

# Creating Green Interiors

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David Gulyas ASID LEED AP

# Agenda

- I. What is Green Design?
- II. Interior Design in Transition
- III. Areas of Focus for Interior Designers
- IV. Sources of Green Materials

*“Our houses are such unwieldy property that we are often imprisoned rather than housed in them.” --Henry David Thoreau*



## **The Goal**

**Our goal is a sustainable, zero waste, healthy environment that uses energy and material flows responsibly, without compromising the needs of future generations**

# I. What is “Green Design”?

- Green = Sustainable
- Life Cycle Analysis:
  - ✓ Materials and chemistry used (natural, sustainable, non-toxic)
  - ✓ How products are manufactured (disassembled, recycled?)
  - ✓ Embedded energy in production and throughout life, including transportation
  - ✓ End of life: Part of a closed loop supply chain or down-cycled, “monstrous hybrid”?

# ***Cradle to Cradle***

Materials are made and assembled so they can be separated and returned to the soil or industry; polymers and metals recovered and recycled at the same quality or better, for reuse in generation after generation, produced with energy derived from the sun, and producing no pollution.

## II. Interior Design in Transition

- We uncover the hidden narrative of the materials and selections that become choices for homes and offices
- We become vital agents in transforming industries and creating healthy, sustainable environments

# ASID and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Collaboration



**REGREEN**  
ASID & USGBC

Residential Remodeling  
Guidelines

REGREEN GUIDELINES 2008

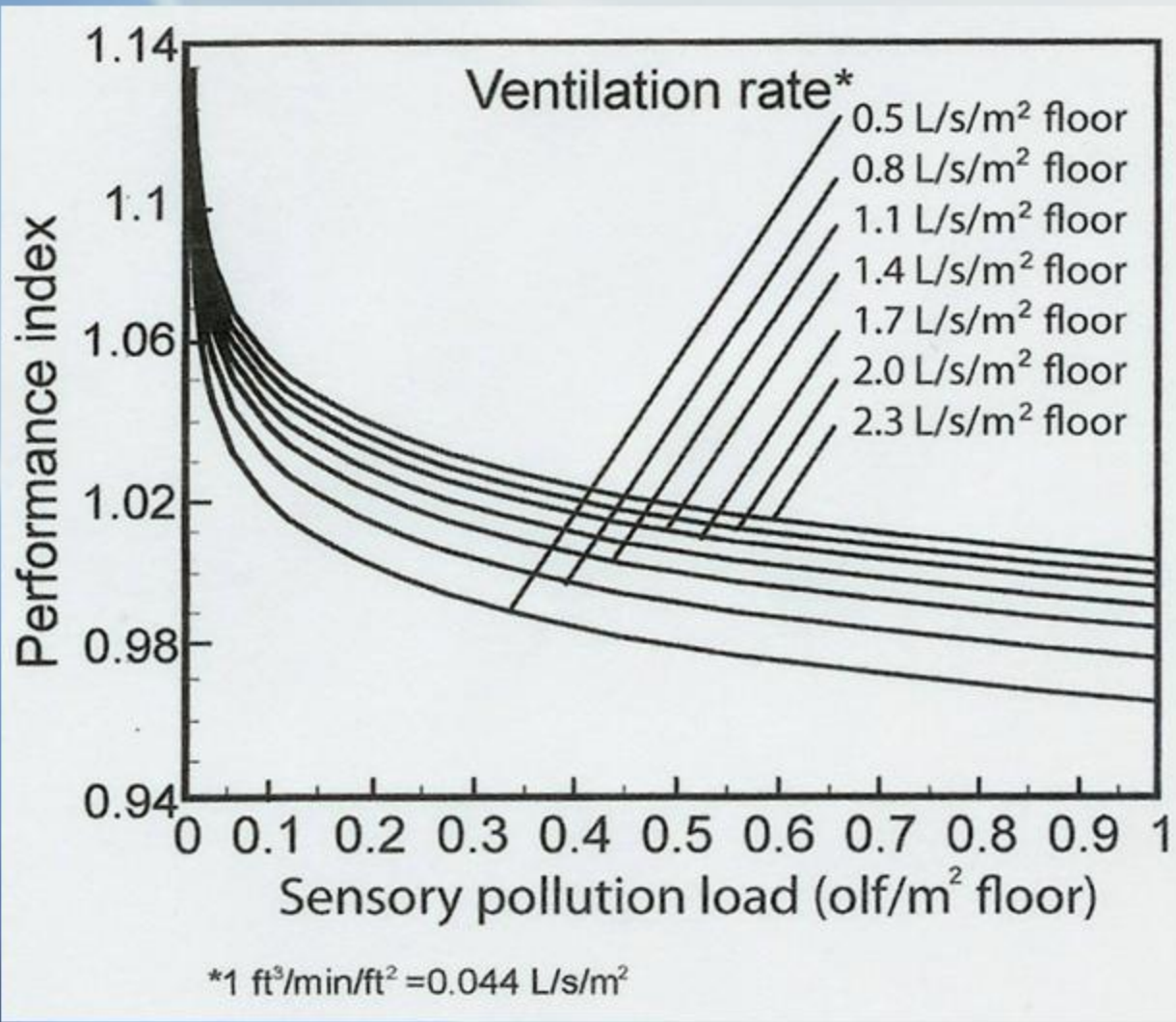
[www.regreenprogram.org/](http://www.regreenprogram.org/)

# **III. Areas of Focus for Interior Designers**

- Indoor air quality
- Water conservation
- Materials and product selection

# Indoor Air Quality

- Occupants: disease, odors, CO<sub>2</sub>
- Activities: cleaning, pest control products, fragrances, smoking
- Technology: photocopiers, computers, peripherals
- Furnishings: furniture, draperies, floor coverings
- Finishes: paints, wall coverings
- Building Materials: caulks, adhesives, wood cores
- HVAC: poorly designed and contaminated air-handling

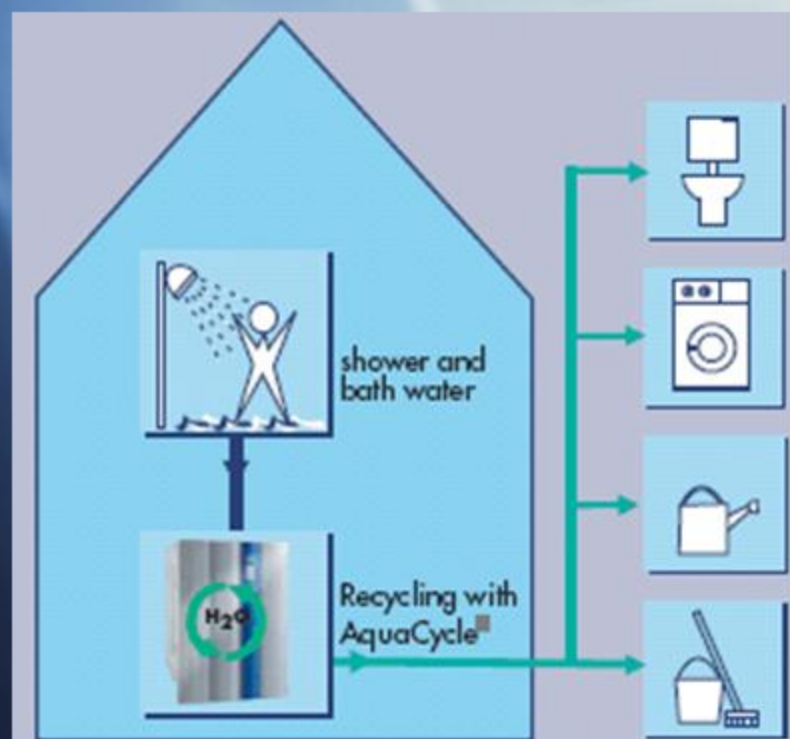


# Water

- Residential water use per day per person 60 - 70 gal.
- 50% - 75% water use in bathroom.
- Average faucet: .5 - 5 gallons / min.
- Faucet aerators reduce flow by one gallon.
- Standard showerheads use 4 - 7 gal / min.
- Low flow showerheads use 2.5 or less gal / min.
- Dishwasher uses 5 - 15 gal / per load

# Water Conservation for I.D.

- Low flow or reducers on faucets & showerheads.
- Ultra low or dual flush toilets
- Energy Star laundry and dishwashers
- In-line water filters
- Hot water on demand systems
- Touchless fixtures (commercial)
- Gray water and rain reclamation systems



# Product Selection

## Criteria:

- Salvaged, recycled, agricultural waste content
- Resource conservation, emphasizing local materials
- Low or zero emitting
- Reduce energy and water consumption
- Contribute to safe & healthy indoor environmental quality

# Ideal world:

## We would ask:

- Where does it come from?
- Where will it go?



But the decisions are much more complex and involve tradeoffs

# Fixed Finishes: the Tradeoffs

- Concrete
- Metals
- Wood/wood finishes

# Fixed Finishes

- Flooring

- Bamboo
- Cork
- Wood/wood substitutes
- Ceramics
- Linoleum/vinyl
- Biocomposites

- Carpeting

- Paint

## **IV. Sources of Green Materials and Products**

# Eco Labels

## Single Attribute:

- EnergyStar -- energy
- GreenGuard -- IEQ, emissions
- Indoor Advantage -- emissions (SCS)
- FSC



## Multi-Attribute (Holistic)

- EcoLogo (formerly Environmental Choice)
- GreenSeal
- Smart Building Product Standard (MTS)
- Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard (NSF-CRI)
- Sustainable Choice (SCS)



# Green product directories

- The Green Standard  
[www.thegreenstandard.org](http://www.thegreenstandard.org)
- GreenSpec -- Environmental Building  
News Product Directory
- OIKOS [www.oikos.com/](http://www.oikos.com/)
- Ecolect [www.ecolect.net/](http://www.ecolect.net/)
- Sustainable Furniture Council  
<http://www.sustainablefurniturecouncil.org/>

And more

# Local Sources

- Chicago Center for Green Technology Resource Center
- Greenmaker Supply
- Green Home Experts (Oak Park)
- Merchandise Mart

# Some exciting new developments

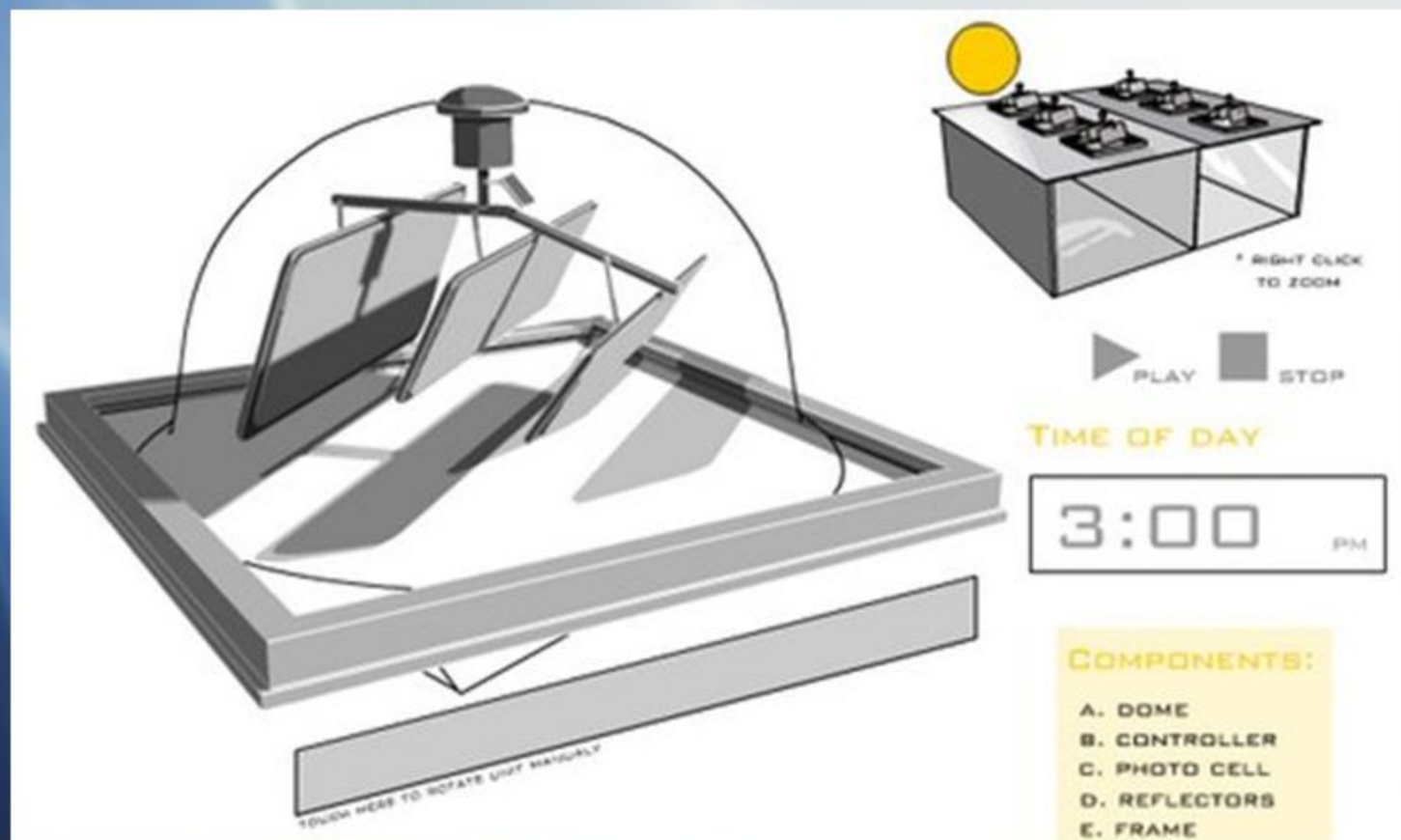


[Maharam](#) and [Knoll](#) textiles,  
natural latex or feather/down  
filling and wood certified by the  
[Forest Stewardship Council](#)  
[viesso.com](#)



Recycled polyester or organic wool  
fabric (in lots of different colors),  
FSC-certified hardwoods  
[Greenerlifestyles.com](#)

# Some exciting new developments



"Solar Tracking Skylights consist of highly reflective mirror panels within a clear plastic enclosure, which move continuously to follow the sun's position in the sky."

# Some exciting new developments

Renaissance lighting LED fixtures



***“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” --John Muir***

# Thank You

David Gulyas ASID, LEED AP

[Davidgulyas@comcast.net](mailto:Davidgulyas@comcast.net)

812.340-4256

[www.davidgulyas.com](http://www.davidgulyas.com)