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**David Kamp co-convenes the first Meristem Forum:
“Restorative Commons for Community Health” in New York City**

New York, NY – August 14, 2007 – David Kamp, Principal of Dirtworks, PC and co-founder of Meristem co-convened the first Meristem Forum, “Restorative Commons for Community Health.” The Forum was held at The New York Academy of Medicine. Renowned neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks, MD, of New York University and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, was the Keynote Speaker.

The Meristem Forum on “Restorative Commons for Community Health” strives to promote environmental awareness and build civic relationships conducive to individual and community health. The Forum is comprised of leaders from diverse professions with a demonstrated commitment to individual health and the health of our communities; an understanding of the urban infrastructure as part of the web of living ecosystems, and an appreciation for land as an essential agent in human health and disease prevention. The Forum endeavors to achieve a response that enables everyone to work at a level of integration where we can manifest healthy land, individuals, communities and cities as one comprehensive system.

Through these interactions, Kamp helps promote the exchange of ideas and new methodologies, and, in general, to advance the study of therapeutic environments and designing for older, special needs and all populations. Kamp’s commitment and participation in these endeavors has fostered a strong sense of community in design profession and colleagues in allied disciplines. Meristem, a not-for-profit organization based in New York City, promotes nature’s role in the improvement of human health and well being through the development of Restorative Gardens in healthcare environments. As co-founder of Meristem, Kamp has been expanding the vision of the organization to encompass a broader view of nature and health to include community health in urban planning. The Forum is an extension of Kamp’s belief “in the power of nature to enhance our everyday lives” and of his commitment to design sensory-rich, accessible spaces for the full range of the human condition.

Dirtworks, PC Landscape Architecture (www.dirtworks.us) is one of the sponsors of the Meristem Forum series. Dirtworks, PC is an internationally recognized and award-winning landscape architecture firm. Its designs enhance the restorative quality of the natural environment. The firm, founded in 1995, provides clients with the creativity and technical knowledge essential to project design and site planning. Dirtworks, PC provides a full range of professional services with a staff of technically trained and design-oriented landscape architects.

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