

# Eco-Effective Design and Evidence-Based Design: Removing Barriers to Integration

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## Abstract

Eco-effective design and evidence-based design are two powerful trends currently shaping healthcare architecture. Eco-effective design, similarly known as sustainable design, addresses the design and operation of buildings to support improved ecological health and indoor environmental quality. Evidencebased design addresses the design and operation of buildings to support positive health outcomes in the built environment through a growing collection of solutions informed by research and practical knowledge (Hamilton, 2003). Although both trends have had a significant impact on recent healthcare architecture, they are generally executed separately and are considered by many be at odds with one another (Boehland, 2005) (Guenther, 2006) (Harvie, 2006). This study will begin to bridge the perceived gap between both goals by proposing a structure through which design teams can effectively and simultaneously integrate them into the design process. The lessons learned will extend beyond healthcare architecture; the perceived eco-effective design/evidence-based design conflict is representative of challenges facing integrating sustainability into other types of projects.