



## **Go Green!**

*With fast changing economy, rising issues of pollution, degradation and global warming, it has become pertinent for us to look into and adopt new methods of 'green building'. Green building (also known as green construction or sustainable building) refers to structures that feature energy conservation in construction, operation and even in demolition. This requires close cooperation of the design team, the architects, the engineers, and the client at all project stages.*

*The concept of sustainable development can be traced back to the energy crisis and the environment pollution concern in the 1970s. There are a number of motives for building green, including environmental, economic, and social benefits. However, modern sustainability initiatives call for an integrated and synergistic design to both new construction and in the retrofitting of existing structures. Also known as sustainable design, this approach integrates the building life-cycle with each green practice employed with a design-purpose to create a synergy among the practices used.*

*Green building brings together a vast array of practices, techniques, and skills to reduce and ultimately eliminate the impacts of buildings on the environment and human health. It often emphasizes taking advantage of renewable resources, for example, using sunlight through passive solar, active solar and photovoltaic equipment, natural air passages like cross ventilation and using plants and trees through green roofs, rain gardens, and reduction of rainwater run-off. Many other techniques are used, such as using low-impact building materials or using packed gravel or permeable concrete instead of conventional concrete or asphalt to enhance replenishment of ground water.*

*On the aesthetic side of green architecture or sustainable design is the philosophy of designing a building that is in harmony with the natural features and resources surrounding the site. There are several key steps in designing sustainable buildings: specify 'green' building materials from local sources, reduce loads,*

*optimize systems, and generate on-site renewable energy and utilize natural energies. With the proper synergistic design, individual green building technologies may work together to produce a greater cumulative effect.*

*In summary, Green practices help reduce waste, conserve natural resources, improve both air and water quality, and protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Why can't we, the human let other planet creatures to live with us by going Green? Let us collectively work towards preserving the beauty of this planet for future generations to come. Let us then hope for a world of green architecture to provide the best solutions for a safe and ambient work or living area. Let us Go-GREEN.*

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