ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Architectural Research Group conducts research on how the physical configuration of the built environment affects its efficiency, economy, and usefulness in satisfying the functional needs of organizations and the habitability needs of individuals.

Research programs of the Architectural Research Group have a wide scope. They range in scale from studies of the building site through the building's three-dimensional form to components of the building shell or interior environment. The Group's research produces information that is useful in efforts to reduce cost, increase energy and other operating efficiencies, improve the useability and habitability of spaces, and increase the effectiveness of the design process itself through better information management and design procedures. The research seeks to improve design practice by better characterization of what is desired in a building project; by developing design measures that will help predict what is desired; and by developing effective techniques for incorporating, in future designs, the evaluations of how completed buildings perform.

Specific subjects of research include site planning for energy efficiency, cost reduction, and improved site useability; building configuration for energy conservation and solar energy utilization; movement of pedestrians within buildings and requirements for building circulation systems; requirements for interior space; requirements for privacy; occupant perception of environmental quality; and improvement of the architectural design process through wider use of knowledge-based predictive methods.

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