

THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The open Sustainability Colloquium at the University of California, Berkeley is a presentation series featuring sustainability topics from leading practitioners of urban planning, architecture, landscape design, engineering, consulting, construction, development, and research.



The University of California, Berkeley's College of Environmental Design hosts an open Sustainability Colloquium directed by Professor Gail Brager on Fridays from 1-2pm at Wurster Hall

Eden Brukman began the September 2013 series by setting the context for issues in the built environment as derived from the past thirty to forty years of development patterns adhering simply to code. **She described code as being the minimum legal standard, thus representing the lowest quality of practice while the green building movement reflects a more advanced practice in quality and design.**



Eden Brukman is the executive director of the Health Product Declaration Collaborative, which provides open standards for the disclosure of building materials on human and environmental health

The Living Building Challenge, developed by the International Living Future Institute, is an initiative offering a standardized certification based on a scoring system of the environmental impact on a building, site or community development project. The performance criteria include site, water, energy, health, materials, equity and beauty.

- **Site** considers the environmental factor of location. This includes limits to growth, inclusion of urban agriculture, habitat exchange, educational opportunities from nature and how the **design plan** considers the surroundings.
- The **water** criteria is based on accommodations set towards net-zero use, functional ecological water flow and the management of storm water drainage and recycling.
- **Energy** is based on renewable sources for facilitation of an annual net-zero use.
- The **health** factor is judged by a civilized environment, inclusion of energy and materials that are conducive to healthy air, comfort and biophilic design elements.
- **Materials** are evaluated by the exclusion of materials or chemicals listed on the Red List, the embodied carbon footprint and product sourcing from responsible industries; especially through recycling and reuse.
- For the **equity** standard, human scale, democracy and social justice and accessibility to nature are accounted for.
- In meeting the **beauty** criteria, evocation of the spirit, inspiration, and education are sought to certify the project as meeting the Living Building standard.



Just one of the Living Building case study examples, DPR Construction's Phoenix Regional Office features net-zero energy provided by a photovoltaic solar panel covered parking lot, among other amenities to meet the Living Building Challenge criteria

This simply provides a basic understanding of the challenge, which can be a tough bar to measure up to. However, the health of the community and environment has a lot to gain from meeting such standards.

Source: <http://www.globalsiteplans.com/environmental-design/the-living-building-challenge-for-sustainability-in-the-built-environment/>