Developers Revive Hotel-Condos Concept

Developers across the U.S. are reviving a concept that collapsed with the real estate crash in 2008: combining condos and hotels. In cities including Miami, New York and Los Angeles, a rebounding hospitality market is joining with rising demand for luxury homes, spurring developers to construct new full-service hotels and ask premium prices for residential units associated with a high-end brand.

The $150 million Beachwalk hotel-residential project in Hallandale Beach, Florida has 300 residential units. Eighty-four of them are purely for condo use, and the rest will be made available to the hotel when residents aren't occupying them. The units sold out in two months, with an average price of $500,000. Beachwalk is one of several high-rise projects in South Florida being certified under the Florida Green Building Coalition's Green High-Rise Residential Building Standard. [More]

Report Highlights Climate Change Impacts on Southeast

The National Climate Assessment report released in May indicates sea level rise poses widespread and continuing threats to the Southeast's economy and environment. Extreme heat will affect health, energy, agriculture, and more. Decreased water availability will have economic and environmental impacts.

The region has two of the most populous metropolitan areas in the country (Miami and Atlanta) and four of the ten fastest-growing metropolitan areas. Three of these (Palm Coast, FL, Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL, and Myrtle Beach area, SC) are along the coast and are vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. Natural cycles such as the El Niño alter the occurrences of hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, flooding, freezing...
winters, and ice storms, contributing to climate and weather disasters in the region that have exceeded the total number of billion dollar disasters experienced in all other regions of the country combined.

The report issues several key messages about the effects of climate change to our region:

- Sea level rise poses widespread and continuing threats to both natural and built environments and to the regional economy.
- Increasing temperatures and the associated increase in frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat events will affect public health, natural and built environments, energy, agriculture, and forestry.
- Decreased water availability, exacerbated by population growth and land-use change, will continue to increase competition for water and affect the region's economy and unique ecosystems. Read the report

Attend the GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow on August 14-15 in Sarasota to learn more about how Florida will be impacted, how land use policies will likely change, and what local governments are doing now to prepare for climate change impacts. Sessions include:

- Opportunities & Challenges in Linking Green Building & Climate Change presented by Erin L. Deady, Attorney, Erin Deady P.A., Lantana, FL
- Resilient Communities - Best Practices to Address Climate Change presented by Nancy Schneider, Senior Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities, Delray Beach, FL

Dahl Builders Finds Niche as Builder of Green Homes
How to Build Sustainable Communities

Sustainable facilities, green building and infrastructure can help communities become more flood resilient and save billions of dollars, according to an EPA tool.

The Flood Resilience Checklist offers strategies that communities can consider, such as conserving land in flood-prone areas, directing new development to safer areas, and using green infrastructure approaches, such as installing rain gardens, to manage stormwater.

Climate change will likely cause more powerful storms in many parts of the US, according to EPA administrator Gina McCarthy. "Where and how communities build will have long-term impacts on their flood resilience, and on air and water quality and health and safety," McCarthy says. [More]

Getting the Most from A Lighting Retrofit

Energy-efficient lighting retrofits are a big deal for businesses in America. Many businesses could cut their lighting electricity costs by as much as 70 percent with a comprehensive energy-efficient lighting retrofit. But, there's a catch.

The catch is that to get to a number like 70 percent, you'll need a comprehensive retrofit. One that goes beyond simply replacing a business's existing lighting fixtures with new fixtures.

A free eBook gives lighting professionals tips on how to get the most from every retrofit. It covers advanced lighting techniques, like performing comprehensive layouts to reduce the number of fixtures used, addressing outdoor and specialty lighting, adding automatic lighting controls, and utilizing rebates and incentives. [More] [eBook]

UHaulCarShare Partners with Florida Colleges

What a great idea! Beginning in fall 2014, UHaulCarShare will place a 2012 Toyota Prius hybrid on the New College of Florida (NCF) campus in Sarasota. Access to the vehicle will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the NCF community.

"UHaulCarShare allows individuals the flexibility and..."
freedom a car provides while eliminating the financial burden of owning a car," stated Mariah Reid, program director, UhaulCarShare. "In addition, the service provides peace of mind...knowing the insurance, maintenance, reserved parking spots and 24/7 roadside assistance are included in the rates.

UhaulCarShare can be accessed from anywhere using a mobile device or computer and uses GPS or location address to find the closest vehicle. Members click on the vehicle they want to reserve and choose a pick-up date and time. Drivers as young as 18 can sign up online, reserve a car and use it for as little as $4.95 an hour, allowing individuals to maintain a sustainable lifestyle in one cost-effective and convenient package.

Other Florida colleges participating in the UHaulCarShare program include Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Lynn University in Boca Raton, and Northwood University of Florida in West Palm Beach.

SEBC Presents Energy Forum July 23 in Orlando

The Florida Home Builders Association-sponsored Southeast Building Conference (SEBC) is presenting a day-long energy efficiency forum on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at the Rosen Centre Hotel at 9840 International Drive in Orlando. For a $39 per person fee, participants can hear a wide range of topics and expert speakers at event entitled E2R3: Energy Efficiency for Remodels, Retrofits, and Renovations. Registration is at 9 am and the presentations begin at 10 am with a regulatory update focused on Florida's new Building Energy Rating System. Additional subjects include the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the Florida PACE program (with $200 million in funding for energy-efficient improvements for property owners), real-life experiences with Deep Energy Retrofits on foreclosed homes, and the latest on Green appraisals. The afternoon sessions are divided into residential and commercial tracks and the program concludes with a 5 pm networking reception. For details and to register, visit www.sebcshow.com. The SEBC show runs Thursday and Friday (July 24-25) at the Orange County Convention Center.

ACEEE: Florida’s Energy Policies Regressing

Every 5 years, the Florida Public Service Commission is required by the Florida Energy Efficiency Conservation
Act to evaluate its energy savings goals and select programs for inclusion in its next 10-year plan. These reviews offer an opportunity for Florida to look back at the past, and forward to the future, and determine just how much energy their programs can save. In recent years, states all over the country have bulked up their energy savings goals, planning for affordable, reliable, clean energy. But Florida seems to be sliding in the opposite direction, as the state's four primary investor-owned utilities have pushed to significantly scale back their energy savings goals.

All together, Florida utilities propose saving about 480 GWh of electricity over a ten-year period. That's compared to the more than 6800 GWh of savings they said were cost-effective during the last planning period. If that seems like a dramatic drop in energy efficiency offerings, it's because it is. The new savings targets are a mere 7% of the old targets. But utilities say it's all they can do. Well, ACEEE thinks the future can be brighter for Florida. Here are the arguments...

Best Practices Award Nominations Close Aug 1

Sustainable Florida, one of the state's foremost organizations promoting a better social, environmental and economic future, seeks nominations for the annual Best Practice Awards. Awards are presented in several categories including:

- Leadership,
- Large and Small Business,
- Non-Profit,
- Government,
- Green Building and
- Business Partnership

The nomination deadline is August 1. The nomination process and judging is done entirely online.

EPA Proposes Banning Some HFCs

The EPA has proposed banning some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a class of potent greenhouse gases, in a move that the agency says would reduce GHG emissions by up to 42 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2020.

The HFCs and HFC-containing blends affected by the
proposals are used in aerosols, motor vehicle air conditioning, retail food refrigeration and vending machines, and foam blowing.  

**Millennials Lead Growth in Green Buying**

While green products and services continue to be top-of-mind for Americans, Millennials are emerging as some of the most committed purchasers of sustainable products and services. As Boomers are entering retirement age and scaling back spending, Accenture projects that the nearly 80 million Millennials in the United States will account for 30 percent of retail purchasing by 2020. This demographic shift will have major implications for businesses across all industries, especially as it relates to sustainability.

**Willingness to pay more**

Though cost may impact purchasing decisions, the survey results show many consumers are committed to pay more for sustainable services and products if needed. In the U.S., 40 percent of adults are willing to pay more for products if ethical and responsible manufacturing practices are guaranteed. Millennial adults aged 18-34 are significantly more likely (56 percent) to pay more than older consumers aged 35+ (34 percent).

**Motivations for going green**

The majority of U.S. consumers who purchase green products/services do so for environmental reasons (54 percent), however, proportionally more adults aged 35+ identified this as their primary motivator (60 percent) than 18-34-year-old adults (38 percent). Meanwhile, Millennials are much more motivated by health benefits (24 percent) versus older adults aged 35-64 (13 percent).  

**National Utility Rate Database Now Available**

For the first time, electricity rates from nearly 3,500 electric utilities across the country are now available in a free online database that allows consumers, solar installers, and rate analysts to view or export one or many rates. In conjunction with NREL, Illinois State University created the U.S. Utility Rate Database, a comprehensive, reliable source for electric rate information. The database also produces reports indicating the energy production by technology, and the renewable energy potential for each state.  

[More]
Renewable Energy Technical Potential in Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Generation Estimate</th>
<th>Nameplate Capacity</th>
<th>Area, Mass or Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Utility-scale PV</td>
<td>72,787 GWh</td>
<td>39 GW</td>
<td>830 km²</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rural Utility-scale PV</td>
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<td>Rooftop PV</td>
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<td>CSP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onshore Wind</td>
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<td>0 GW</td>
<td>0 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore Wind</td>
<td>34,684 GWh</td>
<td>9 GW</td>
<td>1,929 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biopower-Solid</td>
<td>9,664 GWh</td>
<td>1 GW</td>
<td>8,785,824 BDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biopower-Gaseous</td>
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<td>785,787 Tennes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geothermal Hydrothermal</td>
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<td>EGS Geothermal</td>
<td>374,161 GWh</td>
<td>47 GW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydropower</td>
<td>582 GWh</td>
<td>0 GW</td>
<td>493 Sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FGBC Welcomes New Members

**Ryan Shears**  
M/I Homes  
Tampa

**TJ Nutter**  
Nutter Custom Construction  
Sarasota

**John Dailey**  
Habitat for Humanity of Lee & Hendry Counties, Inc  
North Fort Myers

**Katherine Green**  
Habitat for Humanity of Lee & Hendry Counties, Inc  
North Fort Myers

**Larry Hale**  
Larry Hale, LLC  
Sarasota

**Nicole Norton-Gozdz**  
N2 Architecture & Design  
Stuart

**Meredith Delcamp**  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Tampa

**Michael Acosta**  
Kitson Babcock, LLC  
Port Charlotte