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**Planetree Introduces Visionary Design Network  
Organizations excelling in patient-centered care**

Derby, Conn.—Today Planetree introduces a new program for architecture and design firms to apply for certification and become part of the Planetree Visionary Design Network. This certification will establish the firm as a specialist in evidence-based health care design following the Planetree philosophy and its core components of healing design; such as welcoming a patient’s family and friends, valuing human beings over technology, enabling patients to fully participate as care partners and fostering a connection to nature and beauty.

“The attributes of a healing environment provide the greatest opportunity for caring of the body, mind and spirit of those seeking health care services from its facility. Planetree designs are shaped by the patients, visitors, family members, volunteers and staff members who circulate through it on a daily basis,” said Planetree Director of Design Consultation Kim Montague, AIA.

A self assessment tool and an application, due March 23, 2009, may be found on Planetree’s website, [www.planetree.org](http://www.planetree.org). Firms will submit all documentation via electronic media such as flash drive or CD. Following acceptance of the application, an interview will be arranged with firm leadership to discuss the organization’s commitment to healing environments, evidence-based design and principles of design excellence and innovation. Demonstration of knowledge base and a cultural assessment of the applicant firm are the key components for this visit.

Once the interview is completed, each firm will be asked to select one project for two representatives from Planetree Design Advisory Council to visit and assess. The assessment process will take place over one day and will include review of the physical environment as it relates to the Planetree model of care and key aspects of a healing environment appealing to the five senses.

Certification will give firms a marketing advantage while also assisting hospitals that are planning construction or remodeling, especially Planetree members, in finding a firm committed to the same patient-centered care philosophy. As part of this program,

Planetree will offer to each firm opportunities to participate in continuing education programs which will include webinars and conference sessions.

Firms accredited by the Planetree Visionary Design Network will be honored at the 2009 Annual Conference in Baltimore, October 4-7.

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