

Gerding Edlen is as green as they come

Building award | The Portland-based developer picks up national honors

By **DYLAN RIVERA**
THE OREGONIAN

Oregon's most active developer is also the biggest producer of environmentally sensitive buildings in the nation, and perhaps the world.

That's what Rick Fedrizzi, president of the U.S. Green Building Council, said Wednesday on a visit to Portland. He gave Gerding Edlen Development Co. the 2007 Leadership Award, an annual honor that recognizes efforts to push the green building trend into the mainstream.

The award is reserved for firms with the broadest influence across industry sectors, Fedrizzi said.

"For one firm, it's the biggest achievement in the world right now," he said.

Gerding Edlen has 33 buildings either completed or in development that qualify for certification in the council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, known as LEED. That's more than any other firm.

At a ceremony at the Center for Health & Healing in the South Waterfront area, Fedrizzi presented Oregon Health & Science University with a plaque marking the building's platinum rating in the LEED program. It's the largest building in the nation to achieve platinum — the highest green building designation — and has a design that uses 61 percent less energy and 60 percent less water than building codes allow.

It is the second platinum-level project built by Gerding Edlen, working with Hoffman Construction Co. and GBD Architects Inc., all based in Portland. The team has one more building under construction in the Pearl District that it hopes will win platinum.

On a recent visit to Beijing, Fedrizzi said he saw Chinese officials studying The Brewery Blocks in the Pearl District, Gerding Edlen's first multiblock green project. The OHSU building will get similar international attention, he predicted.

Mark Edlen, managing principal, said the firm will continue to push the limits of sustainable design.

"In five years, we'd like to make buildings that produce more energy than they consume, and consume more waste than they produce," he said.

Dylan Rivera: 503-221-8532,
dylanrivera@news.oregonian.com