Sustainable Building Design

Today, building green and energy sustainability initiatives are driving more stringent energy code requirements. As the gap closes, architects are further challenged to design daylight into buildings. Hence, trends in architectural design have shifted to address the growing importance of daylighting and the environment. Key focus areas include:

- Building and Energy Sustainability – Developing solutions to meet increasingly stringent energy codes; utilizing efficient energy solutions
- Environmental Responsibility – Designing with green products
- Indoor Environmental Quality – Optimizing designs with diffuse light
- LEED Certification – Recognizing achievements and promoting expertise in green building

Designing a well-insulated building with a tight envelope that minimizes heat gain and heat loss enables builders to employ key energy strategies (such as forms of renewable energy and efficient HVAC equipment) to enhance overall building energy performance.

Many of the state energy codes are requiring glazing system U-values to perform at U=0.4 or better, while some states, like California, Minnesota, and Michigan, are requiring more stringent regulations (U=0.35).