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People in the News

SmithGroup Promotes Napier in SF

SmithGroup has promoted Suzanne Napier to lead the firm's research and learning studio in San Francisco.

A 22-year SmithGroup veteran, Napier succeeds William Diefenbach, FAIA, LEED AP, as head of the research and learning studio. Diefenbach was



Suzanne Napier

recently named director of SmithGroup's San Francisco and Los Angeles practices.

Napier's promotion is an aspect of realignment by SmithGroup of top intellectual resources and management talent to focus on core national practices. Last month, James Hannon, who was previously director of the firm's San Francisco and Los Angeles practices, shifted to a full-time focus as head of the firm's national health practice.

Napier has worked in every practice in the San Francisco office, but has served the majority of her career as an architect and planner in SmithGroup's research and learning studio. A highlight of her career is her successful management and completion of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Molecular Foundry, a state-of-the-art, \$52 million project with 96,500 sq ft of laboratory and research space located in the Berkeley hills. The Molecular Foundry is a LEED Gold-Certified center for interdisciplinary research in the nanosciences.

Currently, Napier is project manager for a number of key Northern California projects in various stages of completion in energy research, engineering, lifesciences and veteran's healthcare. The studio's portfolio also includes numerous architectural projects for colleges, universities as well as for courthouses.

As she takes charge of the 24-person research and learning studio, Napier says her focus will be on continuing the studio's integration of high design quality, sustainability and flexible functionality for client projects.

"The academic setting continues to change with research, learning and health environments becoming more integrated and collaborative," says Napier. "Our

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

SF's Presidio Trust Completes First Phase of Stewardship and Sustainability Center

The Presidio Trust and its partners, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service, unveiled the Seed and Plant Lab, the first phase of a new Presidio Stewardship and Sustainability Center at Fort Scott.

Designed and built by ZETA Communities, a San Francisco offsite systems building company specializing in net-zero energy structures, the Seed and Plant Lab features high-efficiency heating and refrigeration systems and provides an ideal space for processing, storing, and treating over 300 batches of seeds used to grow plants for park restoration projects.



The building was constructed from sustainably harvested wood and was designed to make maximum use of natural lighting. Over the course of a year the Seed and Plant Lab will produce as much energy as it uses.

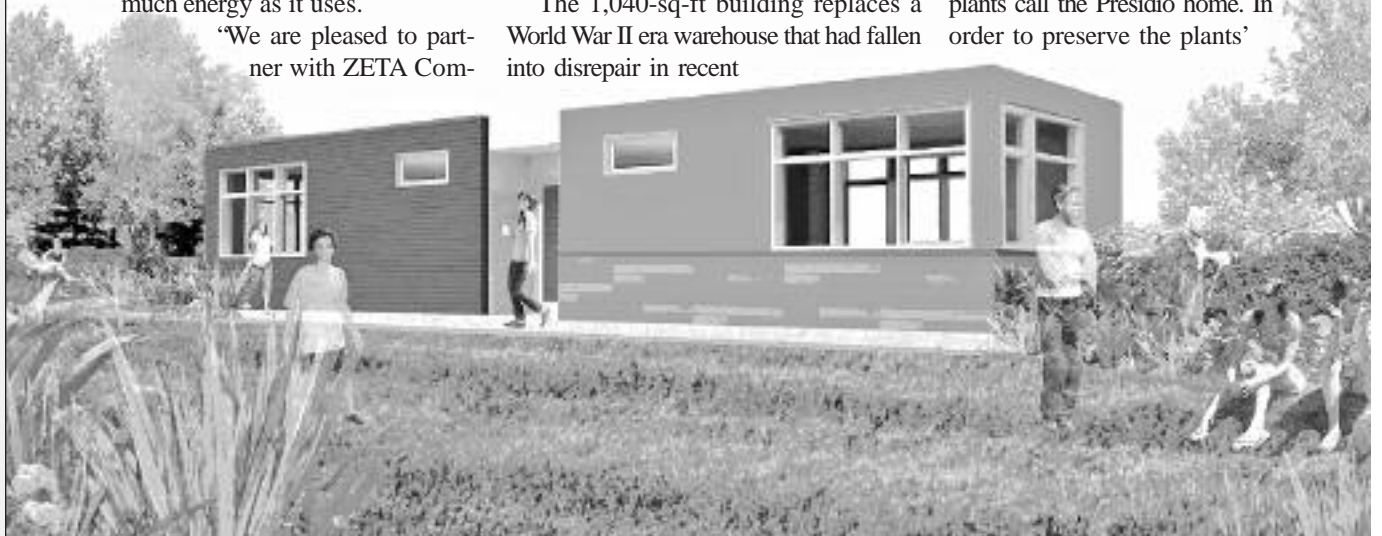
"We are pleased to partner with ZETA Com-

munities on the new Seed Lab," says Craig Middleton, the executive director of the Presidio Trust. "This building complements the Trust's commitment to green building principles."

The 1,040-sq-ft building replaces a World War II era warehouse that had fallen into disrepair in recent

their commitment to urban conservation programs," says Greg Moore, the executive director of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Four hundred species of native plants call the Presidio home. In order to preserve the plants'



Inside This Issue:

- Construction News — Page 2
- Industry Meets — Page 2
- Plans on File — Page 10
- Prospective Bidders — Page 11
- Classified — Page 18
- Request for Bids — Page 32

years. The demolition of the warehouse made room for the seed lab and other future components of the project, including greenhouses, a shade house, a new education and volunteer center and a Field Stewardship Center to be housed in a rehabilitated historic building. The project also includes a system for recapturing and reusing water from the greenhouses.

The Presidio Nursery is a partnership between the Presidio Trust, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service. Generous support for the new Seed Lab has been provided by the FedEx Corp. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, through their Urban Conservation grant program. Funding was also provided by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and Conservancy members.

"We are so grateful to the FedEx Corp., the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation for their generous contribution of resources to the Seed Lab, and for

unique genetic material and evolutionary traits, the nursery uses only seeds it has collected in its plantings. Those seeds are sorted not just by species, but by geography as well. Staff and volunteers grow 60,000 plants a year for habitat and reforestation projects throughout the Presidio, creating a rich and diverse plant community.

The Seed and Plant Lab was designed specifically for the nursery's delicate work of sorting and collecting seeds. The building was constructed in ZETA's Sacramento factory in just four weeks. It took crews less than an hour to lift the building, by crane, onto the site.

"This project demonstrates our shared goal of conserving natural resources, while treading lightly on environmentally protected land through off-site construction," says Naomi Porat, CEO of ZETA Communities.

"We're pleased to partner with the Conservancy, the Trust and the National Park Service, which continue to set a high stan-

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Stewardship and Sustainability Center

(Continued from page 1)

ard and provide national leadership in innovation in sustainability.”

Since 1996, more than 616,000 plants have been grown at the nursery. Last year alone, over one million seeds were collected, 5,000 people volunteered their time in the nursery, and 2,500 students took part in hands-on educational programs.

The Presidio Trust was established by the United States Congress in 1996 to administer the Presidio of San Francisco, an urban national park that is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is located at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge. The areas overseen by the Trust include expansive open space and spectacular views, a 300-acre historic forest, and rare and endangered plants and wildlife. The National Park Service oversees the coastal areas of the Presidio. The park comprises nearly 6 million sq ft of buildings, including 469 historic structures that contribute to the Presidio's status as a National Historic Landmark District.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, established in 1981, is the nonprofit membership organization created to preserve the Golden Gate National Parks, enhance the experiences of park visitors, and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks for the future. The Parks Conservancy has raised more than \$190 million to support park projects since its inception.

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(Continued from page 1)

task is to create facilities that anticipate and accommodate these trends and our capable and experienced staff is up to that challenge.” She adds that it is a goal to have the entire research and learning staff become LEED accredited professionals.

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