIA San Francisco office¹, highlighting sustainable features of this LEED (The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) -certified space, in an effort to develop increased support of sustainable designed office interiors.

The AIA San Francisco is a non-profit corporation that serves as an architectural community resource and represents the interests of organized architects and associated professionals within San Francisco, and is a part of both The AIA California Council, and AIA, its grant benefactors.

“We are very pleased with the announcement of our grant. These walking tours allow the architecture community to help demystify and share the design process to the general public regarding architecture, design and the construction of communities, as well as actively engaging in dialogue to develop sustainable solutions for the present and the future,” said Margie O’Driscoll, Executive Director of AIA San Francisco.

For more information about the ArchCasts walking tours or AIA San Francisco, please call 415-362-7397 or visit www.aiasf.org/podcasts.

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*The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings’ performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

¹ On October 3, 2006, AIA San Francisco reopened in a new, state-of-the-art home within the Hallidie Building. The new home will serve as a demonstration “sustainable project” to educate architects and the general public about the advantages of sustainable design. Featuring improved acoustics, multiple exhibition spaces, and conference rooms, the space also houses the new Center for Architecture + Design.

Serving the Bay Area for more than a century, the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter (AIA San Francisco) is the third largest of the AIA's 300 chapters, representing more than 2,300 members in San Francisco and Marin County. Headquartered in the historic Hallidie Building—one of the world's first glass-curtain-wall-buildings, designed by Willis Polk and completed in 1917—AIA San Francisco is the Bay Area’s premier destination for architecture and design.