

For Release: Thursday, January 8, 2009

SENIOR LEADER OF HKS TO DISCUSS INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF GREEN BUILDING FOR BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS ON THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 2009; FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC; RECEPTION, 6:30 P.M.; LECTURE, 7:00 P.M.

FORT WORTH, Texas – Continuing its lecture series on Sustainability by Design, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) hosts Kirk Teske, founding chairman of the Green Building Council of North Texas and leader in Green Building and Sustainable Design at the renowned architectural firm HKS — on Thursday, Jan 15, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden’s Dorothea Leonhardt Lecture Hall at 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard (off University Drive). A reception at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Teske will precede the lecture, which is open and free to the public.

Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call BRIT at 817.332.4441 or Metro 817.429.3200, or visit BRIT’s web site: www.brit.org.

Teske will explore, “Sustainability and Health by Design”, how a holistic approach to building design and construction can meet an institution’s long-term economic goals without compromising the health of the community it serves. Teske will present findings from studies conducted in the K-12 education sector. He will also draw directly from experience with local LEED Silver Certified Projects – the Sabre Corporate Campus in Southlake and the corporate headquarters of RadioShack in Fort Worth, the first and largest LEED Silver Certified Projects in Texas, respectively.

Teske is the fourth speaker in this year’s Distinguished Lecturer Series organized by BRIT and sponsored by Home Energy Americas and Oncor. The 2008-2009 series is about what it means to live sustainably in urban areas and how green building and landscape practices help us to be better stewards of our environment and finite natural resources.

This topic has directly informed BRIT’s plans for a 68K sq. ft. headquarters which will incorporate sustainable design in construction, operation and landscaping. The \$48 million project hopes to achieve Gold LEED certification when completed in 2011. Funds are being provided by contributions from individuals and foundations.

More information about the [future headquarters](#) as well as all lectures in the [Distinguished Lecturer Series](#) and can be found on BRIT’s website: www.brit.org.

Co-hosts of the lecture series are the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Botanical Society, and Fort Worth Garden Club.

About B. Kirk Teske, AIA, LEED AP

Kirk Teske, AIA, LEED® AP is a Principal and the Chief Sustainability Officer at HKS Inc., a top five architectural firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas. He is currently focused on positioning HKS and its global clients for an era of exponential growth in the demand for sustainable and energy efficient design. Kirk has been with HKS for twenty-four years, and has spent the majority of his career orchestrating the design of some of the firm’s highest profile

design projects. He managed the Sabre Corporate Campus Project, the first LEED Silver Certified project in Texas, and the 900,000 s.f. corporate headquarters for RadioShack, one of the largest LEED Silver Certified Projects. He is currently working on the largest LEED Registered Project in the world.

Kirk is the founding Chairperson of the U.S. Green Building Council North Texas Chapter and a former Chairperson for the AIA Dallas Chapter's Sustainable Design Committee. He is a LEEDTM Accredited Professional and has spoken on numerous occasions on the implementation of the LEEDTM Green Building Rating System including a presentation at the first annual U.S. Green Building Conference in Austin.

About the Botanical Research Institute of Texas

Opened in 1991, BRIT is a nonprofit international botanical resource center open to the public. Its mission is to conserve our natural heritage by deepening our knowledge of the plant world and achieving public understanding of the value that plants bring to life. BRIT fosters respect for ecological balance and the interconnectedness of all living things, the conservation of biological diversity, the integrity of scientific investigation and intellectual pursuits, and the desire to discover the unknown to expand humankind's knowledge and understanding of plants in our natural environment.

BRIT has conducted extensive research in tropical rainforests in the Philippines, Costa Rica, and currently in Peru and Papua New Guinea. BRIT's exploration of the natural world through field study, scientific research, botanical analysis, and educational programs places it in the forefront of conservation and preservation of Earth's finite resources.

At the Fort Worth headquarters, BRIT's staff presents workshops and educational programs and provides consultation to research scientists, students, teachers, artists, plant enthusiasts, vineyard owners, ranchers, veterinarians, farmers, homeowners, gardeners, lawyers, physicians, businesses, government agencies, museums, schools, arboreta, hospitals, and poison control centers.

With a collection of approximately one million dried plant specimens representing most of the Earth's plant families, BRIT has one of the largest herbaria in the United States. It has the largest independent herbarium in the Southwest and one of the world's best collections of Texas plant specimens. Its botanical library houses approximately 100,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and journals from 100 countries.

BRIT's primary facility is in downtown Fort Worth in a restored historic warehouse at the corner of 4th and Pecan Streets.

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