WINTERGREEN

A monthly update on Steven Winter Associates, Inc.'s work in the realm of Energy Efficient, Sustainable, and High-Performance Buildings

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Whole Building Design Guide Now on Web

Achieving a green building demands a holistic approach, far beyond a little recycled plastic decking here, a few solar panels there, and a coat of low-VOC paint. The *Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG)*, an Internet portal offered as an assistance to building professionals by the **National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS),** originally produced for the **U.S. Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)**, to educate designers in environmentally sound design, and simplify access to criteria and standards, notes that sustainable buildings are green from birth—conceived with the context, program, and occupants as integral parts of the design process. The *WBDG*'s content, which includes other building design objectives beyond sustainability, like safety and accessibility, was developed by working committees coordinated by **Steven Winter Associates, Inc. (SWA)**, and should enjoy a boost in visitors thanks to the **General Services Administration's** partial funding of the redesigned website. Additional funds and support are provided by the **NAVFAC Criteria Office**, **DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL**), the **Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)** and the **Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)** (managed by SWA). Billed as "Your Complete Internet Resource to a Wide Range of Building-Related Design Guidance, Criteria and Technology," the website (also managed by SWA) can be visited at www.wbdg.org.

Saying No to Mold

As an important determinant of indoor air quality, controlling the growth of mold, benefits people both in the short term (by safeguarding health) and in the long term (by helping preserve vulnerable building materials). Now, Native American communities have a tool to fight mold (such as the closet variety shown at right). The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)** has just published *Mold Prevention and Detection: A Guide for Housing Authorities in Indian Country*, which was prepared by SWA and the Building Research Council at the University of Illinois. Humid or damp and unwanted moisture penetration in an average home can cause mold growth, which, if not attended to, can become damaging and costly. The 58-page color publication includes repair and preventive maintenance strategies reported by the communities themselves as being effective means of reducing moisture and mold in the context of Native American housing.

Green Pays With NYSERDA

Promoting green design and construction is one of the goals of the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's New Construction Program** (NCP), and SWA recently completed analyses for three projects—two hotels and a country club hotel/administration complex—funded by NYSERDA. The Westchester Country Club in Rye, the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites at Nanuet (front elevation below), and the Hilton Garden Inn at Nanuet represent a total of 328,000 square feet of commercial space. R.J. Dooley & Associates, Inc., is the engineer and geothermal contractor for all three. In addition to the geothermal heat pump systems, several energy conservation measures, including increased insulation levels and low-e windows, were modeled to determine the incentive funding available. Utility bills for the three projects would be slashed by an estimated $192,000 annually. The geothermal heat pump systems decrease annual energy costs by about one third compared to either conventional air-to-air heat pumps. NYSERDA is offering cost incentives totaling about $700,000 for the projects and will require commissioning to assure the systems meet expectations. Because NCP pays for most of the analyses, the program is a sure win for most commercial developers willing to incorporate energy efficiency.

Visual Arts Center Sees Green

SWA has joined the design team as sustainability consultant for the 70,000 square foot **Heimbold Visual Arts Center** that is to be integrated into the heart of the bucolic **Sarah Lawrence College** campus in Bronxville, New York. SWA's approach to enhance the sustainability of the building will include detailed evaluation of a ground-source heat pump heating/cooling system for efficiency and elimination of the need for above-ground heat-rejection equipment (such as cooling towers, resulting in being a better neighbor for nearby homes). Additional design attention will focus on issues related to daylighting and sun-control, and balancing of ventilation, indoor air quality and energy issues. The LEED™ Green Building Rating is being applied to the project with the prospect of a Silver or Gold rating (LEED ratings are Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum). On this project, SWA is working with a team that includes: **Polshek Partnership Architects**; **Altieri Sebor Wieber Consulting Engineers**; **Brandston Partnership, Inc.** (lighting/daylighting); and **Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety** (ventilation/IAQ/safety).

For more information visit the SWA Website: www.swinter.com

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