Architects Predict Significant Increases in Practice of Sustainable Design, According to 2006 Autodesk Green Index

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Client Demand Now Primary Driver For Adoption of Green Building Practices

DENVER, Greenbuild Expo, Nov. 15 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Autodesk, Inc. (Nasdaq: ADSK) today announced the results of the 2006 Autodesk Green Index, which provides a measure of the adoption of sustainable design techniques by architects. The overall Green Index number, based on a score of zero to 100, is expected to double by 2011, from 30 in 2006. Seventy-seven percent of this year's respondents indicated that client demand is the top driver for architects to practice sustainable design, up from 64 percent in 2005's Green Index. In last year's survey, customer demand was tied with fuel costs as leading drivers for the adoption of green building practices.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20050415/SFF034LOGO)

"This year's study reveals a growing commitment by architects and owners for supporting sustainable design principles," said Jay Bhatt, vice president, Autodesk building solutions. "By enabling our customers to collaborate more effectively and estimate more accurately, Autodesk solutions help architects predict the overall lifecycle costs of their designs."

In 2005, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) established a goal to reduce building- and construction-related fossil-fuel use by 50 percent by 2010. More than 60 percent of architects responding to the 2006 Autodesk Green Index survey predict that their integrated/high performance design work will help meet the 2005 AIA goal.

Design Software, Energy Modeling Expands and Enables Green Building Practices

According to the 2006 Autodesk Green Index, architects expect to expand their use of design software for energy modeling in the next five years for a variety of tasks, including:

- A 300% increase in the use of design software to specify material quantities and schedules to minimize waste during the construction process (to be used by 36% of architects on most of their projects in 2011, compared to 9% in 2006)
- A 258% increase to predict and evaluate solar heating (43% in 2011, 12% in 2006)
- A 176% increase to predict and evaluate solar lighting (17% in 2011, 47% in 2006)
- A 105% increase to evaluate and explore alternative building materials to maximize energy performance and minimize environmental impact (45% in 2011, 22% in 2006)
- A 112% increase to conduct energy modeling/baseline analysis (53% in 2011, 25% in 2006)

The most prevalent energy-saving initiative for architects are high- efficiency HVAC systems, with 64 percent of the study's respondents specifying their use on more than half of their projects over the past year. Five years ago, only 36 percent of architects used high-efficiency HVAC systems on over half of their design project; 85 percent expect to use high-efficiency HVAC systems on most of their projects by 2011.

Research Methods

This Internet survey was conducted in October 2006 among 150 architects practicing in the United States. The architects were queried on their use of 16 green design practices: five years ago, over the previous 12 months, and their expected use of these practices five years from now. The design practices were based on the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.

Of the architects who responded to the survey, 48 percent are predominantly involved in design work on single family homes. The rest are involved with commercial projects, institutional or industrial projects. Fifty-four percent have 15 or more years of experience as an architect. Seventy-two percent have received training or continuing education on the subject of green buildings. The full report is available at the Autodesk Sustainability Center (http://www.autodesk.com/green).

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc. is a Fortune 1000 company, wholly focused on ensuring that great ideas are turned into reality. With seven million users, Autodesk is the world's leading software and services company for the manufacturing, infrastructure, building, media and entertainment, and wireless data services fields. Autodesk's solutions help customers create, manage and share their data and digital assets more effectively. As a result, customers turn ideas into competitive advantage, become more productive, streamline project efficiency and maximize profits.

Founded in 1982, Autodesk is headquartered in San Rafael, California. For additional information about Autodesk, please visit http://www.autodesk.com/.

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