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## Center for Architecture Earns LEED Platinum Certification



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The Center for Architecture has been awarded LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and high performing buildings with Platinum being the highest rating. The Center, which is also home to AIA Portland and AIA Oregon, is the first Center for Architecture, and AIA chapter, in the nation to earn LEED Platinum certification.

The Center for Architecture was designed by Holst Architecture to achieve LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. LEED verifies environmental performance, occupant health and financial return. LEED was established for market leaders to design and construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense. The Center was also designed to meet the goals of the 2030 Challenge and is currently achieving an 82% reduction in carbon emissions. The Center plans to bridge the remaining distance to meet the 2030 Challenge through Photovoltaic panels and the purchase of carbon offsets.

The Center's Platinum achievement is particularly notable for the unique conditions of the project. The building is just 10,000 square feet in size and is an existing-building renovation, having been constructed in the 1880s. The Center's sustainable goals were set through a community-led process, including an open series of public charrettes. The project also proves that sustainable design need not rely on the latest technology. The project is a demonstration space for off-the-shelf technology and natural ventilation designed to operate in the Northwest climate.

The project team also took an innovative approach to material choices, reusing the building shell and interior components, and selecting materials with recycled content which were regionally sourced. Alan Scott, AIA, a consultant with Portland-based Green Building Services and a member of the Center's LEED commissioning team, adds that "the most sustainable material is the one you don't use."

More information on how the Center for Architecture achieved LEED Platinum:

### Water Efficiency

The focus of the Center was to reduce the water usage of the building and to reduce demands on municipal water supply and treatment. Implementation of the design included a rainwater harvesting cistern for sewage conveyance and irrigation, native and adaptive vegetation, an on-site stormwater management system and high efficiency plumbing fixtures.

### Garden Wall

The urban bioswale manages stormwater through native and adaptive vegetation on the building's south side. The steel structure also channels rainwater from the front half of the roof, into the planters, where it is cleansed before being introduced back into the City's stormwater system. Vines provide partial shading of the south windows.

### Heating and Cooling

The Center incorporated several energy efficiency strategies to reduce energy consumption including: off-the-shelf split system technology; double paned low-e windows; partial shading from the garden wall; operable windows; roof turbines and a night flush system to support passive cooling and daylighting.

### Lighting

The lighting incorporates a number of strategies to reduce energy consumption, which is a major draw on a building's energy supply. All lighting operates on daylight dimming controls, which adjust to natural light.

### Furnishings

Recycled content, salvaged materials and local sourcing have a lower environmental impact and create a healthy and pleasant workplace. Desks and chairs are Green Guard certified, a non-profit program that examines furnishings for chemical emissions and performance.

To view the Center for Architecture's LEED Scorecard and photos of the building, visit [www.aiaportland.org](http://www.aiaportland.org) and click on the LEED Platinum image on the homepage.

The Center for Architecture is Portland's hub for innovation and discussion on design, construction, planning, sustainability, historic preservation, and more. Located in the heart of the Pearl District, the building honors Portland's past while celebrating today's green technologies. The Center hosts lectures, workshops, films and social events that are open to the public. Join us in our gallery every First Thursday for exhibit openings and visit us online to see a list of upcoming events.

The Center for Architecture is the home of the AIA Portland and AIA Oregon Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the voice of the architectural profession and the resource for its members in service to society.