



Press Release



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First Community Housing Announces Gish Apartments Receives AIA COTE Award

San José, CA, – First Community Housing, a local non-profit housing developer, has announced their **Gish Apartments** development has been selected by the American Institute of Architects and its Committee on the Environment (COTE) as one of the top ten examples of sustainable architecture and green design solutions that protect and enhance the environment. The national award is one of the most prestigious in the country and showcases excellence in sustainable design principles and reduced energy consumption. **OJK Architecture and Planning** is the award-winning architect who designed Gish Apartments.

The 2009 COTE Top Ten Green Projects program celebrates projects that are the result of a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems and technology. They make a positive contribution to their communities, improve comfort for building occupants and reduce environmental impacts through strategies such as reuse of existing structures, connection to transit systems, low-impact and regenerative site development, energy and water conservation, use of sustainable or renewable construction materials, and design that improves indoor air quality.

"Congratulations to First Community Housing for building a model green community at the Gish Apartments and for this AIA COTE honor," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "This project is making a difference in the lives of its residents by providing much needed affordable and accessible housing. The Gish Apartments also help the broader community by taking us a step closer to the goals set in San Jose's Green Vision."

Gish Apartments is a 35-unit transit-oriented family apartment complex that provides quality affordable housing. The mixed-use plan includes a ground floor 7-Eleven and beauty salon to serve the neighborhood. Gish Apartments is a ground breaking development both for its architectural design and in its use of renewable energy technologies and other green building features. Gish is the only affordable housing development in the U.S. to receive both LEED for Homes and LEED NC Gold certification.

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Since 1986, First Community Housing has developed 1,212 units of affordable housing in the San Francisco Bay Area and it has another 420 units under development. FCH is noted for its commitment to using sustainable, energy-efficient materials and systems in their developments. FCH also provides quality property management including offering resident services that encourage educational achievement, job-skill enhancement and home ownership.