



Insulation

Good insulation is one of the best ways to conserve energy.
Low surface area to volume ratio minimizes heat loss, so a centralized design is more efficient than a sprawling multi-winged design.
Different colors act differently to light, so choosing right colors can help optimize heat distribution.

Location

Developing areas more accessible for those traveling by foot, bicycle, or public transit, will reduce the amount of energy that will be spent accessing your structure.

Materials

- Recycled materials
- Rapidly replenishable materials
- Local materials

The use of local materials reduces the energy used to transport them to the site

- Non toxic materials

A study of emissions from materials by the State of California has shown that there are some green materials that have substantial emissions whereas some more "traditional" materials actually were lower emitters. Thus, the subject of emissions must be carefully investigated before concluding that natural materials are always the healthiest alternatives for occupants and for the Earth.

Statment

With a rapidly growing population, a number of our ecosystems services are being exploited at a breakneck pace, namely the release of carbon, stored in the ground over of thousands of years, released back in to the atmosphere (by the burning of fossil fuels, for energy production) at a rate much greater than that at which the plant life of this planet can return it back to the ground. Carbon is one of a number of gasses which trap the suns energy in our atmosphere. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as the green house effect, because of its likeness to function of a green house. An un balanced surplus of these gasses cause an increase in the temperature of our globe. Another service in danger of human exploitation is our water supply, which is getting increasingly polluted, by processes such as surface runoff (rain water which collects pollutants as it washes over impervious surfaces) and toxic waste. Due to current practices, buildings are responsible for 76% of our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, a stark contrasted to the 1% attributed to transportation.* We can greatly reduce the impact on the earth by restructuring our habitats and habits.

Green living

While a sustainable structure is a great start, there are many other thing one should do to maintain a green life style. Most of the thing you can do to help the environment are usually also cost effective as well.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE

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