

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2011

## **Glacier Skywalk Design Wins Top Award at the World Architectural Festival**

*Brewster Congratulates Local Architecture Firm for Great Design*

BANFF - Brewster Travel Canada (Brewster) congratulates local Calgary firm, Sturgess Architecture on receiving the Future Projects Category Award at the World Architecture Festival last week in Barcelona, Spain, for the Glacier Skywalk design. Submitted last June for the competition, the design was one of many submissions from more than 60 countries to be shortlisted to one of only eight in the category before being announced the winner last Thursday.

“We were thrilled to be shortlisted on this world architectural stage. To win among such high-caliber competition was an honour of the highest magnitude,” said Jeremy Sturgess, Principal Architect at Sturgess Architecture. “It is great to be a part of such a fantastic design build team and for the opportunity to work with Brewster on this amazing project.”

The proposed Glacier Skywalk, a 400-metre interpretive boardwalk with a 30-metre glass-floored observation platform extending out over the Sunwapta Valley, is designed to help visitors engage and interact with the Columbia Icefield landscape in Jasper National Park. Sturgess Architecture won Brewster’s design competition for the structure and its walkway in 2010 along with the team of structural engineer Read Jones Christoffersen and contractor PCL Construction Management.

“On behalf of Brewster Travel Canada, we would like to congratulate Sturgess Architecture on receiving such a prestigious award for the Glacier Skywalk design,” said Brewster Travel Canada President Michael Hannan. “Brewster has been guiding visitors and interpreting the landscapes of the Rocky Mountain National Parks for over 120 years. As stewards of some of the most compelling and environmentally sensitive areas of our National Parks, it was extremely important to us that the design of the Glacier Discovery Walk be respectful and integrate with the surrounding environment. The Sturgess design has exquisitely captured the spirit of connecting people to place, and I believe it will be recognized for decades to come as an environmentally sensitive design icon and a signature experience within Canada's National Parks.”

The unique structure of the Glacier Skywalk, which is to be located directly off of the Icefields Parkway in Jasper National Park, has been created to lead visitors on a guided tour along the cliff's edge for a full viewing of the Athabasca Glacier and the Sunwapta Valley. The structure will gradually assume the same colours found in the natural iron rock into which it is built thanks to the properties of a Corten, a unique steel that will both weather well and blend in with the natural surroundings without using any paint or other colour chemicals. The Glacier Skywalk's Discovery Vista area, a 30-metre glass-floored observation point located at the tip of the Walk, will be reinforced with three layers of glass to give visitors the illusion of floating 130 metres above Tangle Creek.

“The concept of Sturges’ design is to encourage visitors to interact with the landscape in a unique way that is environmentally sustainable,” added Hannan. “We are proud of this project and look forward to sharing it and the wonders of Jasper National Park with Canadians.”

The Glacier Skywalk project is currently under an environmental assessment and approval process by Parks Canada. Subject to regulatory and other approvals, Brewster anticipates that construction of the Glacier Skywalk would begin sometime next year.

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### **About the Glacier Skywalk**

Brewster Travel Canada is proposing to develop an exciting new visitor experience called The Glacier Skywalk at the Tangle Ridge Viewpoint on the Icefields Parkway in Jasper National Park. The experience will consist of a 400-metre interpretive boardwalk and a glass-floored observation platform extending 30 metres out over the Sunwapta Valley. The project will enable visitors to engage with this dramatic landscape in a way that was not previously accessible to the majority of Jasper Park visitors. The Glacier Skywalk will consist of three integrated components: the Receiving Area, the Discovery Trail and the Discovery Vista—all designed to ensure that all Canadians regardless of mobility challenges can enjoy the landscape. For more information visit [www.glacierskywalk.ca](http://www.glacierskywalk.ca).

### **About Brewster Travel Canada**

For more than a century, Brewster Travel Canada has been delivering premium Canadian travel experiences to the global market by connecting travelers to one of the world’s most spectacular natural locations. Brewster’s guiding principles are based on integrity through ethical practices and environmental stewardship, excellence in customer service and product delivery, and strength through growth and sustainable development. With expertise in travel planning, transportation, hospitality and attractions, Brewster Travel Canada has set the standard of excellence for authentic travel experiences in Canada. For more information, visit [www.brewster.ca](http://www.brewster.ca).