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COMPLEXIONS SPA NAMED “SALON OF DISTINCTION” BY INDUSTRY MAGAZINE

ALBANY, N.Y. - Complexions Spa for Beauty and Wellness, located at 221 Wolf Road in Albany, has been named a “Salon of Distinction” by *Salon Today*, a leading industry spa magazine. The list of awardees is published in the June 2009 issue of *Salon Today*. Only 15 other spas in the country received this designation. “To be featured alongside the most beautiful spas and salons around the world is quite an honor,” said Denise Dubois, owner of Complexions Spa. “We spent endless hours designing and creating our new facility and it’s wonderful to be recognized by such a noteworthy magazine.”

The review process for this award was rigorous. Each entry included an essay and photographs. *Salon Today* editors and designers reviewed each entry, which was narrowed down to a select group of finalists. A panel of industry experts then evaluated the entries in detail, scoring them in five different décor categories. The judges’ scores were combined and used to determine the winners. One of the judges, Katerina Soukhopalov, owner and operator of MSK Design Group in New York City, said “Complexions’ use of recycled materials is wisely implemented and there is an evident softness and warmth.”

This award adds to the list of honors Complexions has received, including a recent Gold LEED® Certification for New Construction from the U.S. Green Building Council. Complexions Spa is also the only business in the Capital Region to win an Energy STAR Small Business and Congregations award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

About Complexions:

Complexions Spa for Beauty & Wellness specializes in offering a full range of unique spa services and rituals that focus on rejuvenation, beauty and wellness using the finest botanical and organic products from around the world. The professionally licensed technicians provide skin care, hair care, hydrotherapy, massage, nail care, and spa therapies. They have been trained to develop treatment programs that optimize the results and focus on the original spa philosophy of preventative health.

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COMPLEXIONS SPA REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT

ALBANY, N.Y. - Complexions Spa was founded in 1987 with a focus on professional skin care and make-up, with one employee working in 1,200 square feet. Steady growth has led to 38 employees and an expansion in the number and type of services offered. The emphasis moved from "pampering" to looking closely at the wellness aspects of treatments. Now Medi-Spa services such as laser, microdermabrasion and IPL photo rejuvenation are offered. Facials, massages, rituals of touch, detoxification, relaxation and purification body rituals are available, plus the more traditional manicures, pedicures, hair styling and a new barber spa to bring back the golden age of gentleman's grooming. Clients also have free access to the sauna, aromatherapy steam room and deluge shower.

Denise Dubois, owner and president, decided that expansion into an 8,500 square-foot facility should also take the environment's wellness into account. The goal of converting a former fabric store needed to insure that Complexions had an eco-friendly carbon footprint. Complexions turned to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for recommendations on how to reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint of the building. NYSERDA also provided incentives to offset costs of some of the efforts. Taitem Engineering of Ithaca, NY was the technical assistant on the project.

"The ENERGY STAR website also proved fruitful in this 'green' undertaking," says Ms. Dubois. "The user friendly information helped us research and choose appliances, get information on lighting choices and we used the Fast Facts section for our printed materials and marketing facts." High-efficiency, double-pane, low-e, argon-filled windows were used in a sunroom addition added to the original building. The windows have a lower solar heat gain factor and low thermal transmittance. High-efficiency, roof-top cooling units with a cooling Energy Efficiency Ratio of 12.5 and an annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency of 82% were installed. The equipment is ENERGY STAR qualified. Complexions' complements its sustainable building practices by purchasing only energy generated by renewable resources such as wind and hydro.

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In making decisions on new appliances including a refrigerator, washers and dryers, and domestic hot water heaters the ENERGY STAR and energy-efficiency were the first requirement. The restrooms, locker rooms, and hair salon at the day spa need specific amounts of air to be exhausted and replaced with fresh outdoor air, as required by local and state codes. Complexions' has added an energy recovery ventilator to recapture the energy of the exhaust air. This helps reduce the amount of energy needed to heat or cool the outdoor air to the desired space conditions. Energy demand was further reduced by installing high-efficiency lighting and lighting controls. The lighting design has reduced the overall watts to 0.4 watts per square foot, plus many of the work rooms have light sensors to save more energy.

New clients at the spa receive a "getting green fact sheet" and the current clientele of nearly 2,500 patrons per month are kept informed of energy saving efforts. ENERGY STAR posters are used in employee areas to encourage energy efficiency. The "Going Green" section of the Complexions website includes a link to ENERGY STAR to provide visitors with additional information. In addition, guests are encouraged to be more earth-friendly with discounts on retail products when they buy a reusable organic shopping bag. VIP parking is available for guests who drive a hybrid car and parking spaces for bikes are available.

Complexions Spa estimates that it is saving more than \$10,000 annually with its energy-efficient measures. The greenhouse gas savings are estimated at 56 tons annually, the equivalent of the CO2 emissions from the electricity use of nearly seven homes.

Collaborators

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
Tony Mantello, Jr., Consulting Engineer
Naomi Miller Lighting Design
Maria Tarpman
Taitem Engineering
Woodward, Connor Gillies and Selemen Architects
A. Mantello Construction Services, Inc.
VBC Lighting, LLC
Science Application International Corp.
Technology Headquarters

About Complexions:

Complexions Spa for Beauty and Wellness is the nation's first gold-level LEED® certified new construction spa. It specializes in using natural and organic ingredients, unique recipes, and the finest procedures and therapies, performed by the best trained and certified technicians. Complexions Spa provides a full range of spa, skin care and hair services for both men and women. The spa works in conjunction with area plastic surgeons and dermatologists to develop healing treatments and post-operative recovery methods. Complexions' is located at 221 Wolf Road in Albany, and is a winner of several national and international awards for its service, design and philosophy on healthy lifestyles.



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**COMPLEXIONS SPA FIRST IN COUNTRY TO RECEIVE GOLD LEED CERTIFICATION
FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION**

ALBANY, N.Y. – Complexions Spa for Beauty and Wellness in Albany is the first spa in the United States to earn Gold certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) LEED® rating system. In May 2008, Complexions Spa opened its new eco-friendly facility at 221 Wolf Road in Albany. The state-of-the-art green spa allows people to escape from every day life and retreat in an environment that promotes the natural connections between personal wellbeing, economic sustainability and environmental responsibility. “We’re delighted as a small business to have created and be operating the country’s first day spa to obtain Gold level certification,” said Denise Dubois, owner of Complexions Spa. “Our team worked very hard to achieve such stature and we hope to set an example for all small businesses across the nation.”

There are four levels of LEED certification: certified, silver, gold and platinum. Certification is based on energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. LEED was established for market leaders to design and construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense - a move championed by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). “I applaud Denise Dubois’ leadership and vision for smart and green investment in our community,” said Senator Gillibrand, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She continued, “Complexions’ innovative green construction is an example of an economic opportunity for expansion and giving consumers an opportunity to invest in small businesses that are trying to make a difference.”

LEED certification of Complexions Spa was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. Complexions Spa is powered by wind and water sources in the Adirondack Mountains. The facility is made of recyclable, renewable and sustainable materials including: low VOC paint and wallpaper, cork flooring and energy efficient appliances. “With each new LEED-certified building, we get one step closer to USGBC’s vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “As the newest member of the green family of green buildings, Complexions Spa is an important addition to the growing strength of the green building movement.”

Additionally, Complexions Spa was recently named “Salon of Distinction” by Salon Today. Last year, Complexions Spa was the only business in the Capital Region to win an Energy STAR Small Business and Congregations awards by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency. Visit www.complexions.com for more information on Complexions’ services and treatments, or call 518-935-2819.

About Complexions:

Complexions Spa for Beauty and Wellness specializes in using natural ingredients, unique recipes, and the finest procedures and therapies, all performed by the best-trained, most-qualified and certified technicians.

Complexions Spa provides a full range of spa, skin care and hair services. The Complexions team also works in conjunction with area plastic surgeons and dermatologists to develop healing treatments that assist surgical recovery as well as programs for acne care and age management.