

Whole Building Design Guide

SWA staff and our client, the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC), helped to conceptualize the Whole Building Design Guide website (www.wbdg.org) in 1997. The WBDG is the only web-based portal providing government and industry practitioners with one-stop access to up-to-date information on a wide range of building-related guidance, criteria and technology from a 'whole building' perspective.

The work of SBIC mirrors SWA's commitment to promote a "whole building" approach as the cornerstone of national buildings-related policy, research, and practice. Over the years, our mutual guiding principles have been reinforced through the experience, research, and expertise of its members, who believe that a well-designed building is much more than just sustainable.

Through its work with SBIC, SWA continues to spread the message to the public and the industry that it's now possible for every building to be a high-performance building.

The key design objectives defined in WBDG are: Accessible, Aesthetic, Cost-Effective, Functional, Productive, Safe and Secure, Sustainable, and Historic Preservation. The website became the first electronic portal to provide free access to government-wide, buildings-related criteria, guidance, and best practices. Under contract to the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) SWA continues to staff the WBDG committees, to develop the WBDG web-based content, to manage the overarching editorial function for all content on the site, and to produce new sections for the WBDG. SWA staff, experts in various technical areas, have authored several sections of WBDG, including [Acoustic Comfort](#), [Archives and Record Storage Building](#), [Assessment Tools for Accessibility](#), [Balancing Security/Safety & Sustainability Objectives](#), [Energy Analysis Tools](#), [Running a Design Competition](#), [Warehouse](#), and [LEED®-DoD Antiterrorism Standards Tool](#).

Also under contract to NIBS, SWA staffs the WBDG Board of Direction and Advisory



Committee meetings and the various subcommittees. The WBDG website has more than 175,000 unique visitors and is currently averaging 1 million document downloads per month.