

## World Green Building Week 2012: Green Buildings for Great Communities

A great community is healthy, sustainable and resilient. The building industry is taking the lessons learned from delivering greener, healthier buildings and scaling those to districts, neighborhoods and entire communities. Together we can create great communities if we:

### **Think Healthy.** Make buildings for people.

- Better indoor environments mean healthier people.  
*Examples: increases in worker productivity and student learning<sup>1</sup>, reduced hospital stays<sup>2</sup>*
- Reducing the need for indoor fuel can dramatically improve respiratory health.  
*Examples: roof insulation, solar hot water, safer cooking appliances<sup>3</sup>*

### **Think Wide.** Look beyond the building.

- Connect the built environment to natural systems.  
*Examples: green infrastructure, water sensitive urban design*
- Align technical systems across multiple buildings.  
*Examples: district energy, district cooling systems, sewer mining*

### **Think Long.** Create lasting value.

- Monitor ongoing building operations to optimize long-term performance.  
*Examples: tenant metering, building labelling*
- Future-proof community assets and infrastructure.  
*Examples: efficient and adaptable buildings, on-site energy generation, water capture and treatment, passive design*
- Enact the right policies for green buildings to thrive.  
*Examples: clear performance targets, transparency throughout the building lifecycle, incentives for good performance.*

### **Think Connected.** Collaborate at every stage.

- Integrated design leads to better, greener buildings.  
*Examples: involving builders, commissioning agents, and property managers from the design phase*
- Collaboration between industry, government and the community make green neighborhoods a reality.  
*Examples: Stakeholder engagement, public-private partnerships*

### **Think Big.** Act now for a greener, healthier community.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples: Green schools can deliver a 41.5% reduction in incidence of headaches, asthma, 'flu and respiratory problems, a 15% improvement in student productivity and a 25% improvement on test scores. (Katz)

<sup>2</sup> Canada: Depressed patients in sunny rooms recovered 15% faster than those in darker rooms. (McKenzie Health Science Centre, Canada) Korea: A 41% decrease in average length of stay for gynaecology patients in sunlit rooms over patients in dull rooms.<sup>2</sup> (The Inha University Hospital, Korea)

<sup>3</sup> UNEP estimates that 11% of deaths each year are from poor indoor air quality. Projects like Cato Manor and Kuyasa in South Africa have tackled this problem head on.

- **Start with the buildings where you live and work.**  
*Examples: track energy and water usage, use healthier materials and cleaning products*
- **Partner with your GBC.**  
*Examples: attend GBC events to get informed and meet collaborators, demand better building standards*
- **Take part in World Green Building Week!**  
*Examples: participate in your local GBC's events, hold your own WGBW event*