



Blanton Turner

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## **Thornton Place Earns LEED for Neighborhood Development Certification**

*LEED-ND Silver award makes Thornton Place the highest-rated built project in Washington state*

**SEATTLE, Wash.** – October 17, 2013 – Thornton Place was recognized as the first silver-level LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) community in Seattle – a certification from the U.S. Green Building Council that integrates the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building into the first national system for neighborhood design.

Thornton Place – a mixed-use community including 387 LEED-certified apartments, 50,000 square feet of retail, and a 14-screen Regal IMAX cinema – is the second development in Washington state to receive the LEED-ND Pilot designation following the City of Seattle’s certification of the South Lake Union neighborhood in 2011. Thornton Place is the first privately developed community in Washington to receive the certification and the project achieved a higher ranking with Silver certification.

“With Thornton Place, we were able to create a vibrant, walkable community that not only revitalized an aging Seattle neighborhood, but made a new one,” said Tim Ainge, representative of Stellar Holdings – the primary owner of Thornton Place.

Bert Gregory, Chairman and CEO of Mithun, and past member of the LEED-ND Core Committee, adds: “The LEED ND Silver certification is a remarkable achievement, and a testament to the potential of Thornton Place to inspire and inform sustainable and transit-oriented neighborhood development within Seattle and across the country.”

Thornton Place exceeded standards in all three categories unique to LEED-ND, including: smart location and linkage; neighborhood pattern and design; green infrastructure and buildings. Some of the highlights of Thornton Place’s qualifications for LEED-ND include:

- Diverse services on-site, and near-by including retail, entertainment, medical facilities, and more
- Housing provided on the site close to jobs, transit, and other community amenities, reducing residents’ ecological footprint
- By locating in a brownfield instead of on ecologically-sensitive land, Thornton Place preserves other natural areas for wildlife habitat and recreation
- Site laid out to create a compact development that made it easy for residents to walk across with minimal road crossings or other barriers
- Transit schedules posted throughout the site with easy access to the Northgate Transit Center
- Green belt that runs through the site serves as a park for residents and as a stormwater treatment facility, protecting water quality in Thornton Creek

“This isn’t just another LEED certification”, said Elizabeth Powers, Principal of O’Brien & Company, the firm that led the certification process. “LEED-ND is unique in recognizing the neighborhood connections and the benefits of green infrastructure. That goes way beyond having some cool materials in the building and starts providing really meaningful benefits to the local community.”



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The LEED-ND Pilot rating system was conceived in 2007 to recognize developments that integrated multiple buildings and infrastructure to achieve healthy, walkable communities. It is based on the principles of Smart Growth and New Urbanism and was jointly developed with the Congress for New Urbanism and National Resources Defense Council. Thanks to the efforts of early pilot projects like Thornton Place, LEED-ND is widely available to developments around the country.

### **About Thornton Place**

Thornton Place is a LEED-Silver Certified urban village located in Seattle's Northgate neighborhood. Managed by Blanton Turner and owned by Stellar Holdings, Thornton Place includes: 387 affordable and market rate, LEED-certified apartments; a 14-screen Regal IMAX cinema; 20,000 square foot flagship UW Medicine Clinic; 30,000 square feet of retail; 2.9-acre senior housing development, Aljoia. For more information visit: [www.thornton-place.com](http://www.thornton-place.com)

### **About Stellar Holdings**

Stellar Holdings is a family-owned real estate firm with a diverse global portfolio in Sweden, Poland and the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1989 and headquartered in Seattle, Washington, the company is a value-added developer and investor with a strong commitment to the social and environmental sustainability of the communities in which they live and work. For more information visit: <http://www.stellar.com/>

### **About O'Brien & Company**

O'Brien & Company is a nationally-recognized consulting company committed to the creation of sustainable buildings, neighborhoods and community infrastructure. Working in partnership with clients the firm offers finely targeted services that result in a practical, more sustainable reality. For more information visit: [www.obrienandco.com](http://www.obrienandco.com)

### **About Mithun**

Founded in 1949, Mithun is a world leader in integrated planning, urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design services—a multidisciplinary approach that unites human and natural systems within the built environment. Mithun's work includes design for civic, cultural, academic, urban residential, commercial, and institutional clients with a focus on health, connectivity, and high performance. For more information visit: [www.mithun.com](http://www.mithun.com).

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