

ARE 5.0

# Project Planning & Design

Study Guide



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PROJECT PLANNING & DESIGN STUDY GUIDE 5.0

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Published by Brightwood Architecture Education

1-800-420-1429

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Printed in the United States of America.

17 18 19 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN: 978-1-68338-093-1

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# INTRODUCTION

## WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Brightwood Architecture Education for your ARE study needs. We wish you the best of luck in your pursuit of licensure.

## ARE OVERVIEW

Since the State of Illinois first pioneered the practice of licensing architects in 1897, architectural licensing has been increasingly adopted as a means to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Today, the United States and Canadian provinces require licensing for individuals practicing architecture. Licensing requirements vary by jurisdiction; however, the minimum requirements are uniform and in all cases include passing the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). This makes the ARE a required rite of passage for all those entering the profession, and you should be congratulated on undertaking this challenging endeavor.

Developed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the ARE is the only exam by which architecture candidates can become registered in the United States or Canada. The ARE assesses candidates' knowledge, skills, and abilities in six different areas of professional practice, including a candidate's competency in decision making and knowledge of various areas of the profession. The exam also tests competence in fulfilling an architect's responsibilities and in coordinating the activities of others while working with a team of design and construction specialists. In all jurisdictions, candidates must pass the six divisions of the exam to become registered.

The ARE is designed and prepared by architects, making it a practice-based exam. It is generally not a test of academic knowledge, but rather a means to test decision-making ability as it relates to the responsibilities of the architectural profession. For example, the exam does not expect candidates to memorize specific details of the building code, but it requires them to understand a model code's general requirements, scope, and purpose and to know the architect's responsibilities related to that code. As such, there is no substitute for a well-rounded internship to help prepare for the ARE.

## Exam Format

The six ARE 5.0 divisions are outlined in the table below.

ARE 5.0 DIVISIONS	
Division	Items
Practice Management	80
Project Management	95
Programming & Analysis	95
Project Planning & Design	120
Project Development & Documentation	120
Construction & Evaluation	95

The exam presents multiple-choice questions, new hotspots, and drag-and-place, as well as incorporating case studies. Candidates may answer questions, skip questions, or mark questions for further review. Candidates may also move backward or forward within the exam using simple on-screen icons.

Appointment times for taking the exam are slightly longer than the actual exam time, allowing candidates to check in and out of the testing center. All ARE candidates are encouraged to review NCARB's *ARE 5.0 Guidelines*

for further detail about the exam format. These guidelines are available via free download at NCARB's website ([www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org)).

## EXAM PREPARATION

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### Overview

There is little argument that preparation is key to passing the ARE. With this in mind, Brightwood has developed a learning system for each exam division, including study guides, QBanks, and flashcards. The study guides offer a condensed course of study and will best prepare you for the exam when utilized along with the other tools in the learning system. The system is designed to provide you with the general background needed to pass the exam and to provide an indication of specific content areas that demand additional attention.

In addition to the Brightwood learning system, materials from industry-standard documents may prove useful for the various divisions.

### Preparation Basics

The first step in preparation should be a review of the exam specifications and reference materials published by NCARB. The ARE 5.0 Handbook is available for download at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org).

Though no two people will have exactly the same ARE experience, the following are recommended best practices to adopt in your studies and should serve as a guide.

*Set aside scheduled study time.*

Establish a routine and adopt study strategies that reflect your strengths and mirror your approach in other successful academic pursuits.

Most importantly, set aside a definite amount of study time each week, just as if you were taking a lecture course, and carefully read all of the material.

*Take—and retake—quizzes.*

After studying each lesson in the study guide, take the quiz found at its conclusion. The quiz questions are intended to be straightforward and objective. Answers and explanations can be found at the back of the book. If you answer a question incorrectly, see if you can determine why the correct answer is correct before reading the explanation. Retake the quiz until you answer every question correctly and understand why the correct answers are correct.

*Identify areas for improvement.*

The quizzes allow you the opportunity to pinpoint areas where you need improvement. Reread and take note of the sections that cover these areas and seek additional information from other sources. Use the question-and-answer handbook and online test bank as a final tune-up for the exam.

*Take the final exam.*

A final exam designed to simulate the ARE follows the last lesson of each study guide. Answers and explanations can be found on the pages following the exam. As with the lesson quizzes, retake the final exam until you answer every question correctly and understand why the correct answers are correct.

*Use the flashcards.*

If you've purchased the flashcards, go through them once and set aside any terms you know at first glance. Carry the rest with you throughout the day, reviewing them on the train, over lunch, or before bed. Remove cards as you

become familiar with their terms until you know all the terms. Review all the cards a final time before taking the exam.

## Supplementary Study Materials

In addition to the Brightwood learning system, materials from industry-standard sources may prove useful in your studies. Candidates should consult the list of exam references in the NCARB guidelines for the council's recommendations and pay particular attention to the following publications, which are essential to successfully completing this exam:

International Code Council (ICC)

*International Building Code*

National Fire Protection Association

*Life Safety Code (NFPA 101)*

## Test-Taking Advice

Preparation for the exam should include a review of successful test-taking procedures—especially for those who have been out of the classroom for some time. Following is advice to aid in your success.

### *Pace yourself.*

Each division allows candidates at least one minute per question. You should be able to comfortably read and reread each question and fully understand what is being asked before answering. Each vignette allows candidates ample time to complete a solution within the time allotted.

### *Read carefully.*

Begin each question by reading it carefully and fully reviewing the choices, eliminating those that are obviously incorrect. Interpret language literally, and keep an eye out for negatively worded questions.

### *Guess.*

All unanswered questions are considered incorrect, so answer every question. If you are unsure of the correct answer, select your best guess or mark the question for later review. If you continue to be unsure of the answer after returning the question a second time, it is usually best to stick with your first guess.

### *Review difficult questions.*

The exam allows candidates to review and change answers within the time limit. Use this feature to mark troubling questions for review upon completing the rest of the exam.

### *Choose the best answer.*

Many candidates fall victim to questions seeking the “best” answer. In these cases, it may appear at first glance as though several choices are correct. Remember the importance of reviewing the question carefully and interpreting the language literally. Consider the following example.

1. Which of these cities is located on the east coast of the United States?
  - A. Boston
  - B. Philadelphia
  - C. Washington, D.C.
  - D. Atlanta

At first glance, it may appear that all of the cities could be correct answers. However, if you interpret the question literally, you'll identify the critical phrase as “on the east coast.” Although each of the cities listed is arguably an “eastern” city, only Boston sits on the Atlantic coast. All the other choices are located in the eastern part of the country but are not coastal cities.

## ABOUT BRIGHTWOOD

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Thank you for choosing Brightwood Architecture Education as your source for ARE preparation materials. Brightwood brings its experience and history to the world of architectural education, pairing unparalleled resources with acknowledged experts in ARE content areas to bring you the very best in licensure study materials.

Only Brightwood Architecture offers a complete catalog of individual products and integrated learning systems to help you pass all six divisions of the ARE. Brightwood's ARE materials include study guides, QBanks, and flashcards. Products may be purchased individually or in division-specific learning systems to suit your needs. These systems are designed to help you better focus on essential information for each division, provide flexibility in how you study, and save you money.

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# SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

by Jonathan Boyer, AIA

This section is meant to prepare you for the “green” architecture, sustainability, and new material technologies topics that NCARB has introduced to several of the divisions of the ARE.

## Introduction

### History of Sustainable Design

### Principles of Sustainable Design

### Sustainable Site Planning and Design

- Site Selection
- Alternative Transportation
- Reduction of Site Disturbance
- Storm Water Management
- Ecologically Sensitive Landscaping
- Reduction of Light Pollution
- Open Space Preservation

### Ahwahnee Principles

### USBGC—U.S. Green Building Council

### Architectural Process

- Cost
- Function
- Time
- Aesthetics
- Sustainability

### Standards of Evaluation

### The Sustainable Design Process

- The Design Team

### Research and Education

- Education of the Client
- Education of the Project Team
- Energy and Optimization Modeling
- The Bid and Specification Process
- Changes and Substitutions

## Energy Evaluation

- Solar Design
- Lighting
- Benchmarking

## Commissioning

### Innovative Technologies

- Groundwater Aquifer Cooling and Heating (AETS)
- Geothermal Energy
- Wind Turbines
- Photovoltaic (PV) Systems
- Fuel Cells
- Biogas
- Small-Scale Hydro
- Ice Storage Cooling Systems

## Conclusion

## INTRODUCTION

Architects can no longer assume that buildings function independently of the environment in which they are placed. In the late 1800s, the machine age offered the lure of buildings that were self-sufficient and independent of their natural surroundings—“The Machine for Living,” as LeCorbusier proclaimed.

In the middle of the 20th century, the promise of endless and inexpensive nuclear energy lured architects into temporarily ignoring the reality of the natural elements affecting architectural

design. Why worry about natural systems if energy was going to be infinite and inexpensive? Glass houses proliferated.

Energy is not free, the global climate is changing, and the viability of natural ecosystems is diminishing. Architects are designing structures that affect all these natural ecosystems. Much as Marcus Vitruvius wrote thousands of years ago that architects must be sensitive to the local environment, architects are returning to study the virtues of tuning to natural systems. Contemporary architects must combine their knowledge of the benefits of natural systems with the understanding of the selective virtues of contemporary innovative technologies.

This lesson focuses on the fundamental principles of environmental design that have evolved over the thousands of years that humans have been creating spatial solutions.

## HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

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In early human history, builders of human habitats used materials that occurred naturally in the earth, such as stone, wood, mud, adobe bricks, and grasses. With nomadic tribes and early civilizations, the built environment made little impact on the balance of natural elements. When abandoned, the grass roof, adobe brick, or timber beam would slowly disintegrate and return to the natural ecosystem. Small human populations and the use of natural materials had very little impact on a balanced natural ecosystem.

But as human populations expanded and settlements moved into more demanding climates, natural materials were altered to become more durable and less natural. In fact, archeological

finds demonstrate some of the human creations that are not easily recycled into the earth; fired clay, smelted ore for jewelry, and tools are examples of designs that will not easily reintegrate into the natural ecosystem. These materials may be reprocessed (by grinding, melting, or reworking) into other human creations, but they will never be natural materials again.

As human populations expanded, there is strong evidence that some civilizations outgrew their natural ecosystem. When overused, land became less fertile and less able to support crops, timber, and domesticated animals necessary for human life. The ancient solution was to move to a more desirable location and use new natural resources in the new location, abandoning the ecologically ruined home site.

The realization that global natural resources are limited is an age-old concept. The term *conservation*, which came into existence in the late 19th century, referred to the economic management of natural resources such as fish, timber, topsoil, minerals, and game. In the United States, at the beginning of the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot, introduced the concept of conservation as a philosophy of natural resource management. The impetus of this movement created several pieces of natural legislation to promote conservation and increased appreciation of America's natural resources and monuments.

In the middle of the 1960s, Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, a literary alarm that revealed the reality of an emerging ecological disaster—the gross misunderstanding of the value and hazards of pesticides. The pesticide DDT and its impact on the entire natural ecosystem was dramatic; clearly, some human inventions were destructive and could spread harm throughout the ecosystem with alarming

speed and virulence. Birds in North America died from DDT used to control malaria in Africa. Human creations were influenced by the necessities of the natural cycles of the ecosystem. Human toxic efforts could no longer be absorbed by the cycles of nature. Human activities became so pervasive and potentially intrusive that there needed to be a higher level of worldwide ecological understanding of the risk of disrupting the ecosystem.

Architects, as designers of the built environment, realize the ecological impact of their choices of architectural components, such as site selection, landscaping, infrastructure, building materials, and mechanical systems. The philosophy of sustainable design encourages a new, more environmentally sensitive approach to architectural design and construction.

There are many credos for the approach to a new sustainable design. Some architectural historians maintain that the best architects (Vitruvius, Ruskin, Wright, Alexander) have always discussed design in terms of empathy with nature and the natural systems. Now it is evident that all architects should include the principles of sustainable design as part of their palette of architectural best practices.

## PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

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The tenets outlined below indicate why it is necessary to maintain the delicate balance of natural ecosystems.

1. In the earth's ecosystem (the area of the earth's crust and atmosphere approximately five miles high and five miles deep) there is a finite amount of natural resources. People have become dependent on elements such

as fresh water, timber, plants, soil, and ore, which are processed into necessary pieces of the human environment.

2. Given the laws of thermodynamics, energy cannot be created or destroyed. The resources that have been allotted to manage existence are contained in the ecosystem.
3. All forms of energy tends to seek equilibrium and therefore disperse. For example, water falls from the sky, settles on plants, and then percolates into the soil to reach the subterranean aquifer. Toxic liquids, released by humans and exposed to the soil, will equally disperse and eventually reach the same underground reservoir. The fresh water aquifer, now contaminated, is no longer a useful natural resource.

There is a need to focus on the preservation of beneficial natural elements and diminish or extinguish natural resources contaminated with toxins and destructive human practices.

There are many credos for environmental responsibility. One, *The Natural Step*, was organized by scientists, designers, and environmentalists in 1996. They were concerned with the preservation of the thin layer that supports human life in a small zone on the earth's surface: the ecosphere (five miles of the earth's crust) and the biosphere (five miles into the troposphere of the atmosphere).

Their principles are summarized as follows:

1. Substance from the earth's crust must not systemically increase in the ecosphere.  
Elements from the earth such as fossil fuel, ores, timber, etc., must not be extracted from the earth at a greater rate than they can be replenished.
2. Substances that are manufactured must not systemically increase in the ecosphere.

Manufactured materials cannot be produced at a faster rate than they can be integrated back into nature.

3. The productivity and diversity of nature must not be systemically diminished.

This means that people must protect and preserve the variety of living organisms that now exist.

4. In recognition of the first three conditions, there must be a fair and efficient use of resources to meet human needs.

This means that human needs must be met in the most environmentally sensitive way possible.

5. Buildings consume at least 40 percent of the world's energy. Thus, they account for about a third of the world's emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning, and two-fifths of acid rain-causing carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides.\*

The built environment has a monumental impact on the use of materials and fuels to create shelter for human beings. The decisions about the amount and type of materials and systems that are employed in the building process have an enormous impact on the future use of natural resources. Architects can affect and guide those decisions of design to influence the needs of sustainability and environmental sensitivity.

\* Sources: David Malin Roodman and Nicholas Lessen, "Building Revolution: How Ecology and Health Concerns are Transforming Construction." Worldwatch Paper 124 (Washington DC, Worldwatch Institute, 1995); Sandra Mendler & William Odell, The HOK Guidebook to Sustainable Design, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2000).

## SUSTAINABLE SITE PLANNING AND DESIGN

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Most architectural projects involve the understanding of the design within the context of the larger scale neighborhood, community, or urban area in which the project is placed.

If the building will be influenced by sustainable design principles, its context and site should be equally sensitive to environmental planning principles.

Sustainable design encourages a re-examination of the principles of planning to include a more environmentally sensitive approach. Whether it is called smart growth, sustainable design, or environmentally sensitive development practice, these planning approaches have several principles in common.

### Site Selection

The selection of a site is influenced by many factors including cost, adjacency to utilities, transportation, building type, zoning, and neighborhood compatibility. In addition to these factors, there are sustainable design standards that should be added to the matrix of site selection decisions:

- **Adjacency to public transportation**

If possible, projects that allow residents or employees access to public transportation are preferred. Allowing the building occupants the option of traveling by public transit may decrease the parking requirements, increase the pool of potential employees and remove the stress and expense of commuting by car.

- **Floodplains**

In general, local and national governments hope to remove buildings from the level of the 100-year floodplain. This can be accomplished by either raising the building

at least one foot above the 100-year elevation or locating the project entirely out of the 100-year floodplain.

This approach reduces the possibility of damage from flood waters, and possible damage to downstream structures hit by the overfilled capacity of the floodplain.

- **Erosion, fire, and landslides**

Some ecosystems are naturally prone to fire and erosion cycles. Areas such as high slope, chaparral ecologies are prone to fires and mud slides. Building in such zones is hazardous and damaging to the ecosystem and should be avoided.

- **Sites with high slope or agricultural use**

Sites with high slopes are difficult building sites and may disturb ecosystems, which may lead to erosion and topsoil loss. Similarly, sites with fertile topsoil conditions—prime agricultural sites—should be preserved for crops, wildlife, and plant material, not building development.

- **Solar orientation, wind patterns**

Orienting the building with the long axis generally east west and fenestration primarily facing south may have a strong impact on solar harvesting potential. In addition, protecting the building with earth forms and tree lines may reduce the heat loss in the winter and diminish summer heat gain.

- **Landscape site conditions**

The location of dense, coniferous trees on the elevation against the prevailing wind (usually west or northwest) may decrease heat loss due to infiltration and wind chill factor. Sites with deciduous shade trees can reduce summer solar gain if positioned properly on the south and west elevations of the buildings.

## Alternative Transportation

Sites that are near facilities that allow several transportation options should be encouraged. Alternate transportation includes public transportation (trains, buses, and vans); bicycling amenities (bike paths, shelters, ramps, and overpasses); carpool opportunities that may also connect with mass transit; and provisions for alternate, more environmentally sensitive fuel options such as electricity or hydrogen.

## Reduction of Site Disturbance

Site selection should conserve natural areas, and restore wildlife habitat and ecologically damaged areas. In some areas of the United States, less than 2 percent of the original vegetation remains. Natural areas provide a visual and physical barrier between high activity zones. Additionally, these natural areas are aesthetic and psychological refuges for humans and wildlife.

## Storm Water Management

There are several ways by which reduced disruption of natural water courses (rivers, streams and natural drainage swales) may be achieved:

- Provide on-site infiltration of contaminants (especially petrochemicals) from entering the main waterways. Drainage designs that use swales filled with wetland vegetation is a natural filtration technique especially useful in parking and large grass areas.
- Reduce impermeable surface and allow local aquifer recharge instead of runoff to waterways.
- Encourage groundwater recharge.

## Ecologically Sensitive Landscaping

The selection of indigenous plant material, contouring the land, and proper positioning of shade trees may have a positive effect on the

landscape appearance, maintenance cost, and ecological balance. The following are some basic sustainable landscape techniques:

- Install indigenous plant material, which is usually less expensive, to ensure durability (being originally intended for that climate) and lower maintenance (usually less watering and fertilizer).
- Locate shade trees and plants over dark surfaces to reduce the “heat island effect” of surfaces (such as parking lots, cars, walkways) that will otherwise absorb direct solar radiation and retransmit it to the atmosphere.
- Replace lawns with natural grasses. Lawns require heavy maintenance including watering, fertilizer, and mowing. Sustainable design encourages indigenous plant material that is aesthetically compelling but far less ecologically disruptive.
- In dry climates, encourage xeriscaping (plant materials adapted to dry and desert climates); encourage higher efficiency irrigation technologies including drip irrigation, rainwater recapture, and gray water reuse. High efficiency irrigation uses less water because it supplies water directly to the plant’s root areas.

### Reduction of Light Pollution

Lighting of site conditions, either the buildings or landscaping, should not transgress the property and not shine into the atmosphere. Such practice is wasteful and irritating to the inhabitants of surrounding properties. All site lighting should be directed downward to avoid “light pollution.”

### Open Space Preservation

The quality of residential and commercial life benefits from opportunities to recreate and experience open-space areas. These parks,

wildlife refuges, easements, bike paths, wetlands, or play lots are amenities that are necessary for any development.

In addition to the aforementioned water management principles, the following are principles of design and planning that will help increase open-space preservation:

- **Promote in-fill development** that is compact and contiguous to existing infrastructure and public transportation opportunities.

In-fill development may take advantage of already disturbed land without impinging on existing natural and agricultural land.

In certain cases, in-fill or redevelopment may take advantage of existing rather than new infrastructure.

- **Promote development that protects natural resources** and provides buffers between natural and intensive use areas.

First, the natural areas (wetlands, wildlife habitats, water bodies, or floodplains) in the community in which the design is planned should be identified.

Second, the architect and planners should provide a design that protects and enhances the natural areas. The areas may be used partly for recreation, parks, natural habitats, and environmental education.

Third, the design should provide natural buffers (such as woodlands and grasslands) between sensitive natural areas and areas of intense use (factories, commercial districts, housing). These buffers may offer visual, olfactory, and auditory protection between areas of differing intensity.

Fourth, linkages should be provided between natural areas. Isolated islands of natural open space violate habitat boundaries and make the natural zones seem like captive preserves rather than

a restoration or preservation of natural conditions.

Fifth, the links between natural areas may be used for walking, hiking, or biking, but should be constructed of permeable and biodegradable material. In addition, the links may augment natural systems such as water flow and drainage, habitat migration patterns, or floodplain conditions.

- **Establish procedures that ensure the ongoing management of the natural areas** as part of a strategy of sustainable development.

Without human intervention, natural lands are completely sustainable. Cycles of growth and change including destruction by fire, wind, or flood have been occurring for millions of years. The plants and wildlife have adapted to these cycles to create a balanced ecosystem.

Human intervention has changed the balance of the ecosystem. With the relatively recent introduction of nearby human activities, the natural cycle of an ecosystem's growth, destruction, and rebirth is not possible.

Human settlement will not tolerate a fire that destroys thousands of acres only to liberate plant material that reblooms into another natural cycle.

The coexistence of human and natural ecosystems demands a different approach to design. This is the essence of sustainable design practices, a new approach that understands and reflects the needs of both natural and human communities.

## AHWAHNEE PRINCIPLES

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In 1991, in the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park, a group of architects, planners,

and community leaders met to present community principles that express new, sustainable planning ideas. These principles are summarized below.

### *Preamble*

Existing patterns of urban and suburban development seriously impair our quality of life. The symptoms are: more congestion and air pollution resulting from our increased dependence on automobiles, the loss of precious open space, the need for costly improvements to roads and public services, the inequitable distribution of economic resources, and the loss of a sense of community. By drawing upon the best from the past and the present, we can plan communities that will more successfully serve the needs of those who live and work within them. Such planning should adhere to certain fundamental principles.

### *Community Principles*

1. All planning should be in the form of complete and integrated communities containing housing, shops, workplaces, schools, parks, and civic facilities, essential to the daily life of the residents.
2. Community size should be designed so that housing, jobs, daily needs, and other activities are within easy walking distance of each other.
3. As many activities as possible should be located within easy walking distance of transit stops.
4. A community should contain a diversity of housing types to enable citizens from a wide range of economic levels and age groups to live within its boundaries.
5. Businesses within the community should provide a range of job types for the community's residents.

6. The location and character of the community should be consistent with a larger transit network.
7. The community should have a center focus that combines commercial, civic, cultural, and recreational uses.
8. The community should contain an ample supply of specialized open space in the form of squares, greens, and parks, whose frequent use is encouraged through placement and design.
9. Public spaces should be designed to encourage the attention and presence of people at all hours of the day and night.
10. Each community or cluster of communities should have a well-defined edge, such as agricultural greenbelts or wildlife corridors, permanently protected from development.
11. Streets, pedestrian paths, and bike paths should contribute to a system of fully connected and interesting routes to all destinations. Their design should encourage pedestrian and bicycle use by being small and spatially defined by buildings, trees, and lighting, and by discouraging high speed traffic.
12. Wherever possible, the natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation of the community should be preserved with superior examples contained within parks or greenbelts.
13. The community design should help conserve resources and minimize waste.
14. Communities should provide for the efficient use of water through the use of natural drainage, drought tolerant landscaping, and recycling.
15. The street orientation, the placement of buildings, and the use of shading should contribute to the energy efficiency of the community.

### *Regional Principles*

1. The regional land-use planning structure should be integrated within a larger transportation network built around transit rather than freeways.
2. Regions should be bounded by and provide a continuous system of greenbelt/wildlife corridors to be determined by natural conditions.
3. Regional institutions and services (government, stadiums, museums, and so forth) should be located in the urban core.
4. Materials and methods of construction should be specific to the region, exhibiting a continuity of history and culture and compatibility with the climate to encourage the development of local character and community identity.

### *Implementation Principles*

1. The general plan should be updated to incorporate the above principles.
2. Rather than allowing developer-initiated, piecemeal development, local governments should take charge of the planning process. General plans should designate where new growth, in-fill, or redevelopment will be allowed to occur.
3. Prior to any development, a specific plan should be prepared based on these planning principles.
4. Plans should be developed through an open process and participants in the process should be provided visual models of all planning principles.

*Source: Local Government Commission's Center for Livable Communities, <http://lgc.org/clc/>.*

## USGBC—U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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Incorporated as a nonprofit trade association in 1993, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) was founded with a mission “to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work.” It is formed of leaders from across the building industry who head a national consensus for producing a new generation of buildings that deliver high performance inside and out.

The core of the USGBC’s work is the creation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training, and practical resources.

USGBC committees are actively collaborating on new and existing LEED standards, including a standard for homes, neighborhood development, and commercial interiors.

Their Web site is: [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

## ARCHITECTURAL PROCESS

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After the planning process has been concluded, and the site has been selected, the architectural team will begin to focus on the project,

including the project’s buildings and related infrastructure.

Traditionally, the architect is faced with four components to every design decision: cost, function, aesthetics, and time. The new paradigm adds *sustainability* to this list.

The ingredients of the normal process have been discussed previously, but the new ingredient, sustainability, changes the meaning of all these pieces of the architectural process.

### Cost

As architects put together budgets for their clients, they are always concerned with the first costs of the design components—the initial cost to purchase and install the design element.

Sustainable design has made the economic decision process more holistic. The decision to select a design element (such as a window, door, flooring, exterior cladding, or mechanical system) is now concerned with the “life cycle” cost of the design.

### *Life-Cycle Costing*

Life-cycle costing is concerned not only with the first cost, but the operating, maintenance, periodic replacement, and residual value of the design element.

For example, two light fixtures (A and B) might have different first cost: Fixture A has a 10 percent more expensive first cost than B. But when the cost of operation (the lamps use far less energy per lumen output) and the cost of replacement (the bulbs of A last 50 percent longer than the bulbs of Fixture B) is evaluated, Fixture A has a far better life-cycle cost and should be selected.

In this kind of comparison, the life-cycle cost may be persuasive; the extra cost of Fixture A

may be recovered in less than two years due to more efficient operation and replacement savings. In this situation the architect justified Fixture A to the owner, who benefits from a more energy efficient lighting that continues to save the owner operating costs for the life of the building.

### *Matrix Costing*

While designing a typical project, the architect faces numerous alternate decisions, a process that may be both intriguing and complex.

Sustainable design adds an ingredient to the matrix of decisions that may actually help the composition.

For example, decisions that allow the improved efficiency of the building envelope, light fixtures, and equipment may permit the architect to allow the engineer to reduce the size of the HVAC system, resulting in a budgetary trade-off. The extra cost of the improved envelope may be economically balanced by the diminished cost of the mechanical system.

This type of economic analysis, which evaluates cost elements in a broad matrix of interaction, is a very valuable architectural skill. The ability to understand the interaction between different building systems in a creative and organized fashion can differentiate an excellent from a simply adequate architectural design.

### **Function**

Functionality is one of the primary standards of architectural design. If the building does not perform according to the client's needs, then the building design has failed.

Years ago, the design element could perform at the highest level regardless of its impact on the environment or energy use. The fact that many industrial and residential buildings are operat-

ing today much more efficiently than 1960 is evidence that the building design and construction profession is learning how to tune buildings to a higher degree of energy operation. But, with diminishing natural resources and increasing pollution of the environment, even more efficient design is necessary.

Today, architects will include sustainability in the selection of optimal functional design components.

For example, a roof system must be able to withstand a variety of weather conditions, be warranted to be durable a minimum of years, be able to be applied in a range of weather conditions, and have a surface with reflectivity that does not add to the urban heat effect.

### **Time**

The schedule of a project is always a difficult part of the reality of the design process. Time is a constraint that forces a systematic and progressive evaluation of the design components.

The sustainable component of the architectural process may add to the amount of time the architect will spend on the research for the project.

The architect may spend more time on a sustainable design with the result being a more integrated, sustainable project.

### **Aesthetics**

The aesthetic of a project is the combination of the artistry of the architect and the requirements of the project.

Sustainable design has the reputation of emphasizing function and cost over beauty and appeal.

It is the architect's responsibility to keep all the design tools in balance. A project without aesthetic consideration will fail the client, its user, and the potential client who may be deciding between the normal design and one that considers a broader, integrated, sustainable approach.

## Sustainability

The fifth point is a new component that leads to a new approach to the design process.

Sustainable designs should have five goals:

1. Use less
2. Recycle components
3. Use easily recycled components
4. Use fully biodegradable components
5. Do not deplete natural resources necessary for the health of future generations

## STANDARDS FOR EVALUATION

How can we objectively evaluate the quality of a sustainable project?

The architect is faced with responding to many standards and regulations in the course of assembling a design. Building codes, life safety standards, fire code, zoning regulations, and health and sanitary regulations are some of the many municipal, state, and federal standards that an architect must evaluate in the course of any project.

Sustainability is a new filter for the design process and there are several organizations that have offered checklists for evaluating the inclusion of environmentally sensitive elements into the project.

One of the measures of performance is LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental

Design), which is sponsored by the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council). This standard was developed in the 1990s by a consortium of building owners, architects, suppliers, engineers, contractors, and governmental agencies.

The goal of LEED and similar environmental design standards is to introduce new sustainable approaches and technologies to the construction industry. LEED is a voluntary environmental rating system that is organized into five categories:

1. Sustainable sites
2. Water efficiency
3. Energy and atmosphere
4. Materials and resources
5. Indoor quality

LEED covers the range of architectural decisions, including site design, water usage, energy conservation and production, indoor air quality, building materials, natural lighting, views of the outdoors, and innovative design components.

The LEED point award matrix is a mixture of teaching, persuasion, example, and incentive. It is good checklist for the entire project team to evaluate the quality of sustainable design decisions for the complete project—from initial planning through final construction, maintenance, and training procedures.

These categories combine *prerequisites* (basic sustainable practices such as building commissioning, plans for erosion control, or meeting minimum indoor air quality standards) with optional *credits* (water use reduction, heat island reduction, or measures of material recycled content).

Most of the credits are performance based—solutions based on system performances

against an established standard such as American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). ASHRAE has created one of most widely recognized standards of energy design that is used by mechanical engineers and architects.

For example, one credit (under the Energy and Resources category) is “Optimize Energy Performance.”

The number of points for this credit depend on how the architectural and engineering team can optimize the design of the building’s energy systems against the ASHRAE 90.1-2007 standards.

The possible design solutions include optimizing the heating, cooling, fans, pumps, water, and interior lighting systems.

In the graduated point matrix for a new building, points are awarded from 1 to 18 based on the degree of improvement in energy performance over ASHRAE standards.

LEED describes suggested results but allows the architectural team to find a variety of solutions. The LEED certification awards range in increasing order of environmental performance from Certified, to Silver, to Gold, and ultimately to Platinum.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PROCESS

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Is a sustainable design organized and implemented differently from a conventional design?

### The Design Team

What kind of design team is necessary for a sustainable project?

The scope of a sustainable design invites an expanded team approach, which may include the following:

- Architects or engineers (structural, MEP) with energy modeling experience
- A landscape architect with a specialty in native plant material
- A commissioning expert (if LEED employed)
- An engineer/architect with building modeling experience

The design team for a sustainably designed project tends to have a larger pool of talent than a typical architectural project. Wetlands scientists, energy efficient lighting consultants, native plant experts, or commissioning engineers are examples of the additional talent that may be added to sustainable design projects.

As with any architectural design, there is a hierarchy of design goals:

- *Initial imperatives* such as budget, timing, image, and program necessities
- *Subjective goals* such as a functionally improved and more pleasing work environment, pleasing color schemes, and landscaping that complements the architecture
- *Specific goals* such as more open space, more natural light, less water usage, and adjacency to public transportation

And with the inclusion of sustainability there may be additional goals:

- *Initiatives that are specific to sustainability* such as fewer toxins brought into the space, daylighting in all spaces with people occupancies, less overall energy consumed, less water usage, adjacency to public transportation, and improved indoor air quality

- Desire to exceed existing standards such as ASHRAE, USGBC, or American Planning Association (APA)

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Is additional education and research necessary for a sustainable project?

Yes. Innovative HVAC systems, durable yet nontoxic materials, recycled materials, recyclable materials, native plant material, energy efficient lighting, and controls are examples of design components that are not normally designed and installed by general contractors and architectural consultants on typical projects.

### Education of the Client

Sustainable design requires a new way of examining the architectural design process. Concepts such as life-cycle costing, recycled versus recyclable materials; non-VOC (volatile organic compounds) substances; daylighting; and alternate energy sources are among the several new concepts that the architect should discuss with the client before the design process commences.

It is critical that the client understands the sustainable process and is sympathetic to its potential economic and environmental benefits.

### Education of the Project Team

Once the project has been assigned to an architect, but before the design process begins, the project team (architect, engineer, contractor, consultants, and owner) should assemble and discuss the project scope and objectives with all the project team members.

### *Establishing Project Goals*

Among the many items included in the scope of work (including the extent of work, program elements, budget, and schedule) are the objectives for sustainable design.

For example, the architect and owner might establish goals for several environmental areas such as:

- X percent reduction of energy usage from the established norm (see “Benchmarking” later in this section)
- Improved lighting (less energy used and more efficient dispersal of indirect light with less glare)
- Nontoxic and low VOC paint and finishes
- Increased recycled content in materials such as carpeting, gypsum wallboard, ceiling tiles, metal studs, and millwork
- High-efficiency (energy star) appliances
- Wood elements are all certified wood products
- Daylighting in all work/occupied spaces

As the leader of the project team, it is the architect’s responsibility to include sustainable goals with the rest of the project scope of work.

A detailed explanation of the benefits of these sustainable design elements to all of the project team will ensure that they fully understand the design potential and economic implications of these concepts.

### *Verify Extent of Work*

Sustainable design involves a more comprehensive approach to pre-project planning.

The LEED certification process will require record keeping and verification of the source of materials—a process that is beyond the normal design and construction work. For purposes of selecting a contractor and consultants, the

team should be briefed on these additional obligations.

For example, the demolition process (if LEED certified) will require verification that materials have been sorted and delivered to an approved recycling organization. By contrast, the normal demolition process does not require recycling or verification that each material is sorted by type.

Clearly establishing the extent and type of effort required for each member of the sustainable design team is critical. The extent and type of effort will affect each member's ability to participate and their fees for services and construction work.

## Energy and Optimization Modeling

Building shape, orientation, fenestration location, roof color, envelope configuration, and HVAC system efficiency are some of the variables in sustainable design projects that can be fine tuned with DOE-2 (U.S. Department of Energy's building analysis program) and other computer energy modeling programs.

The "fine tuning" of a project's energy components is one of the elements in the architect's design matrix that affects the final appearance, cost, and performance of the final design.

Energy modeling will not govern the final design. Issues such as compatible scale, color, texture, and functionality are still part of the architect's palette. But energy modeling is one additional factor that the architect will employ as part of the "best practices" approach to architecture.

In addition, modeling can assist in the cost analysis of a project. The fact that the modeling program is interactive helps the architect

simultaneously adjust design elements to demonstrate alternate energy efficient solutions.

For example, energy modeling might allow the architect to demonstrate to the team that a more durable, aesthetically pleasing, and energy efficient building skin could be economically justified by reducing the size and cost of the mechanical system.

The ability to visually and numerically quantify the efficacy of trading certain design elements may be an effective tool for the architect when discussing the building design with the consultants and owner.

## The Bid and Specification Process

The requirements of a sustainable design will often vary from a normal project.

For example, the millwork section of bid documents will normally specify the finish material, configuration of the design and methods of attachment, delivery, and installation. But the requirement of non-VOC glues and non-VOC substrate may confuse a potential bidder and cause that bidder to increase the bid price unnecessarily.

To facilitate the bidding and construction process, the architect should include the following:

- Simple definitions of sustainable elements—for example, what "VOC," "certified" wood product, or "daylighting" mean
- Explanations of specific characteristics of sustainable elements—for example, specifically state the standard that must be met (for example, Green Label Testing Program Limits, carpet's total VOC limit, that is, formaldehyde 0.05 (mg/m<sup>2</sup>))
- References of specific regulatory agency's information (name, address, e-mail, phone,

and so on)—for example, the Carpet and Rug Institute, [www.carpet-rug.com](http://www.carpet-rug.com), 706-278-3176

- Examples of suppliers that could meet the sustainable standards indicated—in the case of sustainable products, there are at least two approaches to a list of suppliers for products:

1. Limit the installer to three to five suppliers of a product that is known to satisfy the sustainable design specifications.

This approach assures the architect that the product will meet specified standards.

(Note, however, that with the constantly changing nature of the emerging sustainable design market, a limited list could limit competition and the diversity of creative alternatives.)

2. Identify a list of qualified suppliers, but permit the bidder/contractor to submit alternative suppliers who satisfied the sustainable design criteria. This approach creates a more competitive environment, but it will require more effort of the architect to properly review and qualify the bids.

## Changes and Substitutions

Every project is faced with the reality of time and budgetary pressures. And, in those instances, there may be situations when one product or design element may not be available in the form originally specified.

Sustainable designed projects require more stringent architectural supervision to ensure that original design standards are met.

For example, in the rush to project completion the installer may claim that paints used for “touch up” of damaged areas are so small that

they may be installed with normal, higher-VOC paints. This minor transgression might jeopardize the integrity of the project and the ability to receive certification for LEED credits in certain areas.

## ENERGY EVALUATION

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In the climates of North America, buildings need some form of purchased energy (electricity, natural gas, oil) in order to operate. The architect works with a team to design strategies that may reduce the amount of purchased energy, reduce operating costs, and reduce the nation’s dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The following are some design strategies that the sustainable design approach might employ to improve a building’s energy performance. These elements are listed and briefly described.

### Solar Design

Solar design is the age-old system of using sunlight or solar radiation to supply a portion of the building’s heat energy. By a combination of techniques such as window and skylight design, location of internal thermal mass, and internal organization of the building’s functions, solar design may replace some of the fossil fuel needed for heating and cooling buildings.

Passive solar systems is a category of solar design. Passive solar systems are those systems that permit solar radiation to fall on areas of the building that benefit from the seasonal energy conditions of the structure.

For example, some North American buildings are designed to reduce solar radiation gains from sunlight in the summer. Passive solar design relies on inherent qualities of the building’s fenestration, massing, and orientation to capture sunlight.

Passive solar systems are usually categorized into direct or indirect gain systems.

*Direct gain systems*, as the title implies, are those systems that allow solar radiation to flow directly into the space needing heat. A process commonly known as the “greenhouse effect” allows much of the sunlight that passes through the glass of the fenestration to be retained in the material it strikes (stone, concrete, wood, etc.) inside the building. Thus, south facing windows allow solar radiation to be directly gained and used inside the building.

*Indirect gain systems* operate when the sunlight first strikes a thermal mass that is located between the sun and the space. The sunlight absorbed by the mass is converted to thermal energy (heat) and then transferred into the living space.

There are basically two types of indirect gain systems: thermal storage walls and roof ponds. The difference is essentially the location—roof versus wall materials.

Passive solar design might employ several architectural strategies to facilitate the design:

*Architectural sun control devices.* Overhangs or shading devices that have been designed to permit winter solar radiation from entering the building interior while blocking the higher angled, summer solar radiation from entering the building. Deciduous trees often perform the same function of permitting winter sunlight to enter and blocking much of the summer solar radiation with branches and leaves. Other examples include shutters, vertical projections or fins, awnings, trellises (especially with shading vegetation), and sunscreens (some with PV panels that both gather sunlight to convert into electricity and shade unwanted radiation from interior space in the warm months).

*Light-colored roof systems.* Light-colored roofing materials reflect sunlight and reduce the amount of radiation that is absorbed through the roof into the interior space. Colors with higher reflectance (albedo) factors are preferred. For example, some cities in the United States require roof materials to have a minimum albedo rating of .65 (65 percent of the solar radiation is reflected back into the atmosphere). The urban heat island effect, caused by roofs, roads, and parking areas that absorb solar radiation during the day and retransmit the stored heat during the afternoon and evening, can be modified with light-colored roof systems.

By designing these surfaces with light-colored and reflective material, the amount of heat energy stored in these materials is diminished and the urban heat island effect is reduced. Grass or vegetated roof areas have good insulating value and may also reduce the urban heat island effect and provide cooling through evapotranspiration.

*Optimized building glazing systems.* Orientation, light transmittance factors, and U-value are all factors architects consider in selecting glazing. Glass that is low-E (emissivity) is desirable because it is coated with a material that allows a maximum amount of sunlight to be transferred through the glass while minimizing the transmission of thermal radiation.

## Lighting

The illumination of the interior of a sustainably designed building requires a holistic approach that balances the use of artificial and natural lighting sources.

### *Daylighting*

Properly filtered and controlled solar radiation may provide a valuable source of illumination to a building interior. This process is called “daylighting” (simply having properly designed

fenestration that allows natural sunlight to replace or dramatically reduce the need for artificial lighting).

Because unwanted sunlight (particularly in summer months) can also add to the internal heat load of a building, the architect must be careful to allow only beneficial sunlight and reduce unwanted solar heat gain. There are several techniques for controlling daylighting:

Overhangs, fins, and other architectural shading devices

1. Sawtooth (not bubble) skylight design, which allows the glass to face north for illumination, not south for solar heat gain
2. Interior window shading devices, which allow solar gain during cool months, and the blocking of solar radiation during the warmer seasons
3. Light shelves, which permit the daylight to reflect off the ceiling and penetrate farther into the interior without affecting views outside

### *Higher Efficiency Light Fixtures*

In addition to a daylighting strategy, light fixtures that are more efficiently designed reduce energy cost and increase comfort, such as the following:

- LED lights are the most efficient lights and typically use a third of the electricity of most incandescent bulbs, and they last twice as long. However, there are greater up-front costs.

### *Lighting Sensors and Monitors*

Where possible, lighting costs can be diminished by installing light monitors that sense occupancy conditions. As long as the room contains people, the lights will remain on. If people leave, the sensor will wait for a few minutes, then shut off all the lighting in the room.

Lighting sensors can be designed to operate with a preference for motion, heat (from people), or desired time of occupancy.

### *Lighting Models*

Computer lighting models are one option that allows the architect to simulate the levels of sunlight that penetrate into a building design, depending on the building location, varying times of year, fenestration orientation, and design.

By incrementally altering fenestration (skylights, windows, or light transport systems) and the artificial lighting system, the architect may optimize the daylighting and artificial lighting systems for the building.

### *Benchmarking*

The U.S. Department of Energy provides “benchmark” information of total energy consumption in BTUs/SF for various kinds of buildings in the United States. These standards, or benchmarks, can be useful in the measuring of energy efficiency standards for various types of buildings:

For example:

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| ■ Average for all office buildings (pre-1990)      | 104.2 |
| ■ Average for all office buildings (1990–1992)     | 87.4  |
| ■ Average for all educational buildings (pre-1990) | 87.2  |

- Average for all educational buildings (1990–1992) 57.1
- Average for all laboratory buildings (pre-1990) 319.2
- Average for all health care buildings (pre-1990) 218.5

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Commercial Building Energy Consumption and Expenditures.*

Benchmarking is a good way to alert the design team to the base energy standards for their design. It's a good place to start and ultimately a standard to beat. One can see from some of the comparisons (office and educational buildings), that some energy efficiency is occurring.

## COMMISSIONING

Commissioning is an organized process to ensure that all building systems perform interactively according to the intent of the architectural and engineering design, and the owner's operating needs.

Commissioning usually includes all HVAC and MEP systems, controls, ductworks and pipe insulation, renewable and alternate technologies, life safety systems, lighting controls and daylighting systems, and any thermal storage systems. Commissioning also verifies the proper operation of architectural elements such as the building envelope, vapor and infiltration control, and gaskets and sealant used to control water infiltration.

Commissioning is a process required for LEED certification, but is a recommended procedure for any building involved with sustainable design procedures.\*

\* *Source: Commissioning Requirements for LEED Green Building Rating, Version 8. February 5, 1999; Sandra Mendler and William Odell, The HOK Guidebook to Sustainable Design, New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: 2000, p. 71.*

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Besides the aforementioned issues of solar design, improved lighting systems, improved HVAC systems, and improved building massing and envelope design, there are several “innovative technologies” that the architect can offer to the project team for consideration.

### Groundwater Aquifer Cooling and Heating (AETS)

One alternative to full air-conditioning with chillers, which make heavy demands on electricity, is the aquifer thermal energy storage, which uses the differential thermal energy in water from an underground well to cool a building during summer and heat a building in the winter.

This is an efficient, relatively low-cost system, but it may require approval from the local environmental authority before installation.

### Geothermal Energy

A geothermal system essentially uses heat-pump technology to transfer heat energy between the building and the ground depending on the building's interior cooling or space heating requirements. Different system configurations are available depending on ground conditions and the amount of heat that must be transferred.

### Wind Turbines

Small-scale wind machines used to generate electricity can be mounted on buildings or in open space nearby. These systems share several advantages:

- Relatively cost-effective
- Tested and established technology
- Systematic started-up
- Relatively high output

The use of building mounted wind turbine power generation is increasing.

### Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

The basis of the PV systems is that electricity is produced from solar energy when photons or particles of light are absorbed by semiconductors.

Most PV systems are mounted to the building (either on the roof or as shading devices above fenestration). PV cells are now available in a range of colors and transparencies. Transparent photovoltaic skylights and windows generate electricity while still permitting views to the outside from the building interior.

### Fuel Cells

Even though Sir William Grove invented the technology for the fuel cell in 1839, it has only recently been recognized as a potential power source for the future. The fuel cell claims to be the bridge between the hydrocarbon economy and the hydrogen-based society.

Fuel cells are electrochemical devices that generate direct current (DC) electricity similar to batteries. Unlike batteries, however, they require a continual input of hydrogen-rich fuel. In essence, fuel cells are reactors that combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, heat, and water. They are clean, quiet, and emit no pollution when fed directly with hydrogen.

At the moment, fuel cell technology is still not cost effective for the commercial building market. However, hydrogen-based energy reactors may soon be an optional energy source.

### Biogas

Biogas is produced through a process that converts biomass, such as rapid-rotation crops and selected farm and animal waste, to a gas that can fuel a gas turbine. This conversion process

occurs through anaerobic digestion—the conversion of biomass to gas by organisms (like bacteria) in an oxygen-free environment.

Biogas has several advantages: it has relatively high energy production, it lends itself to both heat and power production, it creates almost zero carbon dioxide emissions, it virtually eliminates noxious odors and methane emissions, and it protects groundwater and reduces the landfill burden.

### Small-Scale Hydro

Harnessing the energy from moving water is one of the oldest energy production systems in the world. In some locations, small-scale hydro power is an efficient and clean source of energy and is devoid of environmental penalties associated with large scale hydro projects. It allows small scale, local energy production, with relatively low cost.

### Ice Storage Cooling Systems

One of the problems for energy supply companies is that the highest demand for electricity often coincides with the highest cooling demand.

The utilities would prefer to “flatten the curve” (to even out or flatten the measure of average daily energy demand). The fewer the number of peaks (high points of energy demand), the less the utilities have to bolster their power supply with expensive, supplemental fuels.

One way to reduce this peaking problem is to supplement a building’s cooling capacity with an ice storage system.

An ice storage system has three components: a tank with liquid storage balls, a heat exchanger, and a compressor for cooling. The essence of the ice storage system is that the chilling and freezing of the ice balls occurs at night

(when the cost of energy is lower due to lower demand). During the day, the cool temperatures, stored in the ice, are transmitted into the building's cooling system.\*

## CONCLUSION

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The knowledge of environmental systems has become essential to the architect's design palette. Buildings that take advantage of natural systems such as sun, wind, rain, groundwater, topography, and climate are more elegant solutions. Architectural designs that incorporate natural systems, in conjunction with contemporary technologies, are in the tradition of architects providing spatial solutions with

the most innovative contemporary thinking available.

Buildings with this approach operate more efficiently, integrate effectively into their local environment, and tend to produce spaces that are more pleasing to work and live. Knowledge of integrated or holistic design principals is not a limitation but another set of tools to produce humane, efficient, healthy, and aesthetically compelling architecture.

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\* Source: Peter F. Smith, *Sustainability at the Cutting Edge*, Jordan Hill, Oxford: Architectural Press, an Imprint of Elsevier Science, 2003.

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## LESSON 1 QUIZ

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1. Sustainable design is primarily concerned with which of the following issues?
  - I. Economics
  - II. Aesthetics
  - III. Environment
  - IV. Mechanical systems
  - A. III
  - B. I, II, and III
  - C. I and III
  - D. All of the above
2. *The Natural Step* is an approach to the environment that follows which of the following principles?
  - I. The biosphere affecting humans is a relatively stable and resilient zone that includes five miles into the earth's crust and five miles into the troposphere.
  - II. Improved technologies have dramatically increased the number and quantity of available natural resources.
  - III. Toxic substances released into either the sea or atmosphere will only influence areas adjacent to the toxic source.
  - IV. Using building materials that are recycled is an adequate sustainable design approach.
  - A. I
  - B. II
  - C. II and IV
  - D. None of the above
3. The planning phase of a sustainably designed architectural project should include which of the following elements?
  - I. Native landscaping that is aesthetically pleasing and functional
  - II. Designing structures in the floodplain that can resist the forces of flood waters
  - III. Consideration of sun orientation, topographic relief, and the scale of adjacent buildings
  - IV. Locating projects within existing neighborhoods that are adjacent to public transportation
  - A. I and II
  - B. I and III
  - C. I, III, and IV
  - D. All of the above
4. The Ahwahnee principles include which of the following ideas?
  - I. Communities with only residential use should be relegated to areas outside the central business district.
  - II. Preserved open spaces should be either wildlife habitats or recreational areas.
  - III. Transportation planning should include roads, pedestrian paths, bike paths, and mass transit systems.
  - IV. Job creation and economic diversity is a desired goal.
  - A. I
  - B. II, III, and IV
  - C. III and IV
  - D. None of the above

5. Life cycle costing is an economic evaluation of architectural elements that includes which of the following factors?
- I. First cost
  - II. Maintenance and operational costs
  - III. Repair costs
  - IV. Replacement cost
- A. I  
B. II, III, and IV  
C. II and IV  
D. All of the above
6. LEED is concerned with which of the following? Check all that apply.
- A. Indoor air quality
  - B. Storm water
  - C. Construction costs
  - D. Tax benefits
  - E. Innovative energy systems
  - F. Aesthetic design
7. Which of the following is a consultant who might be employed in a sustainable design project?
- I. Wetlands engineer
  - II. Energy commissioner
  - III. Landscape architect
  - IV. Energy modeling engineer
- A. I  
B. I and II  
C. II, III, and IV  
D. All of the above
8. Sustainable design may require research and education that is beyond a normal architectural project. Which of the following is part of this process?
- I. Energy modeling
  - II. Education of the client
  - III. Art selection
  - IV. Selection of energy efficient appliances
- A. I and IV  
B. I and II  
C. I, II, and IV  
D. All of the above
9. Sensitivity to the nuances of site conditions is key to sustainable design. Which of the following are site conditions the architect should examine in the design process?
- I. Solar orientation
  - II. Decorative landscaping
  - III. Scale and style of adjacent structures
  - IV. Groundwater conditions
- A. I and II  
B. I, III, and IV  
C. I and III  
D. All of the above
10. Sustainably designed architecture requires attention to which of the following building elements?
- I. Solar shading devices
  - II. Urban heat island effect
  - III. Increased parking
  - IV. Fenestration and glazing
- A. I, II, and IV  
B. I and IV  
C. I and II  
D. All of the above