

Sustainable Buildings without LEED Certification: Why is this Becoming a Preferred Trend?

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ABSTRACT

Current information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other credible sources tells us that buildings account for approximately 40% of total energy consumption worldwide, which leads to about 48% of greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector alone. To combat this problem, the current trend in architecture is to design sustainable buildings, and among those taking the lead to determine the metrics by which these buildings are measured is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) which is administered by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). However, the LEED certification criteria and process has been seen by many as either cumbersome, nonsensical, or sometimes too expensive, and as a result, we are seeing buildings being constructed with LEED and other sustainable guidelines but not pursuing official certification.

The objective of this presentation is to take a critical look at these sustainable LEED non-certified buildings and try to address three (3) questions; 1. What is the rationale behind not pursuing LEED (and other sustainable) certification? 2. How does one determine which LEED (or sustainable) criteria to follow? and 3. How does a LEED certified building compare to a sustainable non-LEED certified building based on selected metrics and current building performance?

BIOGRAPHY

Nana is as an Assistant Professor in the Master of Architecture program in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability, with research interests in traditional architecture and urban planning. Before RIT, he taught at SUNY Delhi where he developed the first Study Abroad Program based on the History and Architecture of the Italian Renaissance. Prior to academia, Nana worked in private practice as a designer for several well-respected firms in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and NYC on a variety of high profile domestic and international projects. Nana sits on the board of the Community Design Center of Rochester (CDCR), the Landmark Society of Western New York, and the Historic Preservation Board in the Village of Pittsford.