

Focus on sustainability

From global guiding principle to mainstream concern

We humans face a choice: we either continue to destroy our natural resources – or we act in a more sustainable manner. Since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the global community has come to regard sustainability as a guiding principle. And yet there is far more to it than just ecological considerations. The concept of sustainability unites environmental concerns and economic viability with social responsibility.

Once the sole concern of committed pioneers, sustainable building has long evolved into a mainstream phenomenon. Very few construction projects now fail to make use of some of the many possibilities available for sustainable planning. Yet there remains a great deal of untapped potential.

Planning and building sustainably includes: limiting urban sprawl and the loss of open space as a result of new developments; ensuring that, where possible, existing buildings continue to be used; and minimizing eventual utility and maintenance costs. Sustainable planning combines these different aims in an integrated concept.

Image above: a newly-constructed Passive House for a mixed-age building collective in Schönholzer Straße 13/14, Berlin, Deimel Oelschläger Architects
© Photograph: Svea Pietschmann

Title: District library Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Frankfurter Allee 14a, Berlin, architect Peter W. Schmidt
© Photograph: Stefan Müller



Architektenkammer Berlin

Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts
Alte Jakobstraße 149
10969 Berlin

Telefon (030) 29 33 07 - 0
Telefax (030) 29 33 07 - 16

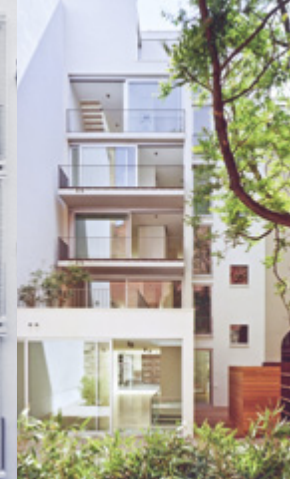
kammer@ak-berlin.de
www.ak-berlin.de

Valid as of: September 2013

Planning and building in a sustainable manner

**Environmentally sound, energy efficient
and fit for the future**





Goals and means of achieving them

Sustainable building comes in many forms

Sustainable building aims at saving on energy and reducing CO₂ emissions, conserving drinking and ground water, improving the microclimate, protecting our resources and avoiding waste generation. There is a wide range of appropriate measures that can be taken, including:

- increasing the energy efficiency of buildings
- adopting an integrated approach to the design of building, insulation and air conditioning systems
- comprehensive heat and sound insulation
- use of renewable energies such as solar power
- use of daylight as a source of illumination
- airing through ventilation systems with heat recovery

Conference and event venue Palisa.de. Thanks to an integrated approach, the more than 100-year old heritage structure "Umspannwerk Ost" has been converted into a low-energy building. Architect: Otto Springmann 1900, redevelopment: Claus Kampmann + Partner 1999
© Photographs: André Wagenzik

- limiting the amount of soil sealing for new constructions
- rainwater harvesting
- conserving existing vegetation
- greening of yards, facades and rooftops
- use of building materials that are not damaging to human health and the environment
- use of recycled and recyclable materials and building components
- use of durable materials and building components made from renewable resources or sustainable production
- barrier-free design and construction
- consideration of eventual utility and maintenance costs during the planning phase

The townhouse urbane living 2 in Berlin's Mulackstraße uses, among other things, geothermal energy, thereby saving around 40% and even 96% on energy for heating and cooling, respectively. Architect: abcarius + burns architecture design
© Photographs: Ludger Paffrath

Providing competent advice

Find out more here

Energy efficiency rating systems for existing buildings (EPCs), or the Energy Saving Ordinance (EnEV) reforms: these are just some of the themes currently being discussed in relation to sustainable building.

The Internet is a good first port of call for information on the topic. Details of current issues and links providing information on the subject, compiled by the committee for "Sustainable planning and building", can be found on the Berlin Chamber of Architects website (www.ak-berlin.de) under "Fachthemen/Nachhaltiges Planen und Bauen" ("Specialist subjects/ Sustainable planning and building"). Here you will also find a number of project fact sheets on successful practical examples.

Architects, interior architects, urban planners and landscape architects in Berlin are on hand to offer you independent advice tailored to specific projects. They will help ensure the long-term cost and resource efficiency of your project, and thus its success.

A newly constructed building serving as a residential house with gallery, built to Passive House Standard, on Linienstraße 23, Berlin, BCO Architects
© Photographs: Werner Huthmacher