

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KIRKSEY WINS 2007 HOUSTON'S GREATEST AWARD**

HOUSTON - Some of the city's most outstanding businesses and their leaders were honored this year by the Greater Houston Partnership during the 4th Annual Houston's Greatest Awards. Kirksey was awarded The People's Choice Award for the Corporate-Medium category.

Kirksey was selected as one of five finalists for the Greater Houston Partnership's "Houston's Greatest" Awards. The Houston's Greatest Award is the premier annual event honoring regional leaders who have advanced the greater Houston region as a business magnet. In addition to Kirksey's business overview, selection was based on contributions to the local community, special programs offered to employees and awards received.

Greater Houston Partnership President, Jeff Moseley, congratulated the winners saying, "You are among the best of the best." George DeMontrond and Lynne Liberato not only graciously served as co-chairs of Houston's Greatest Awards, they also served as the masters of ceremony. George DeMontrond is president of DeMontrond Automotive Group, Inc. Lynne Liberato is a partner in the law firm of Haynes Boone. Houston's Greatest Awards is the premier annual event honoring regional leaders who have advanced the greater Houston region as a business magnet.

Kirksey is a Houston-based architecture and interior design firm committed to our community and the environment, designing high-performance, healthy buildings for all our clients. We formalized this commitment by creating The Kirksey Center for Sustainable Architecture<sup>SM</sup>, a private think-tank and consulting group whose focus is to mainstream environmentally-friendly building practices. The Center educates other firm members and the community on green building practices.

A basicGREEN<sup>™</sup> program that prescribes sustainable design measures to be implemented on EVERY project, regardless of LEED<sup>®</sup> Certification and at no added cost to the project. With 3 million sf of LEED projects certified or underway, Kirksey has achieved major milestones within our community, including the 1st LEED certified building in Houston (Silver, New Construction), the 1st LEED CI in Houston (Silver, Commercial Interiors), the 1st LEED EB in Texas (Existing Building, our own corporate headquarters), and the 1st LEED CS (Core and Shell), which is also the 1st Gold certified building, in Houston.

As pioneers in green building, we lead by example and hope to influence others in the community. We recently retrofitted our own building to become LEED certified, proving

green buildings are possible without building anew. Additionally, we have been operating internally as a green company for many years through our recycling efforts, green cleaning programs, alternative transportation incentives for employees, and our annual holiday tree planting in which Kirksey plants trees for our clients in lieu of holiday gifts. Begun in 1987, this program has allowed the planting of almost 7,000 trees throughout Houston.



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