



## 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](http://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.

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The WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® 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 these main categories: Design Guidance, Project Management, and Operations and Maintenance.

The WBDG accesses information from the National Institute of Building Sciences Construction Criteria Base® (CCB®) at [www.ccb.org](http://www.ccb.org), a single, integrated database of all federal facility design and construction criteria; and two private-sector databases overseen by the independent companies, Information Handling Services (IHS) and MADCAD.

CCB®, the building industry's oldest continuously operating electronic information system, began in 1987. 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. CCB® 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. CCB® is a great resource for architects and engineers working on military and other federal contracts. The IHS and MADCAD databases provide 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. All course material is based on WBDG integrated content. WBDG is currently offering 16 courses online.

To promote information sharing between stakeholders, WBDG includes a section on building information modeling (BIM) that provides links and describes efforts underway. Many of the organizations involved with WBDG have been involved in the development of the *National BIM Standard-United States™*.

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.

Two noteworthy recent additions to WBDG are the Federal High Performance and Sustainable Buildings section and the *Guide to Integrating Renewable Energy in Federal Construction*.

WBDG currently attracts over 500,000 distinct users per month downloading 4 million documents per month. ■

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