

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Innovative BC Developments Recognized in International Arena

**Vancouver, BC** – Two lower mainland developments have received top honours from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) for their innovative approaches to urban living. ULI announced the recipients of the 2009 Awards for Excellence last week in Atlanta and named SFU Community Trust’s *UniverCity* and Grosvenor Americas’ *The RISE* among the 10 winners in The Americas Competition.

*“The fact that two projects in the Vancouver area, UniverCity and The RISE, are both winners of Awards for Excellence, says a great deal about how community development and individual building design is occurring in this region, which is quite unique in this country,”* remarked Gordon Harris, President and CEO of SFU Community Trust.

*UniverCity* is a sustainable urban community located on top of Burnaby Mountain and adjacent to Simon Fraser University. Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects (HBBH) completed the master planning for the community and SFU Community Trust (the Trust) manages the planning and development. It was the vision of the Trust and HBBH to create a community that would offer a mix of housing choices, supported by local commercial development, and smart transportation options. *“This award is really an acknowledgement of work done over the last decade by the Trust Staff and Board,”* said Harris. *“It is very heartening to be recognized for the kind of leadership we strive to provide in the area of sustainable urban development.”* Leading by example, the community is designed to be as “green” as possible, with green building guidelines, storm-water management and habitat preservation, to name just a few initiatives.

Grosvenor Americas’ *The RISE* is a transit-oriented, mixed-use development that occupies a full 2.3 acre block in the heart of Vancouver’s evolving Cambie Street corridor. Just steps away from the new Broadway Street Canada Line rapid transit station, *The Rise* blends large-format retail uses with 92 live-work rental homes organized in a rooftop mezz around a 20,000sf green roof and community garden. Green design features reduce energy and water use, and Grosvenor also committed an affordable rental unit to the City’s Artist in Residence Program.

*“We are very pleased that the ULI has recognized this collaborative urban development achievement,”* said Ryan Beechinor, Chief Development Officer for Grosvenor Americas. *“Vancouver has a limited land base and we realized that we had an obligation to optimize the use of this important site at a major transit node. Nigel Baldwin Architects and the Planning staff at the City of Vancouver helped us to create a new model of mixed-use development that has brought life to an important gateway for the City’s uptown district. The RISE is a creative example of how livable density can be both socially and economically sustainable.”*

ULI’s Award for Excellence program was established in 1979 to recognize best practices in land use and development. Submissions are evaluated on criteria that reflect ULI’s guiding principals, including leadership, contribution to the community, innovation, private/public partnership, environmental protection and enhancement, response to societal needs, and financial viability. The Awards for Excellence is the Institute’s most prestigious awards program.

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About Urban Land Institute

The Urban Land Institute is the preeminent, multidisciplinary real estate forum with a mission of providing leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. ULI is a non-profit research and education organization which facilitates the open exchange of ideas, information and experience among local, national and international industry leaders and policy makers dedicated to creating better places. Founded in 1936, the institute now has more than 40,000 members worldwide representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines, working in private enterprise and public service.