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CISL

Cambridge Institute
for Sustainability
Leadership



Circular Practices and The Entopia Building

1939 - 2022



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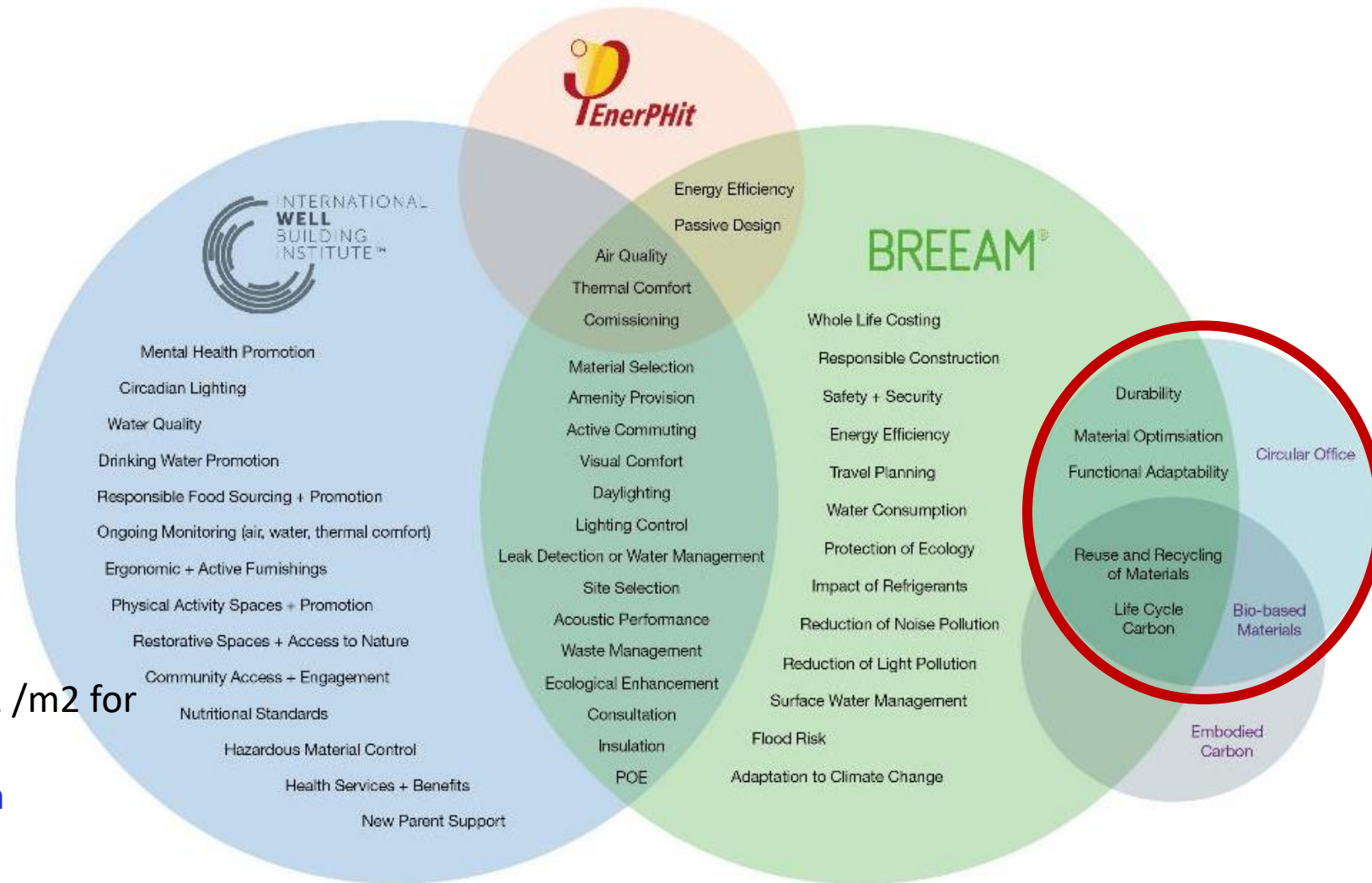
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The brief

Set standards from the start...



Targets in the final brief:

- BREEAM Outstanding.
- EnerPHit Classic.
- WELL Gold.
- Low embodied carbon (target < 300kg CO₂ /m² for 100-year life).
- Targeting 70% of bio-based materials, with responsible sourcing and traceability.
- Use of recycled and reclaimed materials, emphasising Circular Economy principles as much as possible.

Entopia in numbers



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£12.69m

Total project cost

48%

Bio-based materials
incorporated by
volume

21,000kg

of CO₂e saved
through reclaimed
materials such as the
PV rooftop canopy,
lighting and furniture,
fixtures and equipment

£1m

enhancement of external
building envelope

350

recycled
LED lights



£4,250

Project cost per sqm
(£395 per sq ft)

84%

carbon saved per m2 of GIA
compared to a standard office fit out.
(6,340kgCO₂e/m² GIA over 100 years)

£0.5m

spent on triple-glazed windows to
improve insulation and airtightness,
control solar heat gain and maximise
daylight

2,986m²

renovated space for CISL staff

1

Reception
desk recycled
from Netflix



409kg CO₂e/m²

Whole life embodied carbon of
refurbished building, including
in-use and end of life carbon,
over 100-year building life (Stage
5 construction stage assessment)

62,332kg CO₂e

avoided in construction materials

Diverted
from landfill

21,648kg

19,380kg

Donated
to the community

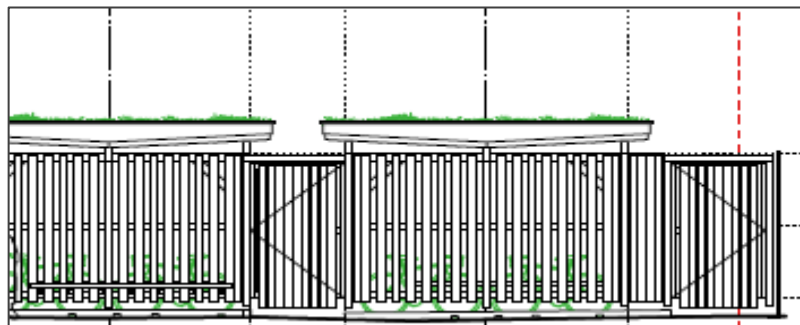
£100,225

£52,182

furniture

construction materials





- Is it really needed?
- Embed in contractor brief
- No practical standards or certification scheme currently exists
- Design stage crucial in reducing embodied carbon.
- Fully engaged project team critical
- Supply chain ID materials for reuse
- Engagement wider circular economy network
- 1st reclaim materials from the original building
- 2nd reuse materials/furniture from other buildings
- Data quality varies and is needed to assess decisions.
- Storage of recovered materials a challenge and market gap.

Project charter:

1. Achieving the highest design quality
2. Recognise the potential of the project to be a global sustainable retrofit exemplar
3. Collaborative design process that both embodies CISL's values and exhibits their work
4. Work ethically, honestly and fairly, valuing the contributions of all
5. Be open to challenging the design and having the design challenged with freedom to innovate
6. Celebrate success and the input of the whole team
7. Lead by example, strive for consistency of behaviour in upholding the project values

- Embed in project brief – post-design too late
- Culture change – training and engagement of work force
- Create a circular construction market-place within Greater Cambridge



Find out more:

www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/entopia-building

www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/innovation/living-lab

www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/building-change

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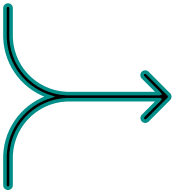
Lessons learnt



Be ambitious



Challenge norms



Stay committed



Continue learning



Influence others to
change



Nobody is perfect