



BUILDING INNOVATION
Conference

AIA Framework for Design Excellence

Principles to Achieve Zero Carbon, Resilience, Equity, and Health in the Built Environment

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

AIA is the largest, most influential network of architects and design professionals.

That's 98,000+ members who share a passion for design, a desire to change the world, and a commitment to the highest standards of practice.

www.aia.org



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Description + Learning Objectives



Description

Propel your project success with the AIA Framework for Design Excellence — the defining 10 principles of design excellence. No matter your role as an architect, engineer, consultant, or owner, this presentation will examine how Framework principles apply across the project lifecycle and advance progress toward a zero-carbon, healthy, just, resilient, and equitable built environment.

As a real-world case study showcasing the successful integration of Framework principles and pledge targets and goals, we'll share the comprehensive renovation of AIA's Washington, DC Headquarters into the AIA Global Campus for Architecture & Design.

Learning Objectives

- Describe AIA's Framework for Design Excellence and outcomes
- Identify Framework principles and use in the design process
- Evaluate Framework use in the design of AIA's Headquarters renewal and alignment with AIA's Pledge Programs
- Identify AIA resources for your projects

AIA Framework for Design Excellence



- Defining principles of design excellence
- Comprised of 10 principles
- Goals
 - to transform the day-to-day practice of architects
 - to inform progress toward a zero-carbon, healthy, just, resilient, and equitable built environment

10 principles



Integration



Communities



Ecosystems



Water



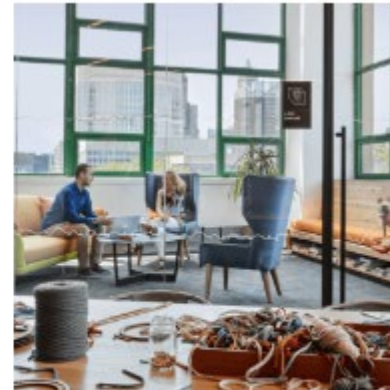
Economy



Energy



Well-being



Resources



Change



Discovery

4 outcomes



Zero carbon



Resilient



Equitable



Healthy

Design for Integration

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- Use an integrated design process that respects and values multiple viewpoints; Design a building to lift the spirits and delight the senses; Engage natural and cultural environment
- **ZERO-CARBON:** Set and articulate operational and embodied carbon goals early in the process.
- **RESILIENT:** Establish resilience goals early in the process and monitor progress throughout the project.
- **EQUITABLE:** Map, identify, and engage diverse project stakeholders throughout the project's development.
- **HEALTHY:** Identify human health and well-being goals early in the process and track progress throughout the design process.



Integration



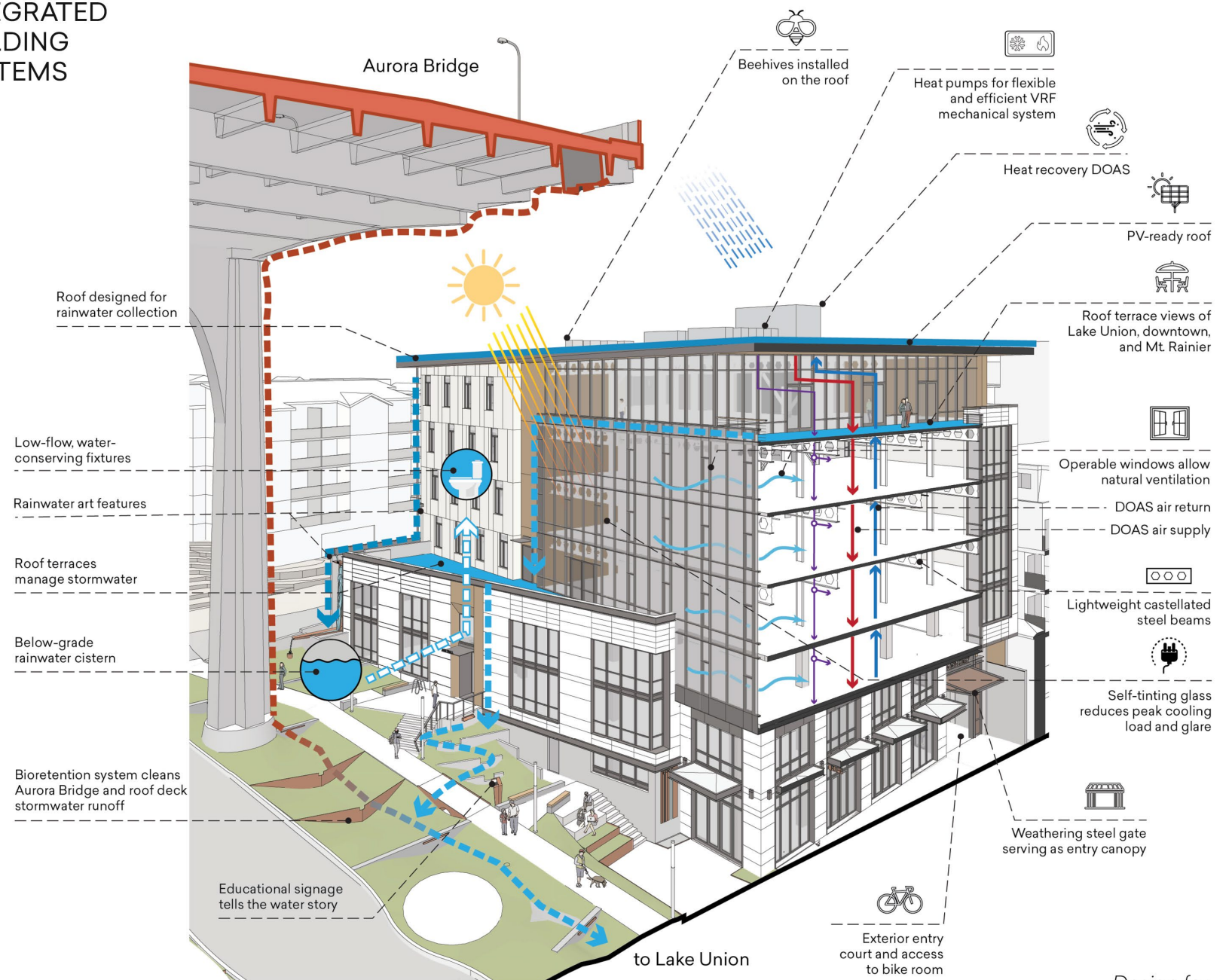
COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Watershed

Architecture Firm:
Weber Thompson

May 23, 2024

INTEGRATED BUILDING SYSTEMS



Design for Equitable Communities

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO-CARBON:** Evaluate embodied carbon and social value; Reduce amount of energy project requires and seek renewable and local energy sources.
- **RESILIENT:** Embrace community knowledge to understand social, economic, and environmental hazard impacts.
- **EQUITABLE:** Implement a robust stakeholder engagement plan; Provide diversity in development, design, & construction team. Work with designers, contractors, and consultants that participate in a social equity program (such as JUST).
- **HEALTHY:** Design with products that address chemical transparency & organizational equity; Create gathering spaces and social infrastructure to support strong human networks.



Communities

DESIGN FOR EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

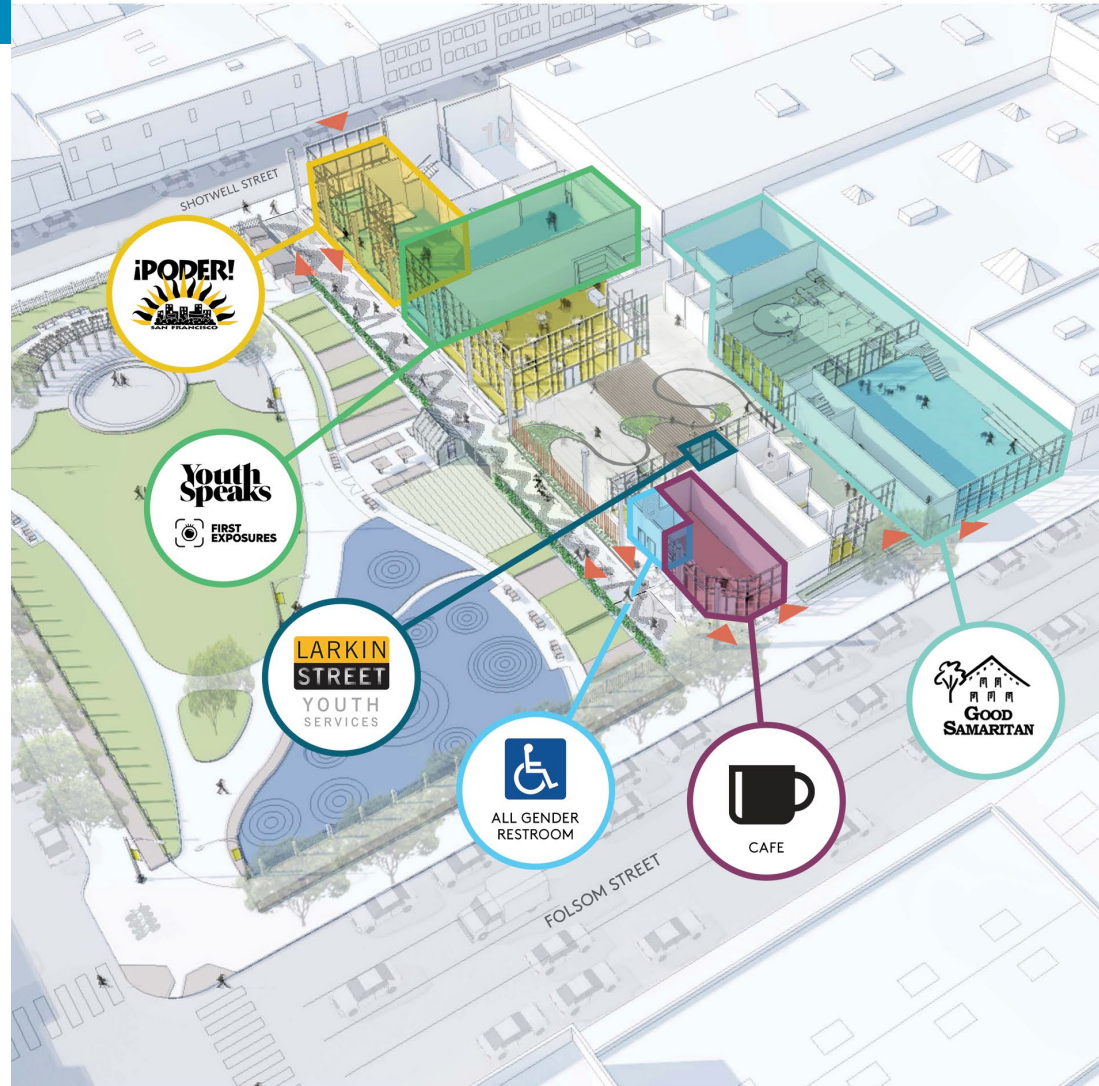


COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Casa Adelante 2060 Folsom

Architecture Firm:
Mithun with Y.A. Studio

May 23, 2024



Ground floor on-site services offer a **birth-to-career continuum** of comprehensive support.



PODER's mission is to organize with Latino immigrant individuals, families and youth to put into practice people-powered solutions that are locally based, community led and environmentally just.



Youth Speaks creates spaces that challenge youth to develop and amplify their voices as creators of societal change, including hosting a monthly under-21 open mic and teen poetry slam at Casa Adelante.



Larkin Street Youth Services is a nonprofit empowering young people to move beyond homelessness, eliminating barriers so they can flourish.



Good Samaritan Family Resource Center provides free parent-child support systems, free and low-cost infant, toddler and youth programs, and affordable preschool.

Design for Ecosystems

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO-CARBON:** Consider manufacturing, construction, end-of-life and ecosystems when selecting materials.
- **RESILIENT:** Assess attributes of predevelopment condition, ecosystem services, and the capacity to adapt to a changing climate.
- **EQUITABLE:** Research history and culture of land to understand its development over time. Incorporate restorative strategies
- **HEALTHY:** Identify the most consequential strategies that reduce negative impacts on the ecosystem, improve human health, and eliminate chemical toxicity.



Ecosystems



COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Confluence Park

Architecture Firm:
Lake | Flato Architects + Matsys

May 23, 2024

DESIGN FOR ECOSYSTEMS



1. TEXAS OAK CONSERVATORY



2. TRANS PECOS / CHIHUAHUAN DESERT



3. BLACKLAND PRAIRIE



4. TEXAS LIVE OAK SAVANNAH



5. SA RIVER RESTORATION

ECO TYPES

- 1 Texas Oak Conservatory
- 2 Trans Pecos / Chihuahuan Desert
- 3 Blackland Prairie
- 4 Texas Live Oak Savannah
- 5 SA River Restoration

Design for Water

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Incorporate water reuse and reduction strategies; understand relationship with energy and carbon.
- **RESILIENT:** Project future climate conditions; establish strategies to manage water at site, including watershed effects
- **EQUITABLE:** Identify stakeholders impacted by water use decisions and take steps to correct historic inequities.
- **HEALTHY:** Protect water sources for site, downstream communities, and future consumers.



Water

WATER MITIGATION AND RECLAMATION

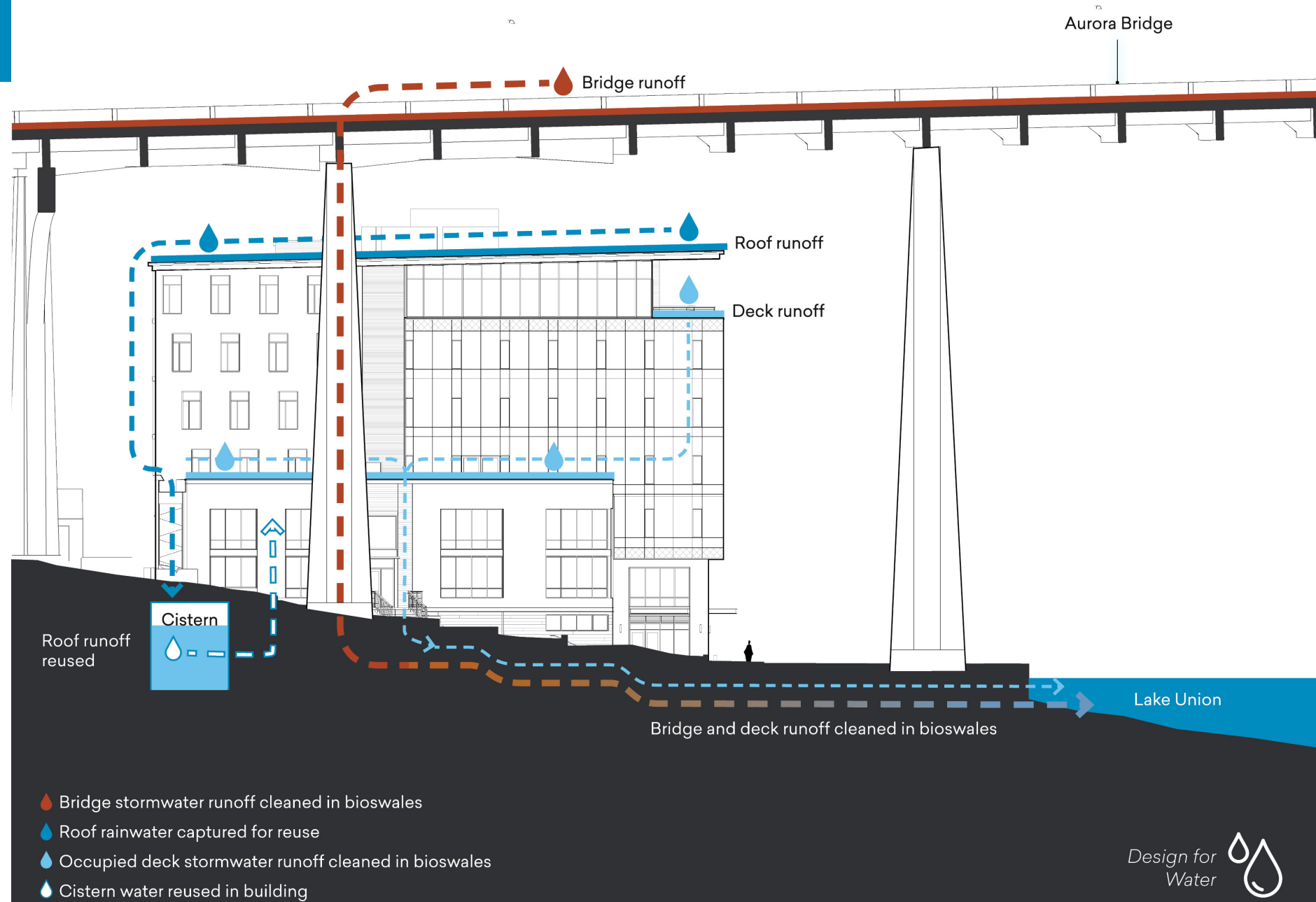


COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Watershed

Architecture Firm:
Weber Thompson

May 23, 2024



Design for Energy

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Reduce building energy use and carbon impact by benchmarking, setting targets, and performing iterative energy modeling throughout the design process.
- **RESILIENT:** Design all-electric buildings with grid interoperability to take advantage of distributed energy sources.
- **EQUITABLE:** Design to achieve passive survivability without use of grid energy.
- **HEALTHY:** Transform energy use by promoting renewable energy and embracing building electrification.



Energy



COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Harvard University Science and Engineering Complex

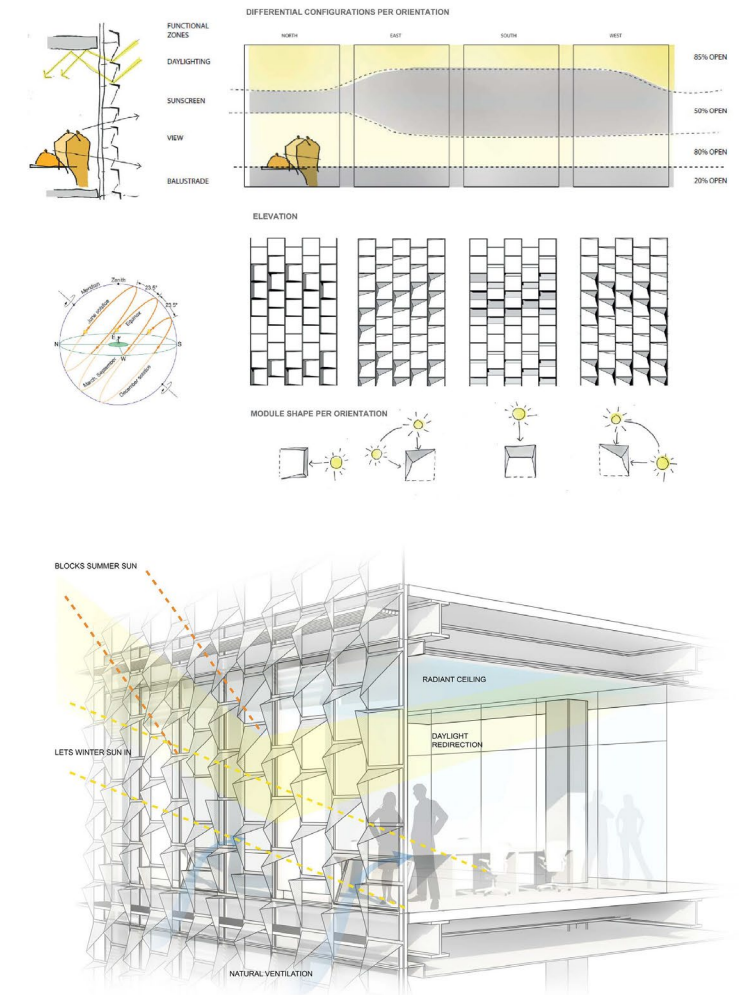
Architecture Firm:
Behnisch Architekten

May 23, 2024



ENERGY

14 Shade Profiles
12k Individual Shades
1.5 mm-thick Stainless Steel



Design for Economy

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Reuse an existing building if possible and reuse materials wherever appropriate.
- Right-size program early and keep the square footage as efficient as possible.
- **RESILIENT:** Identify proposed service life for the building and create a plan to adapt to hazard risk over time.
- **EQUITABLE:** Design to support a vibrant local economy; maintain diverse populations; support local resources & trades
- **HEALTHY:** Balance operational and maintenance to improve occupant health and well-being, improve community health outcomes, and lower household health care expenses.



Economy



COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Casa Adelante 2060 Folsom

Architecture Firm:
Mithun with Y.A. Studio

May 23, 2024

DESIGN FOR ECONOMY

25%
INCREASE IN UNITS
optimized City
investment in land for
affordable housing

80%
**OF GROUND FLOOR
SURFACES**
use structure as finish

Early in concept design the design team initiated a study for moving to all-concrete construction to add three stories within the 85' midrise limit, adding 25% more units than expected by the City at the same cost per unit, leveraging City investment and enabling 30 more low-income families to benefit from this amenity-rich transit oriented site.

The mix of single- and double-height ground floor spaces maximizes residential area while meeting zoning requirements for a tall ground floor at commercial streetscapes.



Design for Well-being

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Reduce use of fossil fuels.
- **RESILIENT:** Design for passive survivability in the event of service interruptions.
- **EQUITABLE:** Provide community with healthy spaces to support well-being & promote social interaction.
- **HEALTHY:** Design to achieve excellent air quality, whether in living, learning, working, or other environments.
- Design for active living and access to nature. Utilize biophilic design to improve mental and physical health and well-being.



Well-being



COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Science and Environmental Center

Architecture Firm:
Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects

May 23, 2024

HUMAN HEALTH



100% Occupied spaces have views to outdoors and access to operable windows

100% Outside air ventilation

Pandemic Resilience with open-air circulation and excellent access to natural ventilation, the building has proven to be easily adapted to the health requirements of the COVID pandemic.

- 1 Operable windows maximize fresh air ventilation
- 2 Indoor ceiling fans promote air circulation and increase thermal comfort zone
- 3 0 VOC paints on all surfaces

- 4 Red list free linoleum flooring provides durable, cleanable surface.
- 5 Formaldehyde free casework
- 6 Direct/ Indirect LED lighting augments natural daylight

- 7 Flexible power supply, allows space to easily be reconfigured for a variety of users and allows students to spread out throughout the classroom.
- 8 Outdoor circulation promotes exercise and connection to natural world. (next image)

DESIGN FOR WELL-BEING

Design for Resources

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Select products that reduce carbon emissions. Consider the materials' carbon footprint from cradle to cradle.
- **RESILIENT:** Consider the durability of materials to withstand anticipated shocks and stresses.
- **EQUITABLE:** Consider the health of communities where resources are extracted, harvested, manufactured, and disposed. Demand product transparency.
- **HEALTHY:** Simplify materials palette to reduce potential for chemicals of concern; prioritize healthier materials; seek to eliminate the use of hazardous substances.



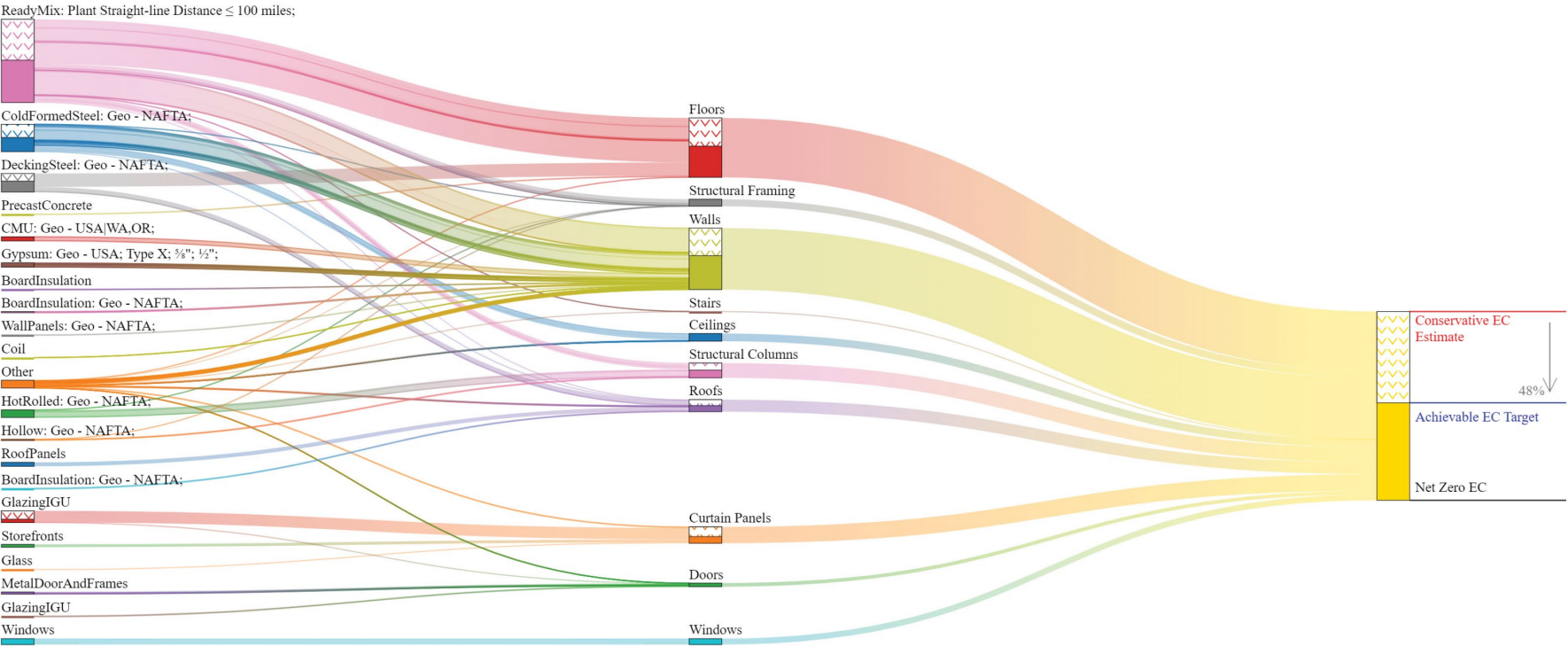
Resources

RESOURCE CONSCIOUS

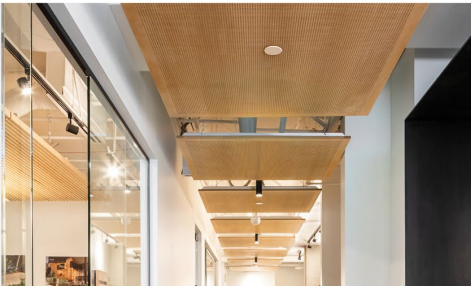
The embodied carbon for the project was calculated, optimized, and offset. Materials were salvaged from the previous building on site and reused.



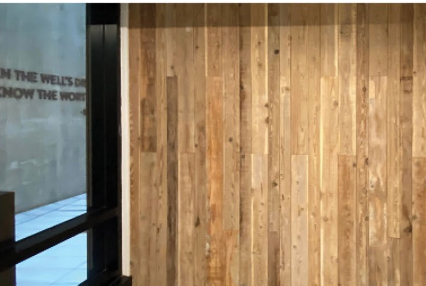
COTE® TOP TEN AWARD
Watershed



Salvaged overhead panels in office



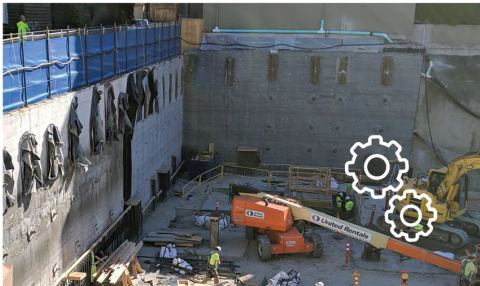
Salvaged cedar formwork in lobby area



Salvaged outdoor benches



Salvaged foundation wall



Architecture Firm:
Weber Thompson

May 23, 2024

Design for Change

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Design buildings that are ready for and adaptable to future uses, energy sources, and technologies.
- **RESILIENT:** Design for adaptation and flexibility by reviewing climate risks and determining service life of the building
- Design buildings to act as a community resource during disaster events, offering shelter, charging points, etc.
- **EQUITABLE:** Assess how project can respond to current and future disaster events to protect the most vulnerable members of the community and enable rapid recovery.
- **HEALTHY:** Address potential public health risks associated with climate change and design to improve community health.



Change



COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

RIDC Mill 19: Buildings A & B

Architecture Firm:
MSR Design with R3A Architecture

May 23, 2024

2 MW PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY

- Generate energy exceeding the demand of the first two buildings.
- Allow filtered daylight penetration through the bifacial glass panels.

REUSE EXISTING HISTORIC STRUCTURE

- Expose historic mill structure and selectively demo elements to support circulation in, on, and through the steel armature.
- Reassemble salvaged steel and concrete elements as custom furniture, terraced retaining walls, railings, and site fill.

NEW HIGH TECH SPECULATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Provide commercial space for Pittsburgh's high-tech and robotics industries.
- Tenants include Carnegie Mellon University's Advanced Robotics Manufacturing Institute and the driverless car technology company Motion AD.

CELEBRATE EXTERIOR CIRCULATION

- Prioritize exterior circulation to invite active exploration of the site.
- Knit new interior buildings with the existing structure while providing dramatic experiences and incredible views.

POST-INDUSTRIAL PUBLIC PROMENADE

- Create a continuous 1/4 mile long ribbon of public space between the existing mill structure and new interior buildings.
- Provide compelling public exploration and gathering spaces in a traditionally insular project typology.

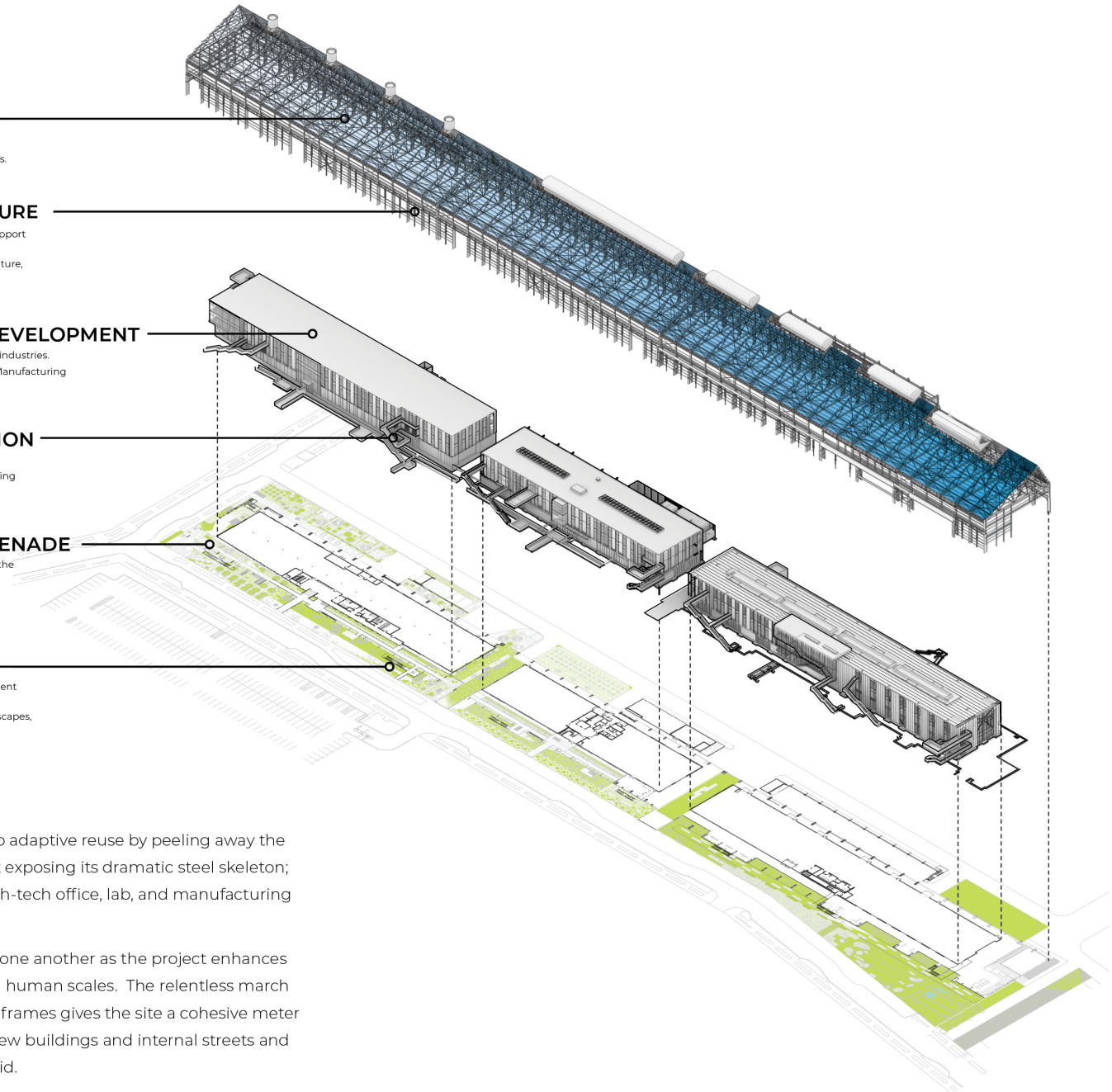
PERFORMATIVE LANDSCAPE

- Convey and manage an immense volume of stormwater with resilient native plant species, infiltration areas, and cisterns.
- Embody the unruly and tenacious qualities of post-industrial landscapes, providing substantial ecological services and rich biodiversity.

Box Within a Shell

The design team took a unique approach to adaptive reuse by peeling away the existing mill's deteriorated sheet metal skin; exposing its dramatic steel skeleton; and installing a sequence of speculative high-tech office, lab, and manufacturing structures within the ruinous frames.

Old and new are clearly differentiated from one another as the project enhances the experiential overlay of the industrial and human scales. The relentless march of the mill's original quarter-mile-long steel frames gives the site a cohesive meter as the architecture ties the project's three new buildings and internal streets and courtyards to the planned neighborhood grid.



Design for Discovery

High impact: If you can do only one (or a few) thing(s):

- **ZERO CARBON:** Conduct post-occupancy assessments to evaluate achievement of the project's carbon goals. Advocate for carbon reduction to community stakeholders, local government, and authorities having jurisdiction.
- **RESILIENT:** Conduct post-occupancy assessments to evaluate the achievement of the project's resilience goals. Study building performance under less-than-ideal conditions, such as disaster events. Does it provide passive survivability, continuity of operations, or serve as a community resource?
- **EQUITABLE:** Conduct post-occupancy assessments to evaluate achievement of project's equity goals.
- **HEALTHY:** Conduct post-occupancy assessments to evaluate achievement of project's human health and well-being goals.



Discovery



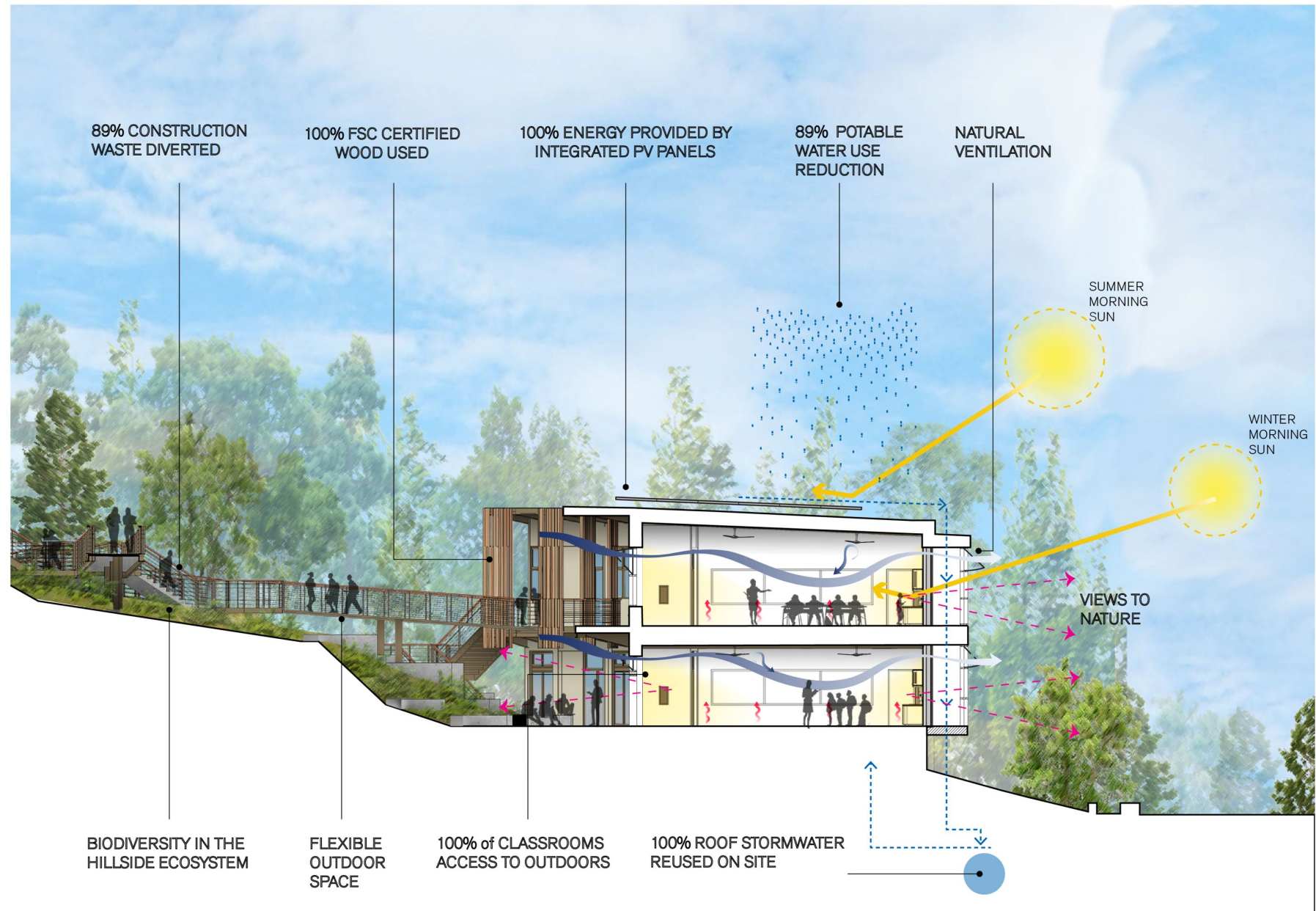
COTE® TOP TEN AWARD

Science and Environmental Center

Architecture Firm:
Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects

May 23, 2024

BUILDINGS THAT TEACH



DESIGN FOR DISCOVERY



AIA Global Campus for Architecture and Design

Acknowledgements

ehdd.



Turner



HARTMAN-COX ARCHITECTS

HOOD



ARUP

atelier ten

AEI Affiliated Engineers



AIA Values

Advocating for a zero carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment



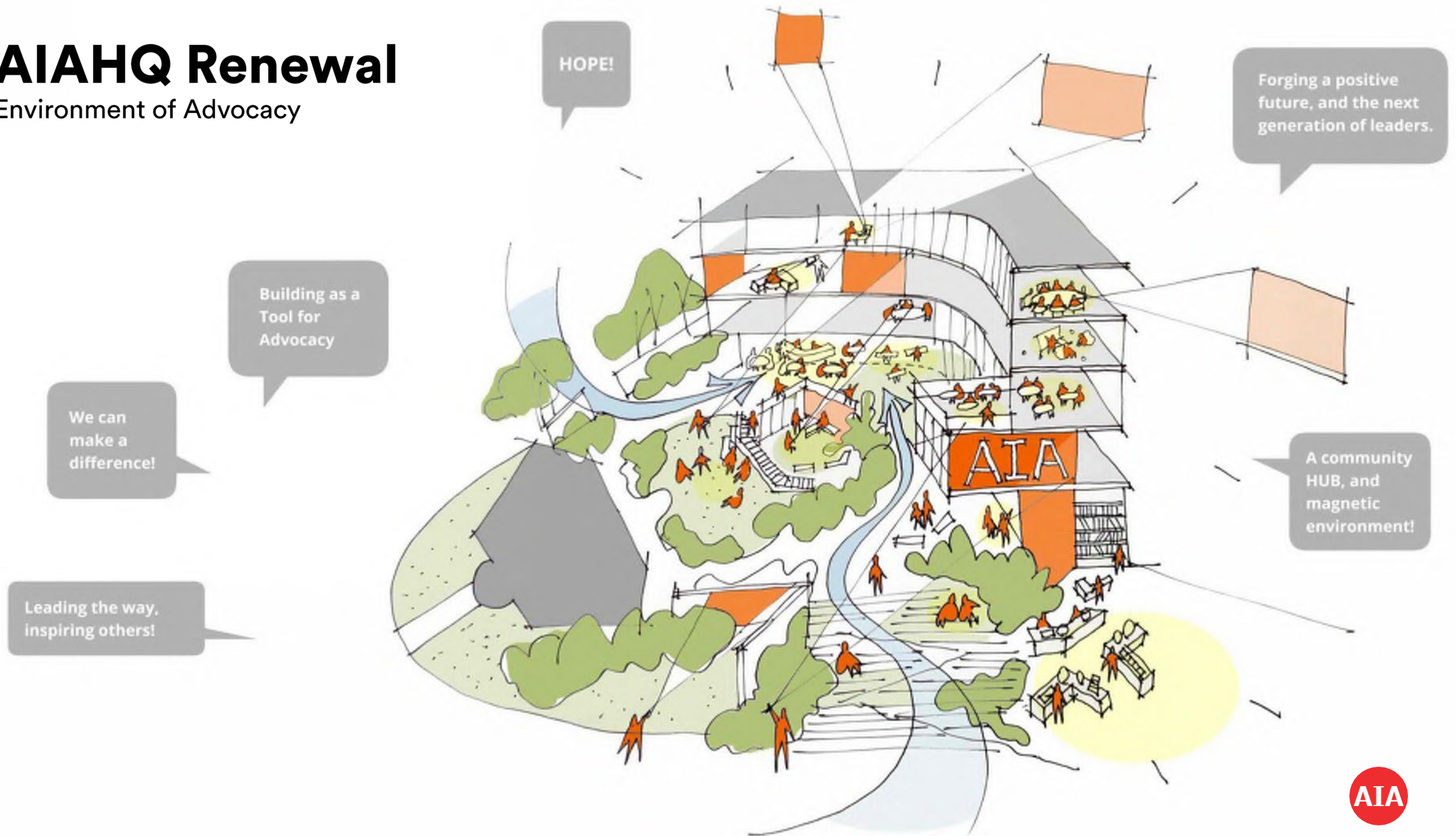




**The greenest
building is the one
that is already built.**

AIAHQ Renewal

Environment of Advocacy



AIAHQ Renewal

Environment of Advocacy

Design for integration

Design for equitable communities

Design for ecosystems

Design for water

Design for economy


Design for energy

Design for well-being

Design for resources

Design for change

Design for discovery



LEED v4 for ID+C: Commercial Interiors

Project Checklist

Y

?

N

Integrative Process

2

0

0

0

Location and Transportation

18

LEED for Neighborhood Development Location

18

Surrounding Density and Diverse Uses

8

Access to Quality Transit

7

Bicycle Facilities

1

Reduced Parking Footprint

2

0

0

0

Water Efficiency

12

Indoor Water Use Reduction

Required

Indoor Water Use Reduction

12

0

0

0

Energy and Atmosphere

38

Fundamental Commissioning and Verification

Required

Minimum Energy Performance

Required

Fundamental Refrigerant Management

Required

Enhanced Commissioning

5

Optimize Energy Performance

25

Advanced Energy Metering

2

Renewable Energy Production

3

Enhanced Refrigerant Management

1

Green Power and Carbon Offsets

2

0

0

0

Materials and Resources

13

Storage and Collection of Recyclables

Required

Construction and Demolition Waste Management Planning

Required

Long-Term Commitment

1

Interiors Life-Cycle Impact Reduction

4

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Environmental Product Declarations

2

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Sourcing of Raw Materials

2

Building Product Disclosure and Optimization - Material Ingredients

2

Construction and Demolition Waste Management

2

0

0

0

Indoor Environmental Quality

17

Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance

Required

Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control

Required

Enhanced Indoor Air Quality Strategies

2

Low-Emitting Materials

3

Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

1

Indoor Air Quality Assessment

2

Thermal Comfort

1

Interior Lighting

2

Daylight

3

Quality Views

1

Acoustic Performance

2

0

0

0

Innovation

6

Innovation

5

LEED Accredited Professional

1

0

0

0

Regional Priority

4

Regional Priority: Specific Credit

1

Regional Priority: Specific Credit

1

Regional Priority: Specific Credit

1

Regional Priority: Specific Credit

1

0

0

0

TOTALS

Possible Points: 110

Certified: 40 to 49 points, Silver: 50 to 59 points, Gold: 60 to 79 points, Platinum: 80+

Project Name:

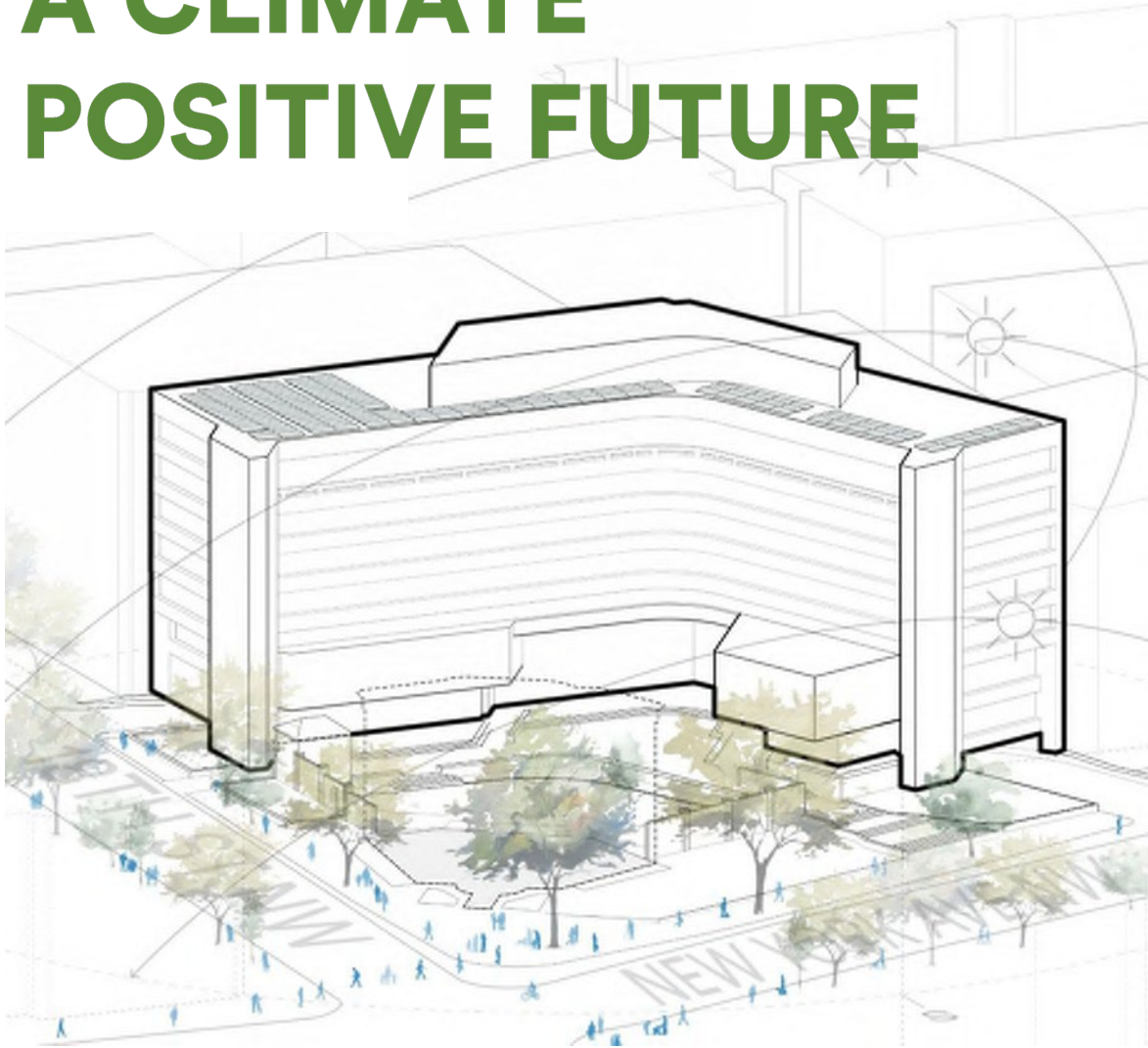
Date:

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Serving size	2/3 cup (55g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	230
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 240mg	6%
* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.	

(For educational purposes only. These labels do not meet the labeling requirements described in 21 CFR 101.9.)

Image: [FDA](#)

A CLIMATE POSITIVE FUTURE



Electrify
Everything



Decarbonize
Materials



Reimagine What
Exists



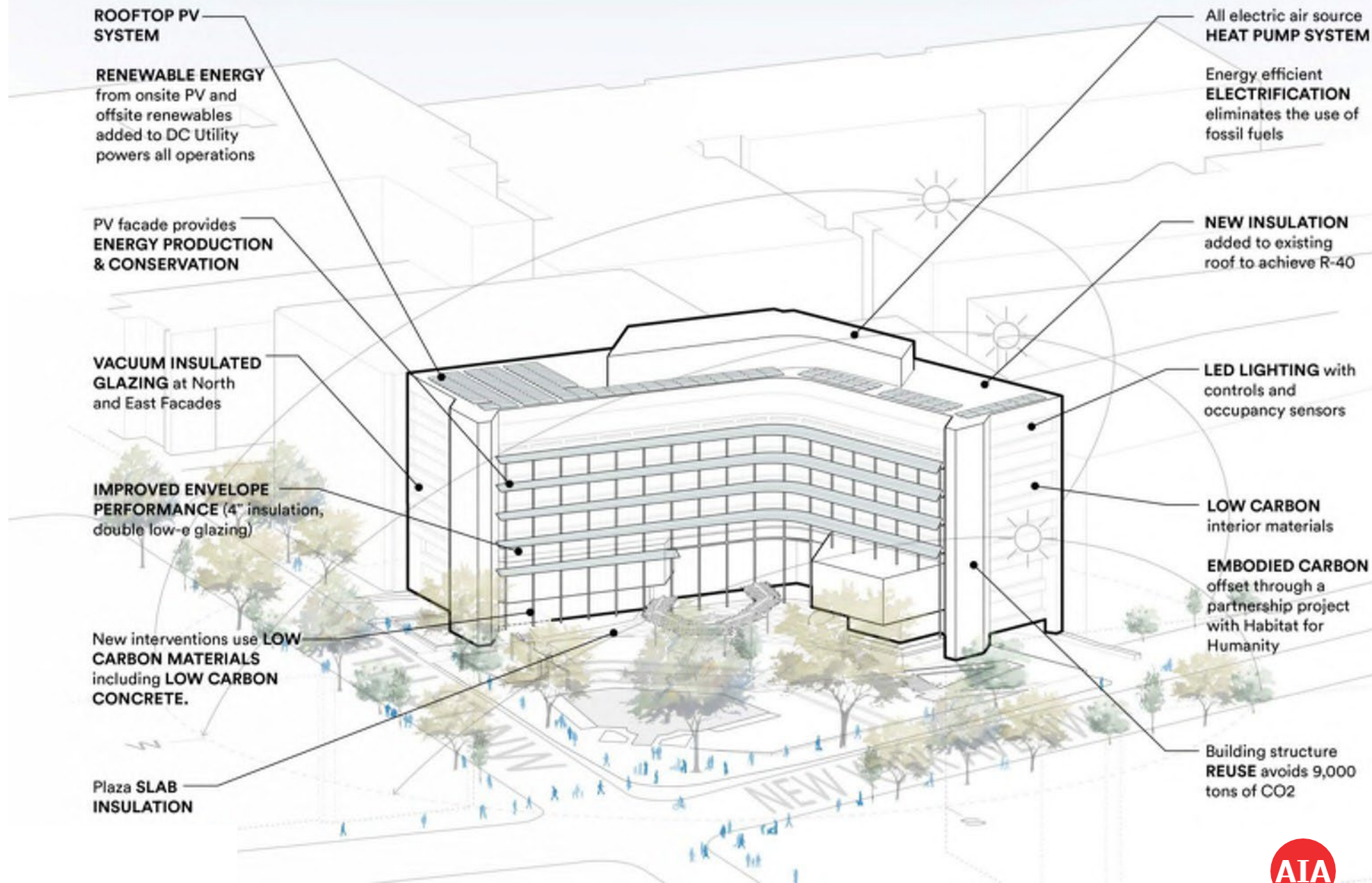
Resilience for
Change



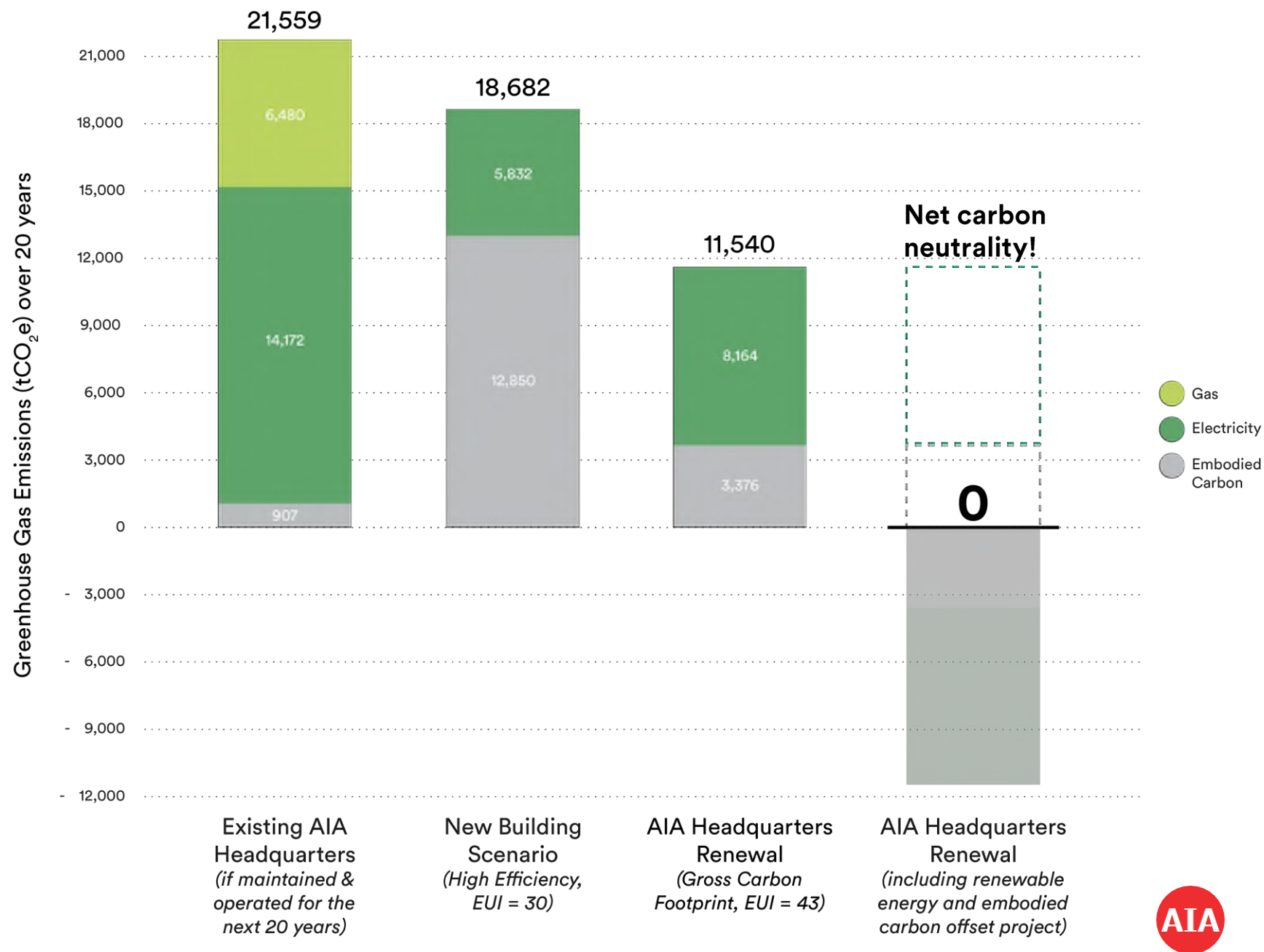
Leadership
through Advocacy

Resilience
for Change

Climate Positive AIA HQ DESIGN FEATURES

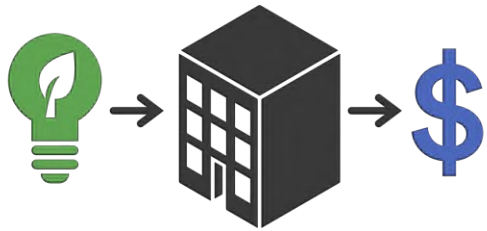


CARBON EMISSIONS COMPARISON



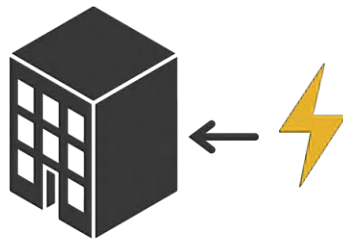
Equitable & Scalable STEPS TO DECARBONIZATION

1.



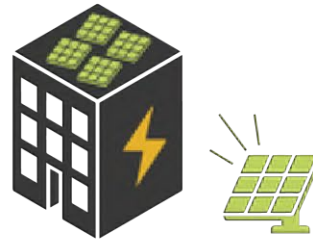
Push energy
efficiency to cost
effective limit

2.



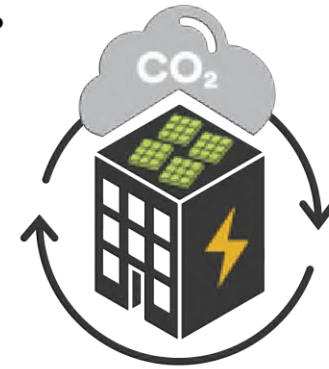
Electrify all
building systems

3.



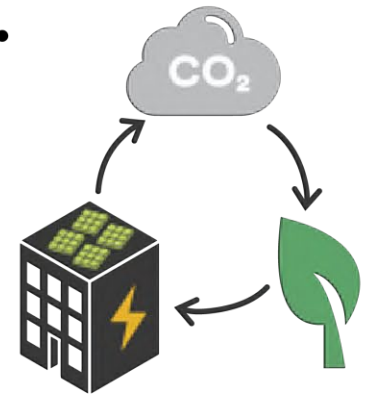
Serve building with
100% renewable
energy (mix of
onsite and offsite)

4.



Transform existing
building through low
carbon renovation

5.



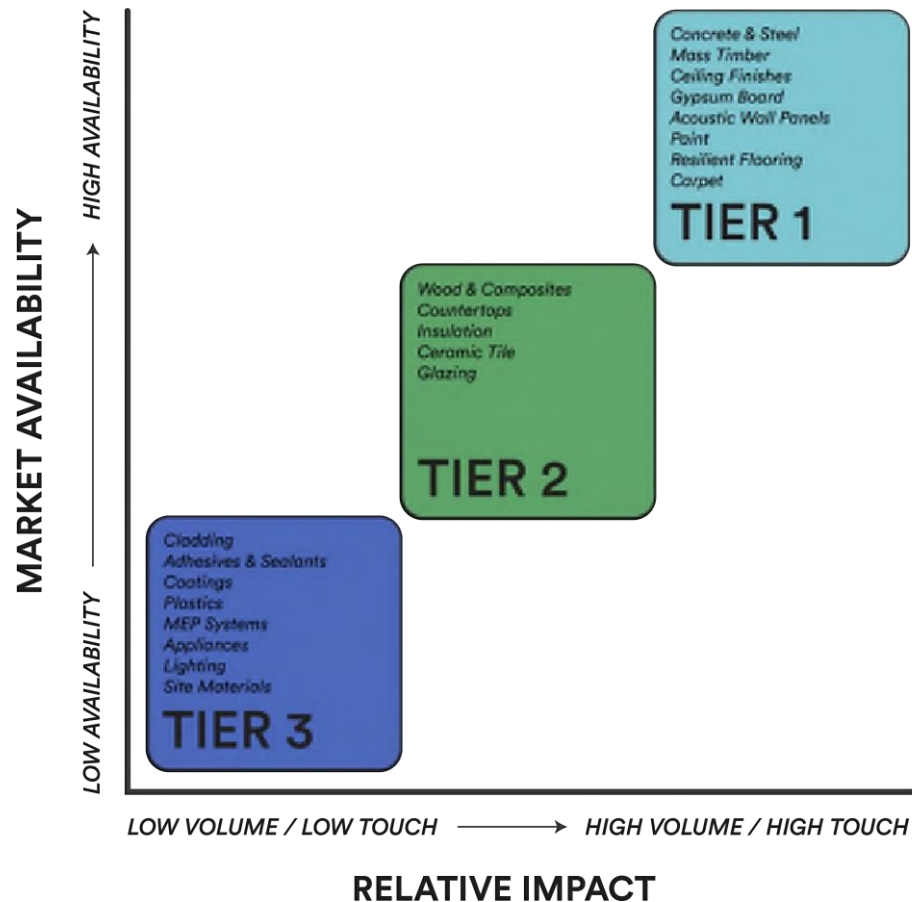
Offset remaining
embodied carbon
through a socially
engaged community
offset project



Photos Credit: Jeff Heie, Give Solar



MATERIAL SELECTION CRITERIA



BASELINE TOPICS		TIER 1 Baseline Categories						
		CONCRETE		STEEL		MASS TIMBER		CEILING TILE
CLIMATE HEALTH	Structural Concrete	Consider feasibility of meeting Recycled and Salvaged Materials criteria	Structural Steel	Consider feasibility of meeting Recycled and Salvaged Materials criteria	Mass Timber (GLT / CLT / DLT / NLT)	Consider feasibility of meeting Carbon Positive Materials criteria	Acoustic Ceiling Tile	Consider feasibility of meeting Recycled and Salvaged Materials criteria
	Ready Mixed Concrete	GWP Limits ¹ 0-2500 psi 190 kg CO ₂ e/m ³ 2500-3000 psi 210 kg CO ₂ e/m ³ 3000-4000 psi 260 kg CO ₂ e/m ³ 4000-5000 psi 320 kg CO ₂ e/m ³ 5000-6000 psi 330 kg CO ₂ e/m ³ 6000-8000 psi 380 kg CO ₂ e/m ³	Steel	GWP Limits ¹ Hot Rolled 0.8 kg CO ₂ e/kg Cold Rolled 0.6 kg CO ₂ e/kg Plate Steel 1.0 kg CO ₂ e/kg Structural Steel Sections 0.6 kg CO ₂ e/kg (hot rolled) 0.6 kg CO ₂ e/kg (cold rolled) Steel Decking 0.5 kg CO ₂ e/kg Cold Formed Steel Framing 0.5 kg CO ₂ e/kg Open-web Steel Joists 0.7 kg CO ₂ e/kg		GWP Limits ¹ 208 kg CO ₂ e/m ³		GWP Limits ¹ 6 kg CO ₂ e/m ²
	Concrete Masonry Unit	GWP Limit ² 310 kg CO ₂ e/m ³						
HUMAN HEALTH	Ready Mixed Concrete	Six Classes Free	Steel	Six Classes Free	Mass Timber (GLT / CLT / NLT) and Adhesives	Six Classes Free Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - Formaldehyde (including urea-formaldehyde) - Isocyanates - Mastic Anhydride - Phenolphthalein VOC Emissions Evaluation / Formaldehyde Emissions Evaluation	Acoustic Ceiling Tile	Six Classes Free Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - PVC and CPVC - Formaldehyde (including urea-formaldehyde) - Monoethanolamine VOC Emissions Evaluation
		Six Classes Free						
	Concrete Masonry Unit	Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - Formaldehyde (including urea-formaldehyde)			Mass Timber Adhesives	VOC Content ⁴		
ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS	ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Mass Timber (GLT / CLT / NLT) FSC Certified						
	SOCIAL HEALTH AND EQUITY	Meet Verified Products and Companies criteria						
	CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Meet any of the following criteria: Zero Waste Manufacturing Certifications / Designed for Circularity / Closed Loop Products / Manufacturer Takeback Programs / Recycled Content / Refurbished Materials						
BASELINE TOPICS		WALLS AND WALL PANELS		PAINT	RESILIENT FLOORING		CARPET	
		Climate Health	Open Board Gypsum Sheathing 1/2" 5.71 kg CO ₂ e/m ² 5/8" 5.72 kg CO ₂ e/m ²	Paints	EPD Available	Resilient Flooring	GWP Limits ¹ 6 kg CO ₂ e/m ²	Carpet
HUMAN HEALTH	Wall Panels	Six Classes Free Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - PVC and CPVC - Formaldehyde (including urea-formaldehyde) VOC Emissions Evaluation	Paints	Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - Mastic Anhydride - Isocyanates VOC Content ⁴ VOC Emissions Evaluation	Resilient Flooring	Six Classes Free Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - Chloroprene - Isocyanates - Methyl Methacrylate - Monoethanolamine - PVC and CPVC - Styrene - Organotin Compounds VOC Emissions Evaluation	Carpet	Six Classes Free Made without the following Chemicals of Concern: ³ - Chloroprene - Isocyanates - Monoethanolamine - PVC and CPVC - Styrene - Organotin Compounds VOC Emissions Evaluation
ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS	ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	Meet Verified Products and Companies criteria						
	SOCIAL HEALTH AND EQUITY	Meet any of the following criteria: Zero Waste Manufacturing Certifications / Designed for Circularity / Closed Loop Products / Manufacturer Takeback Programs / Recycled Content / Refurbished Materials						

AIA Global Campus for Architecture + Design



AIA Global Campus for Architecture + Design



AIA Global Campus for Architecture and Design



AIA Global Campus for Architecture and Design



AIA Global Campus for Architecture and Design



Resources

- AIA Climate Action
 - www.aia.org/design-excellence/climate-action
- Framework for Design Excellence
 - www.aia.org/design-excellence/aia-framework-design-excellence
- COTE Top Ten
 - Main website, www.aia.org/design-excellence/awards/cote-top-ten-awards
 - 2023 Award Winners, www.aia.org/cote-top-ten-award-2023

AIA Framework for Design Excellence

The world today is facing broad and complex challenges that threaten every aspect of our lives. The architect's call to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public has a new and broader meaning amid challenges such as increasing climate extremes and social inequity. Architects everywhere must recognize that our profession can harness the power of design to contribute to solutions addressing the most significant needs of our time. Every project can be used as a platform for addressing big problems and providing creative solutions. Every line drawn should be a source of good in the world.

The Framework for Design Excellence represents the defining principles of good design in the 21st century. Comprised of 10 principles and accompanied by searching questions, **the Framework seeks to inform progress toward a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment.** These are to be thoughtfully considered by designer and client at the initiation of every project and incorporated into the work as appropriate to the project scope. The Framework is intended to be accessible and relevant for every architect, every client, and every project, regardless of size, typology, or aspiration.

The Framework for Design Excellence challenges architects with a vision the profession strives to achieve.





Thank You

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

AIA is the largest, most influential network of architects and design professionals.

That's 98,000+ members who share a passion for design, a desire to change the world, and a commitment to the highest standards of practice.

<https://www.aia.org/>



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