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October 5, 2004

**Section:** Business**Page:** 01**New lab will shed light - literally - on saving energy***Ken Dey**Staff*

Architects can get free advice on 'daylighting'

Ken Dey

Staff

Developers who want to learn how to build with more environmentally friendly projects now have a new tool at their disposal.

The Idaho Urban Research and **Design** Center's **Integrated Design Lab** will open its doors today in Boise.The **lab** will give commercial developers the opportunity to see the benefits of incorporating energy efficiency and conservati into a building's **design**.The **lab**, at 108 N. 6th St., will provide resources for developers to learn about "green" architecture methods that can help prc environment, cut energy costs and reduce water usage.Two of the most significant tools available at the **lab** will be the Overcast Sky Simulator and the Heliodon.

The Overcast Sky Simulator is a mirrored room that will test building models to see whether natural light is being used effecti overcast days. The Heliodon mimics direct sunlight and tests the same models for direct sun penetration, which can affect he cooling needs in a project.

A focus of the **lab** will be to demonstrate to builders how they can incorporate "daylighting" into building **designs**. Daylighting process of using natural light, but not direct sunlight, to provide light inside a building.

The **lab** will offer its **design** consultation services, that focus on energy efficiency and sustainable **designs** free to architects, engineers and building owners throughout Idaho and eastern Oregon.

Funding for the **lab** comes from BetterBricks, a non-profit program of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. The **lab** is also by the University of Idaho, the Idaho Energy Division and Idaho Power Co.

Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg, the **lab**'s director, said by testing models of projects, they can suggest changes to optimize energy efficiency.

Van Den Wymelenberg said this is the first **lab** of its kind in Boise that will allow developers to see the benefits of energy efficient building's **design**.

"This is really going to give them the tools to do what they need to do to create good-looking, high-performance buildings," he

Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg, director of the Idaho Urban Research and **Design** Center's **Integrated Design Lab**, stands in **lab**'s Overcast Sky Simulator. The simulator will be used to evaluate architectural models to see how well they incorporate natural light. The **lab**, which opens today, offers free consultation services to architects, engineers and building owners on how to build energy-efficient buildings.

At IdahoStatesman.com

Link to more information about BetterBricks and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Learn about environmental **design** this week

As part of the grand opening this week for the Idaho Urban Research and **Design** Center's **Integrated Design Lab**, several events are planned that showcase the benefits of building environmentally friendly buildings. All events are free to the public and will be held at the **lab**'s new location, 108 N. 6th St. in Boise. Here's a look at the schedule:

7 p.m., today -- Gray water forum with architect Wayne Moody. Gray water is water from sinks, washing machines and exterior showers that can be filtered and reused in toilets or for irrigation. Following Moody's presentation there will be a panel discussion with local officials and local developers.

7 p.m., Wednesday -- England's BedZed Development. Bruce Haglund, a University of Idaho architecture professor, will speak and show images of the BedZed project, a zero-fossil fuel housing project in England that features daylighting, passive solar natural cooling and a central biomass heating system.

5 to 7 p.m., Thursday -- Open house at the **lab** followed at 7 p.m. by a presentation from Carnegie Mellon University professor Lee, who will talk about "Bridging the Gap -- Why **Labs** Matter." Lee is part of Carnegie Mellon's Center for Building Performance Diagnostics in Pittsburgh. The center has contributed to major building projects in the United States and around the world.

For more information about the events or the **lab**, call Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg at 724-9456.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Ken Dey at kdehyidahostatesman.com or 377-6428.

Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg holds photo cells that are placed inside and outside building models to judge how simulated direct sunlight and overcast light interact with a building's **design**.

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