

PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAPHAEL ARCHITECTS PRINCIPAL EARNS LEED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

(Doylestown, PA) –Michael Raphael, AIA, LEED AP, owner and lead designer of Raphael Architects, recently earned his LEED™ Professional Certification. This distinguishes Raphael as having the knowledge and skills to successfully steward the integrated design and LEED certification process, requiring a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and familiarity with LEED requirements, resources and processes.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an ecology-oriented building certification program run by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

In 2008 the USGBC established the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) to administer the LEED Professional Accreditation exam, and develop and administer credentialing programs aimed at improving green building practice. Including LEED certification on a building project is becoming increasingly important in light of today's emphasis on sustainable building practices. According to the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) Web site, "The USGBC's LEED Green Building Rating System® has been adopted as a standard or guideline by dozens of state, local and federal agencies," including the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) "Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service (P100), which requires that all new construction and major modernization projects to be certified through the LEED program."

"LEED certification provides me with the tools to continue to meet our clients' desires to incorporate sustainable, energy-efficient solutions in our designs," said Raphael. "An emphasis on environmentally sensitive solutions is increasingly important in all new construction, as well as in renovations. Our goal is to create high-performance, welcoming buildings and spaces that meet our clients' needs, while minimizing the environmental footprint."