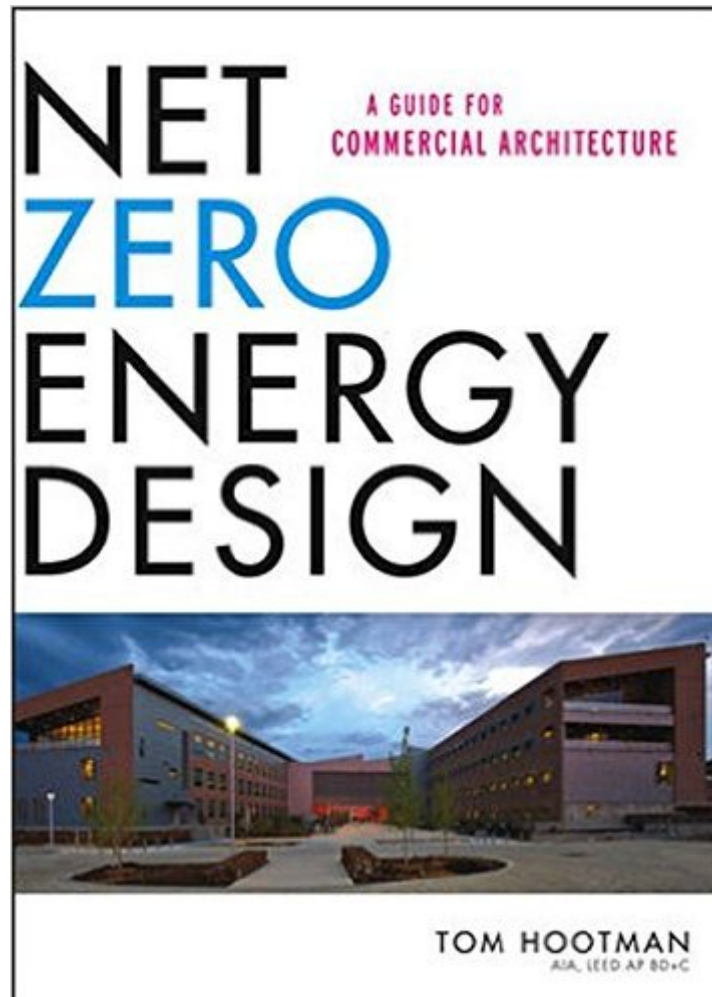


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Net Zero Energy Design: A Guide For Commercial Architecture



Synopsis

Conveniently organized and packed with robust technical content and clear explanations of key principles Written by an architect who is the director of sustainability at a global architecture firm, Net Zero Energy Design is a practical guide for architects and related construction professionals who want to design and build net zero energy commercial architecture. It offers no-nonsense strategies, step-by-step technical analysis, and valuable examples, in addition to developed case studies. With a focus on application in a variety of building types and scales, the book also develops a broad-based understanding of all the integrated principles involved in achieving net zero energy. This book is an indispensable resource for anyone venturing into net zero energy design, construction, and operation, and it also serves as an excellent resource on a variety of sustainable design topics. Important features include: Organization based upon the commercial building delivery process Robust technical content for use in actual project applications Analysis examples that demonstrate key technical principles Plenty of design data for use as a valuable design resource Abundant and sophisticated information graphics and color illustrations and photographs A distinct design focus on the content that inspires adoption of principles into projects

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Customer Reviews

This book is a good starting point for someone just starting to dip their toe in the topic of energy efficient design, and an excellent snapshot of a point in time in the pursuit and promotion of net zero design. It packs in a huge number of topics, which is both a positive and a negative. As a jumping

off point, to make the reader aware of many different technologies and strategies, this is an excellent resource. Where it's not so great is on any in-depth investigation of any of those technologies. It's a little bit scatter-shot in its approach. For instance in the chapter introducing energy efficient building systems it jumps ahead to a fairly involved discussion of DC micro-grids early in the chapter, long before it covers the basics of conventional systems. In using this in a teaching situation I found that the students needed a lot of additional basic information in order to understand what a DC micro-grid is, and what the conventional technology is, in order to understand why this would be beneficial. On the other hand, when covering the material of this book with an audience mostly made up of seasoned design professionals a great deal of the material was received as old-hat and very cursory. So it's difficult to pin-point who exactly this book is geared toward. It might be useful for young professionals with an architecture or engineering education but little experience - especially those studying for licensing exams. It also might be a good review for those who are a few years out of touch with the latest green technologies - although at this point this book is already a little long in the tooth on that front.

This book covers all aspects of net-zero energy building design. The book stresses process and integration (systems thinking) over any particular solution. Thus, rather than a reference book in which one would look up specific information, I think the book is best read from cover to cover. It would be a good textbook for an architecture or architectural engineering class. By working through the entire book a reader would come across some gems. One such gem is that sustainable buildings should be beautiful, because beauty is cherished by building owners and coveted by competitors. Another idea is that it is not only design, or attention to detail in construction, but equally operation of the building that makes it net zero. As an architect himself, the author has put the same care into the book as he would into a building: it is organized, well-written, and rich in photographs and graphics. The book has very few quantitative equations, but all of the technical issues regarding envelope, lighting and mechanical systems are included and explored in considerable detail. The book will interest and inform practitioners, but I think that educators will find it useful too because it defines terms and builds concepts from the ground up. The book would introduce a newcomer to the field to the details of the process by which net zero energy buildings are delivered, the details of procedures and systems to accomplish that, and it provides a really good overview of what organizations are active in this area and what each one is contributing. Although touched upon among the different definitions of net-zero, I think the discussion of Energy Systems Integration is lacking, and being the measures required for the net •

part of a net zero.

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