



SPG ARCHITECTS | SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

213 west 35 street #1300
 new york new york 10001
 tel 212 366 5500
www.spgarchitects.com

[SPG]
 architects



FIRM PROFILE

SPG Architects is a full-service award-winning architecture firm currently led by Eric Gartner. SPG provides a comprehensive range of design services and has worked with clients on a broad array of architecture and design projects. Our work includes projects of varying scales and character, with a range of regional, national, and international projects that include single- and multi-family residences, retail environments, corporate interiors, and institutional and hospitality buildings and spaces.

Corporate clients have included a wide range of fashion and design companies, as well as traditional and new media companies. Residences include numerous co-op and condominium apartments, urban townhouses, second homes, free-standing houses, and residential compounds throughout the United States and Latin America. Although the clients are diverse, they are united in their desire for architecture that is well conceived and well executed by a team of thoughtful and energetic design professionals.

Working in the modernist tradition, SPG employs a sense of "critical regionalism" to what originated as an International Style of forward looking architecture. This approach applies sustainable solutions and locally relevant construction technologies and materials to create unique client and site driven solutions.

SPG Architects' approach to design allows for the various functions of a space to be organized and expressed, while eliminating the cacophony of the untended environment. Architectural ideas are drawn from the project site and the client's needs and desires. These are then expressed through manipulations of form and light. An interest in up-to-date building technologies, natural and man-made construction materials, and a constantly developing approach to sustainable design strategies further inform our designs. SPG's work clearly presents a visual consistency based on human proportions, the exploration of light, and the judicious use of materials that provide singular tactile, visual, spatial and temporal experiences.



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT LEED ACCREDITATION

The various environments in which SPG Architects' projects are located require a commitment to understanding how to employ material and energy resources to their maximum end use and efficiency in order to limit the impact of our built work on the environment, and an understanding of local climates is required in order to properly orient and situate projects in what are often unique and beautiful locations.

SPG's projects use a range of alternative energy sources in lieu of carbon producing fossil fuels, including geo-thermal systems, solar energy, and hydropower. These alternative energy sources, used in combination with Low-E glass, the exploitation of daylight and natural ventilation, and the responsible use of building insulation greatly reduce the carbon footprint of our built work. Thoughtful use of material and equipment specifications, sensitivity to landforms and building exposures, the reclamation of rainwater, and the knowledgeable use of roofing systems all contribute to SPG's approach to sustainability.

Healthy interiors are also a priority, and SPG specifies natural materials and finishes to create hypoallergenic and low-VOC environments. The connection of interiors to the natural environment, whether landscape or sky, is of critical importance to our work, and broad expanses of well-considered and judiciously located windows and skylights create the connection to nature that people yearn. Additionally, interior and exterior spaces are woven together so that a sense of spatial expansiveness is achieved.

Together with the engaged interest of our clients and contractors, SPG is unwavering in our commitment to high standards of environmental consciousness and resilient design, for both individual buildings and our communities. The company maintains affiliations with a variety of socially and environmentally responsible organizations, and Eric Gartner maintains LEED accreditation, reflecting our commitment to energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive design.

As part of the firm's AIA 2030 Commitment, SPG Architects has also developed this Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). This SAP serves as a framework for quantifying carbon reduction goals and for making environmentally sound material choices, using clean energy, and maximizing the efficiency of building systems as is appropriate to local environments and micro-climates. It reinforces our commitment to resilient, low-impact design and provides a clear roadmap for integrating sustainable practices across all of our projects.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT + ASSESSMENT



ENERGY



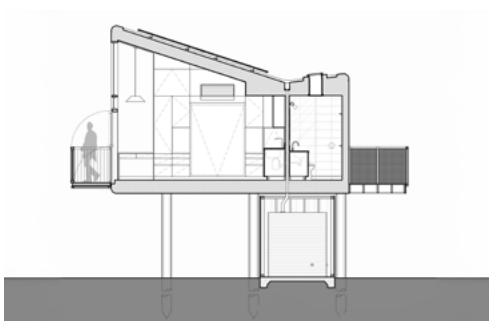
SPG Architects prioritizes reducing operational carbon by adopting a passive-first design strategy, which includes careful building orientation, maximizing natural daylight and ventilation, and selecting high-performance glazing and insulation. These strategies are paired with efficient mechanical systems to further cut energy demand. The firm actively promotes renewable energy over fossil fuel dependency, incorporating solar panels, geothermal systems, and all electric building systems whenever possible. A strong example is the off-the-grid Casa Torcida House in Costa Rica, which combines solar energy with a micro-hydropower backup system while leveraging the site's natural climate for passive cooling.



MATERIALS, INDOOR HEALTH



Healthy interiors are a core environmental priority at SPG Architects. The firm emphasizes the use of low- and no-VOC materials to maintain indoor air quality, while also prioritizing natural finishes that promote occupant well-being. This approach extends across their residential and hospitality projects, where material selection is guided by LEED standards and sustainability benchmarks. By integrating environmentally responsible materials without sacrificing design aesthetics, SPG ensures that each project reflects both ecological stewardship and occupant health.



SITE RESPONSIVE – Water & Climate



SPG Architects integrates water management and resilience into every project. Strategies include rainwater reclamation, storage, stormwater control, and site-sensitive planning to protect ecosystems and optimize building performance. In flood-prone or coastal areas, adaptive measures like elevated structures and modular construction enhance durability against climate risks. Projects such as the Coastal Modular House and Elevated Microhome exemplify this approach, balancing water stewardship, environmental sensitivity, and long-term resilience.



COMMUNITY



The firm engages in projects that foster local economic development and cultural preservation, often through partnerships with nonprofit organizations. One notable effort is the Kageno Eco-Tourism Project in Rwanda, which provides sustainable lodging that supports conservation efforts and generates employment for local communities. This project, along with others in SPG's portfolio, demonstrates how design can serve as a tool for social equity and long-term community resilience. The firm also prioritizes historic preservation and adaptive building reuse, recognizing these strategies as key to maximizing resource management and reducing environmental impact.

PRACTICE



INTERNAL



Current

- **Waste Reduction** Adopt digital-first workflows to minimize paper use; implement recycling and composting programs.
- **Reduce Office Carbon Footprint** Implement energy-efficient lighting, HVAC, and equipment; prioritize renewable energy for office operations.
- **Staff Education** Provide ongoing sustainability insights and up-to-date understanding of environmental stewardship.

Future

- **Adopt Sustainability Culture** Embed into firm values and daily practices, making it part of onboarding and annual reviews.
- **Education on DDX & Performance Tracking** Train all staff on AIA 2030 DDX standards



DESIGN PROCESS



Current

- **Material Selectivity** Specify low-carbon, recycled, and non-toxic materials; prioritize local sourcing
- **Water Efficiency** Integrate strategies like rainwater harvesting and low-flow fixtures.
- **Client Engagement** Educate clients about long-term benefits of sustainable strategies; provide comparative cost/impact studies.

Future

- **Alignment with AIA 2030 Commitment** Bring projects closer to the goals outlined in the AIA 2030 Commitment
- **Standardize Sustainability** Develop internal checklists to ensure sustainability goals are addressed at each design phase



CONSTRUCTION



Current

- **Waste Management Plans** Require contractors to recycle/reuse construction waste and track diversion rates.
- **Low-Impact Construction Practices** Encourage off-site prefabrication, modular solutions, and minimal site disturbance.
- **Indoor Air Quality** Specify and enforce low-VOC materials and finishes during construction.

Future

- **Material Circularity** Establish partnerships with material reuse networks
- **On-Site Sustainability Standards** Develop a firm-wide construction sustainability protocol for contractors and subs



COMMUNITY



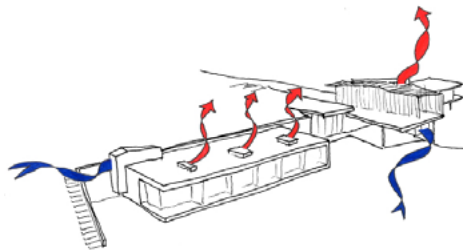
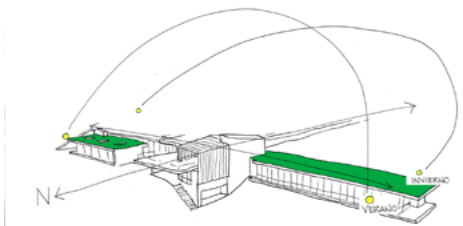
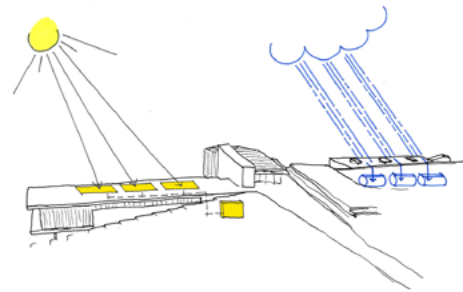
Current

- **Social Sustainability** Engage with community stakeholders during design; integrate local materials and labor where possible
- **Advocacy** Support policies that promote green building and resilience at city and regional levels

Future

- **Annual Sustainability Reporting** Report annually through platforms in AIA 2030 DDX.
- **Community Education** Join workshops or partner with local organizations to promote sustainable practices beyond the firm

METHODOLOGY



CLIENT COMMUNICATION



Communication

- Introduce clients to **total cost of ownership** rather than first-cost only
- Provide comparison information showing reductions in energy use, carbon emissions, or water use
- Use tools like **AIA DDx**, **Zero Tool**, or **Energy Star**, so that clients can see and report progress in clear, data-driven terms.

Client Benefit

Financial & Economics

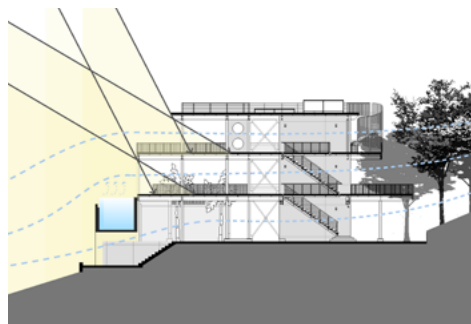
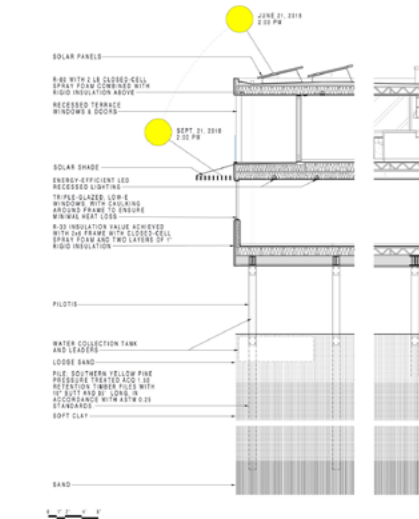
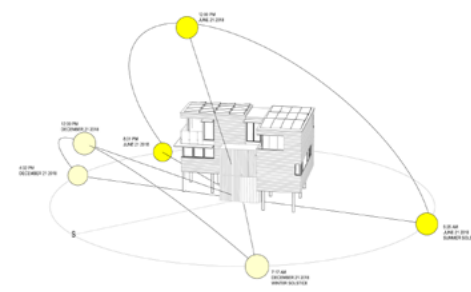
- **Operational Savings** Energy- and water-efficient design translates to significant long-term utility savings.
- **Incentives & Tax Credits** Many municipalities, utilities, and federal programs offer rebates for energy efficiency, renewables, or low-carbon design.
- **Resale & Asset Value** Sustainable buildings are increasingly marketable and can command higher lease or sale values

Resilience

- **Asset Protection & Long-Term Value** Protects property value and reduces costly post-disaster repairs.
- In high-risk zones (floodplain, wildfire, coastal), resilience features can be the difference between affordable coverage and no coverage

Comfort

- **Asset Protection & Long-Term Value** Healthier spaces reduce sick days, increase productivity (especially in workplaces or schools)
- **Enhanced Comfort** Better daylight, thermal comfort, and acoustics lead to more pleasant environments.



WORKFLOW



Early Design Phase

- Use Metric/data tools to set project-specific energy/carbon baselines and targets.

Design Development

- Track material/product choices in data tools and update client with progress visuals
- Refine energy estimates using available energy models.

Documentation & Reporting

- Document results in AIA DDx.
- Share a 1-page Sustainability Summary for each project: energy target, carbon footprint, water use, and cost implications.

Post-Occupancy

- Encourage clients to use Energy Star Portfolio Manager or their own evaluation regarding on-going energy usage
- Collect feedback and integrate into future SAP reporting when possible.

METRIC/DATA TOOLS



- **HERS Index (Residential Projects)**

A numerical score - 100 = code-built home, 0 = net-zero.

Steps to provide data:

1. Engage a certified HERS rater (often through RESNET).
2. Rater models the design using approved software (REM/Rate, Ekotrope, etc.).
3. Client receives an official HERS report with the score and breakdown of energy savings.

- **EUI (Energy Use Intensity, kBtu/sf/yr)**

Annual energy consumption per square foot. Core AIA 2030 metric.

Steps to provide data:

1. Estimate/project energy use with early energy modeling (free tools like Zero Tool or software like eQuest/IES/Insight if available).
2. Enter project info into Zero Tool to:
 - Get baseline (typical code-minimum EUI for your building type & region).
 - Get AIA 2030 target EUI (70–80% reduction target depending on year).
3. Calculate your design's projected EUI (from model or utility estimates)

- **ENERGY STAR Score**

1–100 percentile score; 75+ can earn ENERGY STAR certification

Steps to provide data:

1. Enter into Energy Star Portfolio Manager
2. Software benchmarks against national database and generates a score.

- **LEED Points**

- Credit-based rating systems for environmental and health performance
- Use current LEED system as a guideline to advance projects for environmental baseline beyond current code in an array of conservation categories and sustainability.
- Collect building data: size, use type, occupancy, utility bills.

Steps to provide data:

1. At design phase, create a scorecard matrix for applicable credits
2. Track which credits are achievable (use free LEED checklists, WELL/Fitwel scorecards).
3. Update client with projected certification level (Certified/Silver/Gold/Platinum).

- **EC3 Tool (Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator)**

Free tool for comparing material-specific carbon impacts, great for early-stage material selection conversations.

