



THE LIVING IN LBC CONTINUES:

Updates on our Living Building Challenge projects:

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment: With great anticipation, the ground breaking for this new 8500 square foot “living” and learning center is scheduled for May 1st. The Hitchcock Center for the Environment is going to the outer limits of green building in designing and constructing this new environmental education center. This new building will support the growing demand for the center’s environmental education programs that have nearly tripled since 2000 and have vastly outstripped the capacity of their current facility on Larch Hill. Follow along with us at www.wright-builders.com as we begin construction late spring.



Hampshire College’s **R. W. Kern Center:** The center’s construction crew endured a tough winter but persevered to keep construction on track. Well underway, this new 15,000-square-foot, multifunctional building will create its own energy, treat its own waste, and meet all sustainability requirements of the Living Building Challenge™.



See this month’s insert to learn more about Wright Builders memberships & resources.

THE LIVING IN LBC CONTINUES: CONTINUED

Living Future unConference: Seattle, Washington – March 29, 2015

Wright Builders was once again excited to have joined hundreds of others at the annual International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge conference in Seattle in late March. Living Future unConference 2015 helped remind us about the importance of place and community. The event commenced with Amanda Sturgeon challenging us to answer the question, "What does good look like?" Janine Benyus' brilliant and thought-provoking words forced us to question how we interact with and what we can learn from nature. Jason F. McLennan inspired us with what "home" means to him and excited the crowd with the latest announcements from the Institute. Ibrahim Abdul-Matin reminded us that fighting the effects of climate change has to be done on a communal scale and explored a deep internal view of humanity.

Linda Gaudreau, our Operations Manager came away with several thought provoking experiences and words of wisdom. Some of her highlights include a Biomimicry workshop, outside in a beautiful park – where there were reminders of the intrinsic laws of nature and design and how it informs building & community, (bees!) and service. Plants, bugs, animals, people all have a role to serve another. This tied nicely to an ILFI morning talk of "home" being where your feet are,

caring about place and another talk of inspiration and spirit, connection to the natural world and action to help make the world more just and healthy. "Buildings become family."

Here are a few of Linda's photos:



Bertschi School manhole cover – Another LBC certified building.



Seattle's wonderful Pike Place Market



Interior of the Bullitt Center – a recently certified LBC building in Seattle where the ILFI is housed.

NEW PROJECTS

Home addition in Belchertown:

Construction is moving along quickly on an addition that provides extra living space for an intergenerational family home.



Renovated kitchen in Northampton:



New classy bathroom:

From 20th to 21st century in the snap of a finger! Calming tones of gray and white make this new bathroom a personal spa for the happy homeowners.



UPDATES ON EXISTING PROJECTS:

Multi-family in South Deerfield

This new 2 family home, located just outside the center of Old Deerfield will provide comfortable ENERGY STAR living space.



Cooley Dickinson Amherst Womens Health New Reception Area



VILLAGE HILL NORTHAMPTON:



Brilliant renovation and remodel in Northampton

This home came to us with great bones and a forgiving spirit ready for a next phase of life. With the vision of our customer, and the talents of our expert designers, we were able to rearrange spaces for more comfortable bedrooms, easier access, and a splendid Master Suite. A new stairway provides easier access, more ceiling clearance, and an enhanced and even more gracious entry.

The Upper Ridge at Village Hill: Our Craftsman style Duplex has sold, but we still have 3 units in Flats West, and 6 units available in Flats East. We broke ground for our Greek Revival Townhomes and have 3 homes under contract!

Our homeowners are enjoying the economic, lifestyle and comfort benefits of their Energy Star 3.0 and LEED compliant homes. With R 4.5 triple glazed windows, R 35.5 wall and R 63 ceiling insulation and an estimated HERS rating of 40 or lower, these homes remain comfortable and draft free even in the coldest of winters, as well as comfortable during summer heat and humidity. Remember, it's not so much the energy source that determines cost and sustainability – it's also very simply how much we need and use.



Flats West, Greek Revival Townhomes and lastly Flats East.



WBI EMPLOYEE PROFILE KIM GLADDING

Kim is our Controller who wears many hats here at Wright Builders including heading up Finance, HR and IT. She says that she would be bored if she were doing the same thing all of the time. The variety keeps her on her toes!

Kim began her career in the Hospitality industry but ended up moving to Construction when a friend gave her a call out of the blue and offered her a job in his construction office. She continues to find construction a fascinating field where there is always more to learn. Kim has long believed in the value of solar energy and still doesn't understand why it has taken more than 40 years to really take off. Crunching numbers becomes a lot more rewarding knowing that you work for a company that is a leader in green building.

When not working, Kim spends her time reading, knitting, playing games, singing choral music and hanging out with her two "almost grown" kids. All items especially enjoyed when at her summer trailer in Maine that is parked at an ocean side campground in York. ("My favorite place to be!")

Kim just celebrated her fourth anniversary at Wright Builders and is looking forward to many more years working with this wonderful group of people.

Wright Builders' Memberships and Resources:

ILFI: www.livingfuture.org | The International Living Future Institute is a hub for visionary programs. They administer the Living Building Challenge™, the built environment's most rigorous and ambitious performance standard. They are the parent organization for Cascadia Green Building Council, a chapter of both the United States and Canada Green Building Councils that serves Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. They are also home to Ecotone Publishing, a unique publishing house dedicated to telling the story of the green building movement's pioneering thinkers and practitioners. The Institute offers green building and infrastructure solutions that move across scales, (from single room renovations to neighborhoods or whole cities. They offer global strategies for lasting sustainability, partnering with local communities to create grounded and relevant solutions, and reaching out to individuals to unleash their imagination and innovation.

NESEA: www.nesea.org | Founded in 1974, the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) is today the region's leading membership organization promoting sustainable energy practices in the built environment. Their work is vital to increasing sustainability, especially in the building sector. Headquartered in Greenfield, MA, NESEA operates primarily in the northeastern United States—the six New England states plus New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, but is increasingly reaching out to share ideas nationally and internationally.

Center for EcoTechnology (CET): www.cetonline.org | The Center for EcoTechnology helps people and businesses in Massachusetts save energy and reduce waste. They make green make sense. For more than 35 years, they have offered proven advice and resources to save you money, make you more comfortable at home, and help your business perform better.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3), CET works with partners throughout the region to help transform the way we live and work for a better community, economy, and environment – now and for the future. They provide practical solutions that save energy, materials and money and have a positive impact on our environment and community. They serve residents, business and communities in the areas of energy efficiency and waste reduction and through their retail store, EcoBuilding Bargains.

Building Green: www2.buildinggreen.com | They are an independent printing company bringing to their members accurate, unbiased and timely green building information.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) (Wright Builders, Inc. is a member) is transforming the way we design, build, maintain and operate our buildings, homes and communities. Better buildings are our legacy. USGBC is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings, and works

toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities.

ENERGY STAR: www.energystar.gov | ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR program was established by EPA in 1992, under the authority of the Clean Air Act Section 103(g).

Under EPA's leadership, American consumers, businesses, and organizations have made investments in energy efficiency that are transforming the market for efficient products and practices, creating jobs, and stimulating the economy. Now in its 23rd year, the ENERGY STAR program has boosted the adoption of energy efficient products, practices, and services through valuable partnerships, objective measurement tools, and consumer education.

GREEN BUILDING TOURS – 2015

Watch the Hitchcock Center, NESEA and Wright Builder's websites for tours and open houses!

www.hitchcockcenter.org

www.nesea.org

www.wright-builders.com

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Living Building Challenge – Petals and Imperatives

LBC performance categories, known as Petals include: Place, Water, Energy, Health & Happiness, Materials, Equity and Beauty. In our last newsletter we talked about the Health and Happiness and Beauty petals. This issue we'll address the Materials and Water petals. (as excerpted from Living Building ChallengeSM 3.0)

Materials:

The intent of the Materials Petal is to help create a materials economy that is non-toxic, ecologically regenerative, transparent and socially equitable. Throughout their life cycle, building materials are responsible for many adverse environmental issues, including personal illness, habitat and species loss, pollution, and resource depletion. The Imperatives in this section aim to remove the worst known offending materials and practices and drive business towards a truly responsible materials economy.

For the projects locally, this means sourcing most of the wood materials from eastern North America, and collaborating with the design teams and suppliers to find local, regional, and American sources and products. It is intensive, full of side routes and rabbit holes, but, in the end, provides a real boost on the engines of change.

Water:

PETAL INTENT

The intent of the Water Petal is to realign how people use water and to redefine 'waste' in the built environment, so that water is respected as a precious resource. Scarcity of potable water is quickly becoming a serious issue as many countries around the world face severe shortages and compromised water quality. Even regions that have avoided the majority of these problems to date due to a historical presence of abundant fresh water are at risk: the impacts of climate change, highly unsustainable water use patterns, and the continued drawdown of major aquifers portend significant problems ahead.

Until permitting proceeded for the Kellogg Center at Williams College, no Northeast LBC project has succeeded in removing the barriers to on site water reclamation and treatment for a public building. Thanks to several years of advocacy, the Kellogg Center opens April 2015 with onsite water, and both the Hitchcock and Hampshire College projects will be supplied by treated on site reclaimed water.

Over 70 % of the world inhabitants do not have reliable sources for drinking water. By 2030, most estimates indicate a 30% shortfall in world drinking water supplies, so, regardless of current reservoir levels in western New England, solutions are needed.

Count on the Valley to lead the way!!

NEW PROJECTS CONTINUED

Arcadia – Massachusetts Audubon Society maintains nearly one thousand acres of preserve and interpretive land right in our region. This spring, the entry area of the Sanctuary in Easthampton is getting a rework to provide more interpretive space, better exhibit areas, and more efficient lighting, as well as better through-view to the pond and preserve. MassAudubon is the oldest environmental organization in the United States, and we are honored and thrilled to help them again. Stop by and enjoy the Sanctuary, and see what MAS is up to, and become a member. <http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia>



NESEA, after years of planning and building a successful organization to staff and program, is now tackling the refit of their headquarters at 50 Miles Street in greenfield. The usual very heavy timber building probably started life as a railroad related machine shop of some sort, but, in its new life, houses a range of offices.

NESEA will be fulfilling the first part of its long term strategy to provide a healthy, accessible and more pleasant workspace for its dedicated staff. Energy and equipment improvements are planned both for this project, and further into the future. Award winning MacClay Architects from Vermont are handling the design, and Wright Builders is executing the construction.

Private Residence

Breaking ground this spring after several years of planning, this spacious, ENERGY STAR home will be ready to move in early winter. Arts and Crafts in style, the floor plan is ready for relaxed family life. The building envelope features a double wall, R-32, triple glazed windows, full basement wall and floor insulation, and both passive and active solar features. If you need more space but want a lower carbon footprint and lower monthly costs, call us!





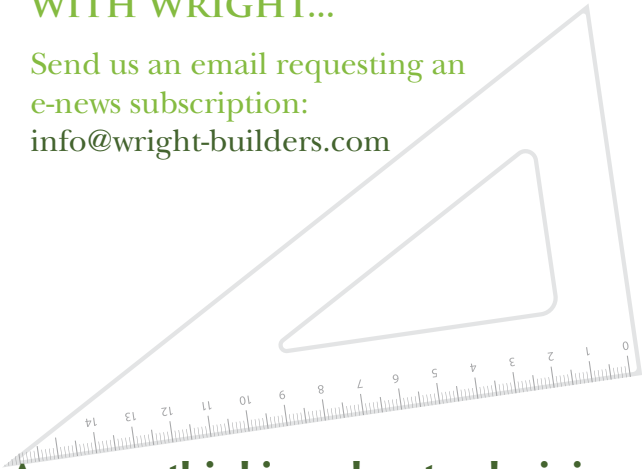
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FEATURED NON-PROFIT:

The Children's Advocacy Project is a small nonprofit agency which maintains a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Hampshire County to provide a child friendly place where local children who have been physically or sexually abused receive services. We are a nationally accredited center, meeting the highest standards for a CAC. There are 11 CACs in Massachusetts throughout the state. We opened our first site in Northampton in 2006. The idea was to bring together a team of law enforcement, Department of Children and Families, staff from the Northwestern District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit and Cooley Dickinson Hospital to provide services to the child in a private setting. In the past, children were interviewed multiple times, in offices and police stations, and were required to go to a hospital for a medical exam.

Thanks to Wright Builders, Mark Ledwell and Jonathan Wright and their fantastic crews, we are now remodeling an old house in Greenfield to serve Franklin County kids. The outpouring of donated labor and materials from the community, spearheaded by Mark Ledwell, has been fantastic and we are so grateful. Baystate Franklin is our medical partner for the Franklin County CAC. We provide healing, safety and justice for over 200 local children a year in a setting that reduces trauma. For more information visit our website at www.northwesterncac.org.



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