A Philosophy of Design: Nature’s Bounty

Commercial buildings consume more than 19% of all energy in the United States. This fact presents tremendous potential for office buildings to save a massive amount of energy. Living Future (LF) buildings are not only possible, but are healthier, and more affordable to operate than those that are traditionally designed and constructed. A LF office building generates as much energy on-site as it consumes on an annual basis. This infographic illustrates many of the potential measures and strategies that can be employed to design and operate a LF office building.

A key element of a good zero energy building is that it takes advantage of what is provided by nature before creating mechanical systems. Daylight, ventilation, and comfortable temperatures are often available in natural form during much of the year in Sacramento. A building which uses these natural assets not only uses less energy, but is also often simply feels better. As humans we feel most comfortable in nature, and often these naturally derived benefits, even subtly, feel better to the building occupants.