

EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

15th ANNUAL HEINZ AWARDS

RECIPIENT BACKGROUNDER

Robert Berkebile, 72, Kansas City, Missouri

Robert Berkebile is honored with a \$100,000 Heinz Award for his role in promoting green building design and for his commitment and action towards restoring social, economic and environmental vitality to America's communities through sustainable architecture and planning.

Mr. Berkebile experienced a personal epiphany after a Kansas City hotel he helped design collapsed in the early 1980s. Though not caused by his design, that experience challenged him to devote his career to harnessing the field of architecture to make a better world. As founding chairman of the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Committee on the Environment, he has influenced thousands of architects with a new way of sustainable thinking.

As a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Mr. Berkebile, a partner in BNIM Architects, Kansas City, Mo., helped to develop the council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, rating system, a voluntary, consensus-based standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Since its inception in 1998, LEED has grown to encompass more than 14,000 projects in the United States and 30 countries.

Mr. Berkebile is a pioneer in restorative design with the goal of delivering improved social, environmental and economic vitality. His sustainable design and planning projects range from redeveloping plans for the former naval base in Charleston, S.C. to restoring towns along the Mississippi River severely damaged by natural disasters, including New Orleans.

Said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation:

"Robert Berkebile turns tragedy into the environment's triumph. Where others see a typical job of rebuilding after a disaster, he sees a chance for restoration: restoration of a family's dream, a town's revival along the banks of the Mississippi and of the air, water, and land, where that new growth rises. He has helped to set a standard that has been embraced by architects, engineers and planners throughout the world. For the far-reaching impact of his work, we are pleased to honor him with one of this year's Heinz Awards."

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For more information, contact:

Jon Newman, 804.788.1414

jnewman@hodespart.com

www.heinzawards.net