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San Francisco's Energy Foundation Office Earns LEED-CI Platinum

The Energy Foundation, a partnership of philanthropic investors that promotes clean energy technologies, has received LEED-CI platinum certification for its new San Francisco offices.

The renovation—led by TannerHecht Architecture and Terrasset Management Group—is the first project in San Francisco and one of only 13 worldwide to achieve the highest level of certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's program for commercial interiors.

The contractor on the project was BCCI Construction, interior design consultant was Gail Gordon Design, green building consultant was Simon & Associates, and mechanical, electrical, plumbing engineer was CB Engineers.

Founded in 1991, the Energy Foundation has a budget of \$90 million annually to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in the world's largest and fastest-growing energy markets, the U.S. and China. Located in the historic Bently Reserve building (formerly the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank), the new 17,600-sq-ft offices celebrate preservation—a facet of sustainable design—while underscoring the foundation's future-minded agenda through the interior's design and use of applied technology.

The design exposes the historic rustic steel, brick, and concrete structure, thereby reducing the use of new materials. Office walls, workstation panels, and conference room walls incorporate interior windows—including clerestories between offices—to take full advantage of the abundant natural light and city views afforded by the building's large original windows, reducing the need for artificial lighting.

Daylight harvesting, advanced lighting control systems and independent climate controls further reduce energy use while increasing individual comfort. Greenguard-certified workstations and chairs improve indoor air quality. Other resource-conserving elements include recycled denim acoustical insulation, wood-fiber ceiling tiles, high-recycled-content carpet tiles, and highefficiency plumbing.

The offices are organized to enhance the Energy Foundation's social, collaborative culture. A "copy café," conference rooms, and employee mailboxes are clustered to foster interaction among staff. The multipurpose "non-boardroom" accommodates a range of day-to-day uses as well as formal board meetings. To underscore the foundation's mission, the boardroom table was locally fabricated from recycled Douglas fir and decommissioned photovoltaic panels.

"As a non-profit, we had a tight budget, and as a leading funder on energy efficiency, we set the highest standards of sustainability for our



space," says Eric Heitz, president of the Energy Foundation. "The design and construction team really worked together to succeed on both fronts."

TannerHecht Architecture is a full-service design firm dedicated to creating projects that enrich their communities. Since 1980, founders Jim Tanner and David Hecht have served a broad array of public- and private-sector clients, bringing a hands-on, highly collaborative design approach to each project. TannerHecht's work in urban infill developments, multi-stakeholder

community-based projects, and commercial interiors has been recognized by awards and publications, regionally and nationally.

The firm is based in California with offices in San Francisco and San Diego.

Terrasset Management Group is comprised of a select group of professionals who have successfully completed some of the most challenging projects in the Bay Area. The firm provides owners representation, project management and construction management services to a broad client base, including developers, tenants, users and individuals. Terrasset has successfully guided preconstruction and construction for a broad range of projects, with an emphasis on efficiency, buildability, sustainability and LEED certification. Working collaboratively with the client, design team and end user, the firm has achieved a diverse portfolio encompassing adaptive reuse, custom residential, multi-family and mixed-use, retail, industrial, healthcare, commercial office and corporate interiors markets.