

Republic Property and Forestar Group bring home award for Celina project

Light Farms earns national award for innovative concept and land plan

(DALLAS, TX – Feb. 16, 2009) – Two Texas developers were recognized for product design and community development at the National Sales & Marketing Council’s annual awards show held in Las Vegas during the recent International Builders Show.

Honored for excellence in sales, marketing, product design and community development, Dallas-based developers Republic Property Group and Austin-based Forestar Group, Inc. (NYSE:FOR) received the Silver Award for their newest master-planned community in Celina.

Light Farms was recognized as one of the top five master-planned community concepts in the nation at the National Association of Home Builders’ annual awards show held this year at Caesar’s Palace during NAHB’s International Builders Show held in Las Vegas Jan. 23.

Scheduled to begin development in late 2009, Light Farms was judged on its land plan, landscape design, amenities, community concept and unique theming utilizing historic barns for the amenity buildings and marketing center.

“We are very proud that the judges recognized the innovative and unique aspects of our unique development in Celina,” said Jake Wagner of Republic Property Group. “Our land planning, landscape design and engineering team included two Dallas teams – MESA Design and Huitt-Zollars; and logo design and marketing signage were created by Anderson Hanson Blanton Advertising of Dallas.

Named for the farming family who owned the land, the 800-acre development is planned to embrace the North Texas’ heritage of horse ranches and farms. Traditional Texas-themed design elements are planned through the community as architecture, fencing, cedar posts, rustic stacked stone walls and trail heads – all paying homage to the land’s history.

In addition to natural and sustainable landscapes, Light Farms is planned to incorporate a variety of historic features including two meticulously restored, 200-year-old barns slated to house the main amenity center and the community information center.

Proposed amenities include a community center complete with a Junior Olympic pool and recreational pool, state-of the art fitness center and acres of open parks and green spaces, lakes and hike and bike trails.

Light Farms is between Preston Road and Dallas North Tollway in Celina less than 15 minutes from shopping, dining, entertainment and sports facilities in Frisco and McKinney. Preliminary plans are for homes priced from the \$200,000s to \$400,000.

Development partners Republic Property and Forestar have been development partners before, most notably at Lantana, Dallas/Fort Worth's top-selling residential community, according to Metro Study.

Located in southern Denton County, Lantana also was awarded McSam's Awards for Best Master-Planned Community in 2004 and 2006 by the Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas.