



December 12, 2007  
Re: Architecture and Hospitality  
Contact: wylie@hwiarchitects.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HORNBERGER + WORSTELL CELEBRATES TOPPING OUT OF THE RITZ-CARLTON HIGHLANDS, LAKE TAHOE

**Truckee, California:** On November 9th 2007, architecture firm Hornberger + Worstell celebrated the topping out of the new Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe – the region’s first five-star luxury hotel. The topping out ceremony, which involved placing a symbolic evergreen tree onto the structure’s completed frame, signifies an important milestone in the construction process of the latest Northern California The Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Hornberger + Worstell’s design pays tribute to the spirit of the setting through the use of local materials such as granite and timber from the Sierra. As Mark Hornberger, FAIA lead design principal explains, the hotel “will be a contemporary legacy of the great mountain lodges originally built in the West at the turn of the century.” The Great Room with its three-story high granite fireplace, in particular, captures the sophisticated yet rustic tenor of the building.

Upon completion in the fall of 2009, The Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe will be one of the few true ski-in/ski-out luxury hotels in the world. Guests will be a gondola ride away from The Village at Northstar™ located adjacent to the hotel’s mountaintop location at 6,900 feet.

The Ritz-Carlton Highlands will be one of the first major five-star resorts to seek LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Some of the environmentally friendly features include underground parking instead of outdoor asphalt lots, recycled steel, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems. The facility will also contribute to the local economy through the creation of three to four hundred new jobs.

The facility will appeal to vacationers and business travelers alike with 11,000 square feet of meeting space, a 6,000 square foot ballroom, and a 20,000 square foot spa with spectacular Sierra views. The 170 guest rooms, 84 full ownership residences, and 78 deeded fractional residences will accommodate a variety of visitors and secure Lake Tahoe as a year round destination, much like successful Vail or Beaver Creek.

Topping out ceremonies, an ironworkers’ tradition practiced for hundreds of years, symbolizes the end of heavy, upward construction and the beginning of interior work. Hornberger + Worstell is proud to have achieved this accomplishment through the combined effort of Q & D/ Swinerton Construction, East West Partners, Brayton Hughes Design Studio, and The Ritz-Carlton Hotels and Resorts.

Hornberger + Worstell is a San Francisco-based architecture firm recognized for its expertise in the planning and design of destination resorts, business hotels, wellness facilities, academic communities, and the rehabilitation of historic structures. For more information, please visit [hornbergerworstell.com](http://hornbergerworstell.com).

