

Monthly Newsletter

John W. Baumgarten Architect, P.C.

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John Baumgarten
R.A., AIA, NCARB, LEED

Do You Know That...?

- John Baumgarten has received national recognition as a LEED Certified Professional from the US Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED Certified Professionals are experts in "building green". Green design attempts to reduce energy use during the construction or major alteration of a building and over the building's operational life.

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Announcements

John W. Baumgarten Architect P.C. can help our clients realize significant operational energy savings while upgrading their existing physical plant and infrastructure. Please contact us for a no cost consultation.

“LEEDing” the Way – Green Design is Here to Stay.

One of the most popular buzz phrases in our industry today is green design. This term is being used so often and in so many different contexts that its true meaning sometimes becomes obscured.

Although environmentally conscious design has been around for many decades, it had always been a somewhat unrelated group of concepts and approaches such as passive solar design and wind power. There was no standardized way to quantify the benefits of energy conscious design and no unified way to integrate the various approaches and technologies into an energy strategy focused on a specific building project.

This all changed in 1998 with the launch of the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard. This standard established five major categories of energy conscious design that would be applicable to the design and construction of buildings:

- Sustainable Sites (site selection and utilization).
- Water Efficiency (reducing use of potable water and the rate of site sewer flows).
- Energy & Atmosphere (reducing annual usage of fossil fuels and electricity).
- Building Materials and Resources (environmentally friendly materials).
- Indoor Environmental Quality.

Each major category has many subcategories. Achieving a quantified goal in a given category, for example using 20% less energy annually, earns the project a certain number of points. The minimum goal for any such green project is to achieve LEED Certification which requires a total of at least 25 points. It is not necessary to earn points in every category. Categories may be selected as appropriate for the site, building type, building program and other project variables. Any combination of points in any number of categories which total at least 25 would qualify a project for LEED Certification. There are a number of mandatory prerequisites that must be met in each category before any of the assigned points can be achieved. For example, erosion control during construction must be undertaken before any other points in the sustainable sites category may be achieved. A project whose point totals exceeds 33 is considered a LEED Silver Project. Those projects exceeding 39 points are considered a LEED Gold Project. Platinum projects exceed 51 points. New York State owned or funded projects with estimated construction costs exceeding \$2 Million Dollars are now required to achieve a LEED Silver Rating. New York City is considering similar legislation which could be in place by 2008.

John W Baumgarten Architect, P.C.: Innovative & Experienced

- Specialists in the planning of complex, phased health care projects.
- Over 40 years of combined health care design excellence.
- We feature principal and associate level management.
- The majority of our clients utilize our services on a continuing basis.
- We have earned a solid reputation with State and Local Health Agencies.
- A full service team with a personal approach.
- We understand how your business works and will serve as a strategic planning partner.
- A reputation for bringing in projects on-time and on-budget.
- An integrated multidisciplinary design approach focusing on the total project.
- We offer project management as a value added service -- coordinating the efforts of a professional consulting team.
- LEED Certified Professional Services.