

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**URBAN HABITAT CHICAGO (UHC) HELPS BRING THE FIRST RESIDENTIAL
DECONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO CHICAGO**

(Chicago, June 25, 2007) Urban Habitat Chicago (UHC) is promoting a great alternative to demolition in Chicago.

Formed in 2004, UHC demonstrates the viability of sustainable concepts and practices in urban environments through research, education and hands-on projects.

One concept gaining increasing popularity as an alternative to demolition is *deconstruction*, the process of carefully dismantling a building in order to salvage its components for reuse.

Since 2006, UHC has worked closely with The ReUse People of America (TRP), specialists in deconstruction since 1993, to bring their innovative ReUse Solution™ to the Chicago area. This approach allows conventional demolition and general contractors to receive deconstruction certification to lower disposal costs, ensuring that substantially less waste goes to the landfill; clients are offered cost offsets in the form of tax deductions; and the environment is directly and significantly helped.

The first result of our joint efforts is the deconstruction by local partner OBI Development of a 1-1/2 story house at 3905 N. Janssen, which will eliminate nearly 60,000 pounds of waste, the amount the average American throws away in 37 years.

A press conference will be held at the deconstruction site on Monday, July 2 at 10:00 am to demonstrate the process and the results of this groundbreaking project.

Why deconstruction?

Currently, for all projects larger than 4,000 square feet and residential buildings with more than four units, the City has mandated the diversion of 50% of the construction and demolition (C&D) waste from the landfill. Additionally, a considerable amount of building materials are thrown away from smaller residential projects. In 2006, demolition permits were issued for 4,500 single-family homes and duplexes - the equivalent weight of the John Hancock Building or 2,000 Statues of Liberty was reduced to rubble in Chicago. At the end of their lives, our buildings and homes deserve to meet a better end than becoming useless waste. Deconstruction recovers these materials and turns them back into valuable products.

From contractors to homeowners, everyone benefits

Deconstruction provides products for sale, a well-trained labor force, and improved environmental quality by keeping air and water cleaner.

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