

Green Architecture & LEED Certification

If you had to name some of the main causes of pollution, you would probably mention emissions from factories and from fossil fuels. Would you be surprised to learn that buildings such as houses, offices, and schools, are another major culprit in producing greenhouse gases? Think about it: buildings use a large amount of electricity, water and raw material. This can lead to a rise in Earth's temperature, which means eventually that buildings contribute at least to global warming.

sustainable architecture – carbon emissions - LEED certified building – building criteria - sustainable buildings - high-performance buildings -huge impact- green buildings - performance

In modern building design, it is important to use materials, land and energy efficiently; if you're able to reduce the use of electricity by even 10 percent in buildings, this will have a _____ on the environment.

Green architecture or _____ is a broad term that refers to the creation or restructuring of buildings with a minimal impact on the environment. _____ and _____ are other terms for green buildings.



The "greenest" buildings in the world are awarded by the **U.S. Green Building Council** with a **LEED certification**. LEED (that is **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**) is a rating system where building projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific green _____ in five key areas: **sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality**. The U.S. Green Building Council offers four levels of LEED certificates: Certified (in which 50% of the points are achieved), Silver, Gold and Platinum (in which 80% or more of the points are awarded).

A _____ costs less to operate and maintain and—compared to a conventional building—can make a significant impact in reducing _____: buildings with these features are usually called _____.

One of the buildings with the highest LEED score in the world is the California Academy of Sciences, which is Platinum-rated. There are however a number of other LEED certified buildings and all of them can be found on the U.S. Green Building Council website: (<http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/Project/CertifiedProjectList.aspx>)

Have a look at the Project Profiles collected at

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1721> .

For Further information:

<http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=3330>

<http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/Project/CertifiedProjectList.aspx>

http://www.calacademy.org/academy/building/sustainable_design/

<http://www.kqed.org/assets/pdf/education/educators/esl/greenjobs-buildingrevolution.pdf>

<http://www.doerr.org/services/ecohomes.html>