



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2010

Hardin Construction Company, LLC
3301 Windy Ridge Parkway
Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30339-5618

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Whitney Thrower 404/504-6632
wthrower@hardinconstruction.com

Darden Headquarters Earns LEED Gold Certification

Orlando project highlights Hardin Construction's green leadership

ATLANTA (May 24, 2010) — Another Hardin Construction Company project has earned certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for New Construction.

The new corporate headquarters building for Darden Restaurants, in Orlando, Florida, was recently awarded LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

The 469,000-square-foot Darden facility is the largest LEED Gold (new construction) building in Florida. The project exceeded the threshold for Gold certification by two points.

USGBC is the nation's leading evaluator of environmentally sustainable buildings. LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. USGBC LEED certification levels are Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Darden's headquarters, which opened last September, is among 20 Hardin-built projects that have achieved or are pursuing LEED certification. Nearly 30 percent of Hardin's operations staff members are LEED Accredited Professionals.

"Hardin Construction Company shares Darden Restaurants' commitment to protecting and enhancing the communities where we do business, and we congratulate Darden for this milestone achievement," said Hardin President Bill Pinto. "Hardin is honored to have been selected for the project and to have played a role in Darden's sustainability efforts." Hardin Construction is known for its expertise in green building and for obtaining LEED certifications for its clients. Hardin is ranked by Southeast Construction magazine among the top 10 in the southeast in green building. Hardin has also received several Urban Land Institute Development of Excellence Awards. The company's LEED-certified projects include renovation of Hardin's own six-story headquarters building in Atlanta, which is LEED Gold certified, as well as:

- **Arthur M. Blank Family Office**, the first LEED Gold certified building in Georgia and the first LEED Gold certified office building in the southeast.

- **171 17th Street at Atlantic Station** in Atlanta, the first LEED Silver-Core and Shell certified high-rise building in the world and the first high-rise office building in Georgia to receive any LEED certification.

- **Enotah Hall at Young Harris College**, a student residence featuring Geothermal heating and cooling, and the first higher educational building in North Georgia to achieve LEED Silver certification.

- **Atlanta Botanical Garden Visitor Center and Parking Facility**, which achieved LEED Gold certification.

About Hardin Construction

Hardin Construction Company, LLC provides unequalled construction services through its culture of integrity, innovation and opportunity. Hardin is ranked among the nation's Top 100 construction companies and is nationally recognized by the industry for its outstanding safety record. A leader in green construction, Hardin has completed nearly 20

LEED-certified projects and has more than 40 LEED Accredited Professionals. Founded in 1946 and privately held, Hardin's services include general construction, construction management, design-build, and renovation for projects of broad scope and complexity. Hardin has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., and offices in Tampa, Fla., Orlando, Fla., Raleigh, N.C., Austin, Texas and Houston, Texas. For more information, visit www.hardinconstruction.com.

#