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Barone Design Group and Sikes Group Announce Strategic Alliance

- Sikes Group. Relocates offices to Barone Design Group's Headquarters in Houston -

November 1, 2005, Houston, Texas— Barone Design Group, a solutions-driven architecture and interiors firm, and Sikes Group, Inc. a leading Houston-based architecture and construction management firm, announce they have formed a strategic alliance. Both firms have been stalwarts of the Houston architectural scene for over twenty years, and developed solutions for leading Fortune 500 companies.

The strategic alliance enables the firms to offer comprehensive interior and ground-up design services to leading corporate, commercial and institutional real estate organizations including healthcare providers, oil & gas, financial services and hospitality companies. As part of the alliance, the two firms are co-locating at One Northwest Center in Houston, Texas.

"Our goal is to leverage our synergies to offer clients in the Houston-area and beyond total interior and exterior architectural design solutions. Together we can more comprehensively address the demand for new facilities in healthcare, hospitality and corporate markets," said Dean Barone, co-founder and president of Barone Design Group.

"This alliance provides our firm with acute design and interiors expertise. When combined with our architectural and construction management background, we now have the capability to offer our clients integrated expertise and a total service package," said Herschel Sikes, founder and president, Sikes Group.

Barone Design Group specializes in creating corporate workplace environments and highly technical, industrial, R&D and manufacturing facilities for leading companies worldwide. Sikes Group has extensive ground-up architectural and project-construction management experience. The new collaborative relationship enables the firms to offer clients an integrated solution to their facility requirements.

Barone Design Group has worked with numerous leading corporations, including Amoco, Exxon, Hines, Landmark Graphics, Texaco, Shell and Veritas, since its inception over 20 years ago. Recent projects include designing an internal business operations center overseas for a leading Fortune 100 company; creating a state of the art virtual reality room for viewing 3-dimensional seismic images of earth; and designing numerous outpatient clinics across Texas. The firm manages large scale corporate and facilities projects both nationally and internationally, providing clients with full-service interior architecture capabilities. For more information on Barone Design Group, please visit www.barone-design-group.com.

The Sikes family has been a leading force in Houston architecture for over 50 years. Herschel Sikes has been providing architectural services for leading companies across the U.S. since following in his father's renowned footsteps over 30 years ago. Projects recently completed by

Sikes Group include one of the largest kidney dialysis clinics in the US, located in Houston's Texas Medical Center; St. Luke's Medical Center in The Woodlands; headquarter and branch locations for Sterling Bank in Houston, Wells Fargo and Whitney Banks; a series of Bear Trace Golf Clubs throughout Tennessee; and senior living facilities throughout New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee and Texas. For more information on Sikes Group, please visit www.sikesgroup.com.

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