## GGO ARCHITECTS

November 3, 2015

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## DALLAS ARCHITECT GARY GENE OLP, FAIA SELECTED AS 2015 LEED FELLOW

LEED Fellows are best-of-the-best in green building design, engineering and development

GGOArchitects, Inc. announces that Gary Gene Olp, FAIA has been named a 2015 LEED Fellow by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI). This year's 35 Fellows are being honored for their outstanding work as LEED Professionals and for the significance of their contributions to the green building community at large. The LEED Fellow designates the most exceptional professionals and it is the most prestigious designation awarded from GBCI.

"Gary Olp is a remarkable individual who has long been a leader in the green building movement," said Rick Fedrizzi, CEO, GBCI and CEO and founding chair, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), "His expertise and excitement motivates all of us to continue to look ahead to what's next and to continue the innovation that has been the hallmark of our movement. Sharing his passion, knowledge and commitment, Gary anchors both the past and the future of our movement."

To be selected, LEED Fellows are nominated by their peers, undergo an extensive portfolio review, must have at least 10 years of experience in the green building industry and hold a LEED AP with specialty credential, among other requirements. The LEED Fellow evaluation committee carries out the evaluation process.

"As an early leader in the green building movement and someone who has committed my entire practice to doing the right thing, it's a deep honor to be recognized by my peers. Sustainability has never been an add-on for my practice – it is simply the only way to create and build, durable, responsible, beautiful structures. Our movement is also about education for our practitioners and subcontractors in the industry, without which nothing would be built. Everyone, not just the architect, needs to understand *WHY* we need to utilize LEED to build and renovate better, healthier buildings." – said Gary Gene Olp.

Olp has created contemporary, place-sensitive and environmentally responsive Architecture throughout his 25 plus year career. Having founded the first green practice in Dallas, he is credited with forging sustainable design and development practices in the City, along with contributing nationally to the initial development of the LEED for Homes rating system. Gary has completed hundreds of residential, commercial, institutional, and museum projects throughout the United States. Committed to civic involvement in Dallas, he was a Troop leader with the Boy Scouts of America for 15 years, and both of his sons reached the rank of Eagle Scout. Gary designed the first LEED Platinum certified home in the State of Texas, Heather's Home, which was featured in Oprah Magazine. Currently he serves on the USGBC Chapter Steering Committee (CSC) and the AIA Education Energy Curriculum Committee - Committee on the Environment.

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The 2015 LEED Fellows will be recognized in Washington, DC at the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, which is being held Nov.18-20, 2015. The nomination period for the 2016 LEED Fellows class will open in January. For more information about the LEED Fellow, visit usgbc.org/leed/credentials/leed-fellow.

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**About Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)** The Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) is the premier organization independently recognizing excellence in green business industry performance and practice globally. Established in 2008, GBCI exclusively administers project certifications and professional credentials and certificates within the framework of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems as well as the PEER standard for power systems, the WELL building standard, the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES®) and the GRESB benchmark, which is used by institutional investors to improve the sustainability performance of the global property sector. GBCI.org.

**About GGOArchitects** Founded by Gary Gene Olp, FAIA, LEED Fellow, GGOArchitects is a highly acclaimed contemporary architectural practice in Dallas, Texas; dedicated to innovation in design and sensitivity to place and the environment. With a unique combination of master planning and design experience, GGOArchitects has the ability to evaluate, comprehend, and skillfully design each project as one-of- a-kind. Their responsibility to each client respects this individuality of commitment. GGOArchitects design method holistically integrates environmental responsiveness, sustainability, energy optimization, beauty and affordability, with a depth and strength that infuses, clarity and curiosity into the craft of Architecture.

For more information, or to speak with Gary Gene Olp, LEED Fellow, FAIA, please call Amy King at 202.288.8335 or email <u>amy@nestedstrategies.com</u>.