



THE GROWING LEED NEED

The US Government Services Administration (GSA), which governs all federal buildings, has required basic LEED certification since 2003 and LEED-Gold since 2010. The military adopted green building principles back in 1998 before LEED even existed, and are now moving toward net-zero energy, water, and waste for all US installations. There are now more than 4,000 LEED-certified government projects and another 8,000 are in the pipeline for registration. Because of this, GSA has cut energy use almost 20% since 2003 and water use by 15% since 2007. The practice of green building and LEED certification has been shown to save taxpayer dollars and increase energy efficiency.

So what does LEED mean in simple terms? Green building encourages the better use of resources creating healthier spaces, but it is so much more than that. The practice encompasses specialized knowledge on site planning, indoor environmental quality, water and energy management and specified material use. The impact of LEED certification in a building has reduced energy and water use an average of 40%, carbon emissions 35% and solid waste an average of 70%. Statistics show LEED buildings typically have a low added first cost of 1-2%, which usually results in long-term savings. To implement these results demands the services of a LEED accredited architect and designer who would work hand in hand to accomplish the LEED designation. Our spotlight design this month exemplifies this partnership.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEED can be applied to every building type and phase of a building lifecycle, whether you're building a school, renovating a room, office or house, or upgrading an entire community.

I have always been a steadfast supporter of improving the Earth for our future, and next generations to come who will be affected by our decisions. An article by Steven Burke, "Why LEED Matters For Future Generations" <http://nerej.com/69966> mirrors my opinions and for us not to believe in the LEED processes and use of sustainable products would be disloyal and detrimental to our health, the earth and our future.

Diana Castro, ASID, IIDA, LEED A.P
President of H3Design

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



← The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), building in Tallahassee designed by Gallo Herbert Architects and Diana Castro achieved LEED Silver rating per federal mandate. This was accomplished by using high efficiency AC, lighting systems, low flow plumbing fixtures, high recycled content building products, low-VOC paints and finishes and Xeriscaping- added to the rating. This designation ultimately lowers operational costs and maintenance, therefore increasing the project value.

Diana received her LEED AP in 2009, and has since worked on numerous sustainable projects including a LEED Platinum Interior for Florida Atlantic University. Her accreditation is proof of expert knowledge in the green building field. Carmen recently achieved her LEED Green Associate designation and is studying for the LEED AP accreditation. Both Diana and Carmen are members of the US Green Building Council.



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