



WBDG Whole Building Design Guide®



When people in the building industry have questions about design, project management, operations and maintenance they go to the National Institute of Building Sciences WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® at www.wbdg.org. WBDG is one of the largest, most comprehensive online resources in the building construction industry. This web-based portal contains design, construction and facility management information and criteria required by U.S. military and other federal agencies, along with substantial content on key topics of interest to all building professionals.

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The WBDG Whole Building Design Guide®, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017, uses the integrated, whole-building approach to programming, design, construction, operations and maintenance. The portal covers a wide range of topics, from performance and sustainability to security and resilience. WBDG links information across industries and disciplines. It is organized into five main categories: Design Recommendations, Project Management–O&M [Operations and Maintenance], Federal Facility Criteria, Continuing Education and Additional Resources.

The WBDG Federal Facility Criteria library is an integrated database of all federal facility design and construction criteria; and a private-sector database overseen by the independent company, IHS Markit.

This online library of standards and resources published by 20 federal construction agencies contains more than 10,000 documents, including federal guide specifications, manuals, regulations and other design and construction criteria. The library also offers computer-aided-design (CAD) libraries and 60 executable programs produced by federal agencies, including cost estimating, design analysis, life-cycle cost evaluation, environmental performance and specialized engineering programs. The Federal Facility Criteria library is a great resource for architects and engineers working on military and other federal contracts. The IHS Markit database provides WBDG with online access to 350,000 standards developed by more than 450 other organizations.

WBDG was initially designed to serve U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) construction programs. A 2003 DOD memorandum named WBDG the “sole portal to design and construction criteria produced by the Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and U.S. Air Force.” Since then, WBDG has expanded to give all building industry professionals free, wide access

to federal and other design, construction and performance criteria. Anyone can access WBDG online and the majority of users are from the private sector.

WBDG began offering a Continuing Education (CE) program for design and maintenance facilities professionals in 2007. Courses target architects and engineers seeking continuing education credits as part of professional licensing requirements. WBDG is currently offering more than 80 free courses online, including Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) E-Learning courses and First Thursday seminars and those based on WBDG integrated content.

In late 2016, staff launched a major redesign of the WBDG website with faster-loading; expanded search and browsing capabilities; bookmarking for account holders; and a new site menu to improve access to desired information.

WBDG also contains two resources developed with the support of public- and private-sector volunteers. The Building Envelope Design Guide is a comprehensive guide for exterior envelope design and construction for institutional/office buildings. The Mechanical Insulation Design Guide provides a comprehensive source of information on the performance, use, testing and standardization of mechanical insulation in buildings and industrial facilities.

The WBDG also includes case studies that have won the Sustainable Building Industry Council (SBIC) *Beyond Green*™ High-Performance Building and Community Award; and a Building Sciences Career Center. WBDG placed fifth on the Global Grid Top 20 Engineering Websites of 2016.

WBDG currently attracts more than 500,000 distinct users per month downloading over 6 million documents per month. ■

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