

The following summary is from:

<https://living-future.org/lbc/basics/>

Imagine a building that answers the question

## WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE?

The Living Building Challenge is a green building certification program and sustainable design framework that visualizes the ideal for the built environment. It uses the metaphor of a flower because the ideal built environment should function as cleanly and efficiently **AS A FLOWER**.



## DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

With the Living Building Challenge, you can create buildings that are:

- Regenerative spaces that connect occupants to light, air, food, nature, and community.
- Self-sufficient and remain within the resource limits of their site. Living Buildings produce more energy than they use and collect and treat all water on site.
- Healthy and beautiful.

Living buildings give more than they take, creating a positive impact on the human and natural systems that interact with them.

## THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE HAS TWO CORE RULES

1. All Imperatives assigned to a Typology are mandatory.
2. Living Building Challenge certification requires actual, rather than anticipated, performance demonstrated over twelve consecutive months.

## Petals & Imperatives

The Living Building Challenge is organized into seven performance areas called Petals. Each Petal is further sub-divided into Imperatives, which address specific issues through detailed requirements.

### SUMMARY MATRIX

The 20 Imperatives of the Living Building Challenge: Follow down the column associated with each Typology to see which Imperatives apply.

 Imperative omitted from Typology  Solutions beyond project footprint are permissible

	LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE 3.1			
	BUILDINGS	RENOVATIONS	LANDSCAPE + INFRASTRUCTURE	
PLACE				01. LIMITS TO GROWTH
	SCALE JUMPING		SCALE JUMPING	02. URBAN AGRICULTURE
			SCALE JUMPING	03. HABITAT EXCHANGE
				04. HUMAN-POWERED LIVING
WATER			SCALE JUMPING	05. NET POSITIVE WATER
ENERGY			SCALE JUMPING	06. NET POSITIVE ENERGY
HEALTH + HAPPINESS				07. CIVILIZED ENVIRONMENT
				08. HEALTHY INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT
				09. BIOPHILIC ENVIRONMENT
MATERIALS				10. RED LIST
			SCALE JUMPING	11. EMBODIED CARBON FOOTPRINT
				12. RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY
				13. LIVING ECONOMY SOURCING
				14. NET POSITIVE WASTE
EQUITY				15. HUMAN SCALE + HUMANE PLACES
				16. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO NATURE + PLACE
			SCALE JUMPING	17. EQUITABLE INVESTMENT
BEAUTY				18. JUST ORGANIZATIONS
				19. BEAUTY + SPIRIT
				20. INSPIRATION + EDUCATION

### SCALE JUMPING

The Living Building Challenge recognizes the ideal scale for solutions is not always within a property boundary. To address that reality the LBC has a Scale Jumping overlay to allow cooperation between projects and their neighbors.

### Who builds Living Buildings?

We work with people from around the world who want to create healthy, efficient, ecologically restorative spaces for their community. There are hundreds of registered projects around the world representing millions of square feet of commercial, institutional, educational and residential construction.



- architects
- engineers
- planners
- developers
- designers
- homeowners

## Registered & Certified Project Map

The Living Building Challenge is for anyone who wants to invest in a healthy and sustainable future. Browse the registered and certified buildings around the globe. Projects range from single-family homes to large offices and commercial spaces.

[+ Certified Project Case Studies](#)

## Why Certify?

### PROVEN PERFORMANCE

Third-party auditors verify each project is meeting the highest sustainability metrics based on a twelve-month performance period.

### EARNED RECOGNITION

Living Buildings are among the healthiest and most efficient in the world. We want to tell your story; allow us to shine a spotlight on your certified project.

### INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Living Buildings are resilient, self-sufficient systems that provide energy security for decades to come. They are teaching tools and sources of inspiration.

“The Living Building Challenge continues to encourage me to raise the bar for design while enjoying and protecting the natural world.” -Project Team Member

## **CATALYZE CHANGE**

We don't provide a checklist of best practices.

The Living Building Challenge encourages teams to think holistically to find solutions that tackle multiple issues at once. For example:

- A water system's power needs must factor into the energy budget;
- Materials must be non-toxic and low impact to satisfy the demands of the Materials Petal;
- Projects must integrate local culture, biophilic elements and beauty in order to foster community and natural connections.

The program outlines a design framework that promotes the highest standard of sustainability for the built environment. Rather than a checklist of current best practices, the LBC includes a series of performance goals empowering project teams to find creative design solutions.