



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sig Varela / Rachel Fulton
Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens
561-622-2260
Sig.Varela@hilton.com / Rachel.Fulton@hilton.com

Thomas Wingham
Doubletree Hotels Media Relations
310-205-4545
thomas.wingham@hilton.com

DOUBLETREE HOTEL PALM BEACH GARDENS DEVELOPS ONE OF THE CLEANEST, GREENEST, PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE CENTERS IN THE INDUSTRY

Hotel Team Aspires To Obtain Triple Certification with LEED, PURE and IACC For Meeting and Event Space As Part of Multi-Phase Hotelwide Transformation

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. November 17, 2008 – The Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens has undertaken a significant transformation during the past several months with dramatic changes already welcoming guests with newly refreshed design, services and amenities throughout its lobby, restaurant, public areas, fitness facilities and guestrooms. Today, the last stage of this multi-phase modernization project at the hotel is moving full steam ahead to develop one of the most innovative conference centers in the state of Florida, and quite possibly the country.

The Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens is in the final phases of a conference center project that aspires to a unique triple certification in becoming one of the country's only (LEED™)-certified GREEN, PURE-designated conference center that is anticipated to be approved by The International Association of Conference Centers. Designed locally by Gobbell Hays Partners, the project features modern functionality within 15,500 square feet of tech-savvy, purpose designed meeting space, eight meeting rooms, teleconference rooms, pre-function areas, and an outdoor plaza. The flexible space will allow for large assemblies, and smaller meetings and designated areas for personal communications and networking. The Executive Meeting Center at the Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens is anticipated to be completed and welcoming meeting planners and attendees in early 2009.

“Our team at the Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens is truly excited to introduce and share what will become not only one of the most sustainable conference centers in South Florida, but also one of the most healthy and productive environments for meeting planners and their attendees,” said Sig Varela, hotel manager.

As part of a comprehensive process to achieve and meet Green Lodging Program standards by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as well as LEED certification, the Doubletree Palm Beach Gardens hired Stay Green Renovation Management, specialist contractors that focus and implement sustainable practices in construction and renovation. Stay Green Renovation Management is a full-service General Contractor specializing in hotel renovations. By taking simple sustainable practices and applying them to traditional renovation procedures, the results are a triple bottom line: decreases in both cost and waste with an increase in satisfaction. Stay Green was founded in 2008 by hoteliers to implement environmentally conscious renovations while maintaining the highest quality.

The reclaimed 100% select heart cypress wood on the walls and niches are at least 500 years old. Salvaged from the local Florida swamps, it has aged with unique colorations of honey cinnamon and textures. The recycled glass has its own luster and colors. When materials are recycled, locally harvested and reclaimed, the materials have a history that shapes the spaces. Many additional items that were part of the hotel's original meeting space have been reclaimed and refreshed, where appropriate, as part of this unique new renovation concept.

Below is a sampling of additional sustainable renovation practices that were completed in this renovation:

- Low VOC paint caulk options
- Locally sourced materials, suppliers and contractors
- Energy Star rated exit signs
- Recessed lighting and speaker tiles reused and reclaimed
- Dimmable 26 watt compact fluorescent bulbs that reduce the mechanical load by up to 50%
- Tiled composite attic stock carpet that allows to change one tile when damaged as opposed to large areas
- Chandeliers, 2x2 ceiling lights, ceiling grid, all vents, and wall sconces were recycled as metal scrap. Fixtures were replaced with 3 position setting 2x2 fluorescent fixtures for optimal light level options that eliminate wasted energy
- All light bulbs, recessed lights and ballasts recycled through the local PBG Solid Waste Authority
- All card board boxes broken down and recycled through hotel's program
- Foam from the double stick carpet recycled at the Delray Beach Center and the Nylon 66 used for plastic car parts & fences
- All crates used by hotel for scrap wood
- All bottles, cans and containers recycled through the hotel's blue bins program

"This has been a great project to work on. Due to the sustainable practices we utilized in this renovation at the Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens, the waste stream was reduced by approximately 60%," said Jake Harris from Stay Green Renovation Management.

Another important feature is the healthy air quality as part of the PURE room product that is being instituted at the Executive Meeting Center for the Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens. With this product, materials do not cause a physical reaction or discomfort to the visitors. All the materials meet the air quality standards that create a healthy environment which has proven to be a more productive environment for learning and growing. Some of the features included in this part of the project include:

- **Sanitized heater and air conditioner**, further cleaned with PURE Tea Tree Oil
- **Cleansed and sanitized soft surfaces**, to eliminate contaminants that trigger allergies
- **PureShield™ application on all surfaces**, to minimize the growth of bacteria
- **One-time high ozone shock treatment**, to remove any remaining allergy triggers, and to eliminate room odors
- **In room air purification system (class II medical device)**, to render air quality four times cleaner than threshold for asthma patients

"The improvements in our Executive Meeting Center truly complement the transformation that has taken place throughout the Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens. The fact that we're able to make this happen with a focus on sustainability makes us just as proud," Varela added.

The Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens was bought and renovated in 2006 and is now operated by Thayer Lodging Group. The hotel features 279 guestrooms, a restaurant, meeting rooms, and a new state of the art Executive Meeting Center (EMC) scheduled to open early 2009. Set on the world-renowned PGA Boulevard in the Northern Palm Beach business corridor, just 10 miles from downtown West Palm Beach and 15 minutes from Palm Beach International Airport at 4431 PGA Blvd. Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. 33410.

For additional information on the **Doubletree Palm Beach Gardens**, please contact the hotel directly at 561-622-2260 or visit the website at www.doubletreepalmbeachgardens.com.

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