

Roundtable

Galford 7 April 2006

What is sustainability?

Why is there a need for sustainable design? Why now?

A quick history

Ten Shades of Green,

Peter Buchanan, The Architectural League of New York, 2000

Ten Shades Point 4, Embodied Energy

Ten Shades Point 5, Long Life, Loose Fit

Summary Questions

- Does the sustainable value of building outweigh its aesthetic value? If the choice were ugly/sustainable or sublime/wasteful, what would you choose?
- LEED is a means to measure compliance with sustainable principles for the purpose of bestowing status on a building. Is it necessary? Should an architect be designing with these principles in mind anyway? (Wright)
- Is 'sustainability' a style or a fad? Prior to the advent of artificial lighting and air conditioning (Mr. Carrier has had as much impact as Mr. Otis), aren't we discussing vernacular principles? Is there anything new here under the sun?
- Do these ideas/principles infringe too much on the architect? Do they enable the architect?
- Is this discussion relevant to you as an architect? Why/Why not?