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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Henderson Engineers, Inc. celebrates opening of first project in Texas to receive highest U.S. Green Building Council certification**

Lenexa's Henderson Engineers, Inc. will celebrate the grand opening of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Tex. on March 11, 2008. The national engineering firm provided mechanical, electrical, plumbing and construction administration services for the LEED® Platinum certified project. Shangri La is the first in Texas to earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Platinum Certification and is one of only 50 awarded worldwide. Attending the opening from Henderson are Drew Rimmer, Vice President; John Sommers, Associate; and Anthony Martin, Professional Engineer.

“We are honored to be a part of Shangri La's success,” said Drew Rimmer, Vice President. “This project was technically challenging and required us to *really* reach to new heights in creative design solutions.”

The original Shangri La was built in 1937 by prominent Texas philanthropist Lutcher Stark, but was later destroyed by a major snowstorm which closed the garden for forty years. The Stark Foundation made plans to renovate and return the garden to its original splendor in 2002. The new center is located on 250 acres of preserve including wetlands, prairie, and other natural conditions. Buildings include an orientation center, lab and exhibit buildings, outdoor classrooms, boat dock and garden restrooms.

The mechanical, electrical and plumbing design for the center incorporated strategies such as commercial grade high efficiency (15 EER minimum) water source heat pumps with a thermal heat source/sink provided by an open loop dual-well water source, non ozone-depleting refrigerants, demand-based ventilation control, thermal displacement ventilation, energy recovery systems, microprocessor based direct digital control (DDC) system, gray water recycling systems (for toilet flushing and irrigation), rainwater storage and use, no-flow or ultra low-flow plumbing fixtures, domestic hot water produced by de-super heaters provided with the heat pump system, electrical demand-metering, a grid connected building integrated photovoltaic cell system (BIPV), and integrated lighting controls.

Henderson Engineers, Inc. was founded in 1970 and provides mechanical, electrical and plumbing design services through its offices in Kansas City, Houston, Dallas, Phoenix, Bentonville, Tampa and Las Vegas. Licensed in all 50 states, Henderson is comprised of over 400 employees including over 100 Licensed Engineers and over 50 LEED® Accredited Professionals. Henderson was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> on Building Design and Construction Magazine's 2006 Top 50 Building Team LEED® Accredited Professionals. Henderson also houses three specialty divisions: Fire Dynamics, Impact Illumination, and Henderson Technology Group.

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