



## The Ledge Named a 2011 International Architecture Award Winner

*Prestigious recognition adds to the growing list of awards for The Ledge*

**CHICAGO – July 28, 2011** – The Ledge at Skydeck Chicago was recently named a 2011 International Architecture Award winner by The European Center for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design. The Ledge, along with 90 new building projects from around the world, was recognized for the highest level of imagination and inspiration of the ‘best of the best’ architectural minds practicing design today. This prestigious honor adds to The Ledge’s growing list of awards won over the past year.

“Since its debut, The Ledge at Skydeck Chicago has been recognized world-wide for the experience it delivers to visitors who take in an urban landscape like never before – on a glass platform perched high in the air,” said Randy Stancik, Vice President of U.S. Equities Asset Management, which manages Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower. “We are honored The Ledge has received this prestigious award and thank the design and engineering teams from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Halcrow Yolles and MTH Engineering for their architectural vision.”

The International Architecture Awards has grown into a distinguished global event of unprecedented scale. This year’s awards included a record number of entries from the widest geographic distribution ever. Award organizers bill the annual event as the most important barometer for the future direction of new architectural design and thinking.

In the last year, The Ledge has also received a number of awards for its design and implementation, including the Good Design is Good Business award from *Architectural Record*, the 2010 Special Achievement of the Year award from the Chicago Commercial Real Estate Awards, and the 2010 Annual Design Review Citation from *Architect Magazine*.

Perched on the 103rd floor of the iconic Willis Tower, The Ledge offers visitors unobstructed views of the city, 1,350 feet straight down from a series of glass bays that extend from the west side of the building. Skydeck Chicago is open daily October – March from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., and April – September from 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. For additional information on Skydeck Chicago, please visit [www.theskydeck.com](http://www.theskydeck.com) or follow us on Twitter @SkydeckChicago and Facebook.

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### About Willis Tower

Willis Tower is the premier corporate office building in Chicago, offering more than 3.8 million square feet of office and retail space. Located in Chicago's West Loop at 233 S. Wacker Drive, the skyscraper is easily accessible from the commuter rail stations, highways and all forms of public transportation. Standing 1,450 feet and 110 stories tall, Willis Tower is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and an integral part of Chicago's culture. Originally opened in September 1973, it is home to more than 100 different companies, including prominent financial services firms, law firms and insurance companies. Willis Tower boasts spectacular vistas of Chicago, with views that can reach nearly 50 miles on a clear day. Willis Tower also boasts a tremendous infrastructure system, which includes enormous telecommunications capacity and unsurpassed electrical capacity and reliability. Skydeck Chicago on the Willis Tower's 103rd floor attracts more than one million visitors per year.

### About U.S. Equities Asset Management, LLC

U.S. Equities Asset Management, LLC, is a leading full-service commercial real estate firm headquartered in Chicago, with operations in Detroit, Philadelphia, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Colombia. The company serves as a strategic real estate advisor to clients throughout the United States and Latin America, providing development, program management, build-to-suit and construction oversight services; asset management and leasing; tenant representation, consulting and advisory services; and acquisition, disposition and financing of real estate assets. The

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asset management services group provides asset oversight, property and facility management, marketing and leasing and strategic planning to a diverse group of clients. Currently, the portfolio includes more than 400 properties totaling over 24 million square feet of office, retail, institutional, dormitory, facility and residential management services for approximately 50 clients, including 2.5 million square feet of management assignments along Chicago's famous Michigan Avenue.