

Whole Building Design And The WBDG®

by Stephanie Vierra, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C — Vierra Design & Education Services, LLC

The WBDG was created and continues to evolve as the only online portal providing built environment practitioners access to relevant building-related guidance, up-to-date federal criteria, new technology information, and workforce development training from a 'whole building' perspective. For over two decades, the National Institute of Building Sciences has offered this valuable resource to the building community through funding and advisory support from the Department of Defense (represented by the NAVFAC Engineering Innovation and Criteria Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force Civil Engineer Center), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Energy, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of State Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), and the Department of Homeland Security. The WBDG is unique as it represents a collaborative effort among not only government agency subject matter experts but also those from private sector companies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions all contributing their knowledge and experience to better serve the building community.

THE ROLE OF BUILDINGS AND THE CASE FOR WHOLE BUILDING DESIGN

Buildings are deceptively complex. At their best, they connect us with the past and represent the greatest legacy for the future. They provide shelter, encourage productivity, embody our culture, and certainly play an important part in life on the planet. In fact, the role of buildings is constantly changing. Buildings today are life support systems, communication and data terminals, centers of education, justice, community, and so much more. They are incredibly expensive to build and maintain and must constantly be adjusted to function effectively over their life cycle. The economics of building are as complex as its design.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration illustrates that buildings are responsible for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Of those total emissions, building operations are responsible for 27% annually, while building and infrastructure materials and construction (typically referred to as embodied carbon) are responsible for an additional 13% annually. A few of the many building materials are responsible for 23% of total global emissions. Seventy-six percent of all electricity generated by U.S. power plants goes to supply the building sector¹ and buildings often contribute to health problems such as asthma and allergies due to poor indoor environmental quality. Safety is also paramount in buildings with security-related expenditures, one of the fastest rising expenses. There is a great opportunity to reduce these impacts and costs through whole building design.

Hospital Housekeeping Services Whole Building Design Guide

Hussin A.Rothana



Hospital Housekeeping Services Whole Building Design Guide:

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