

Sustainable Architectural Design **by Dana Ailer**

The notion of sustainable design has been gaining popularity over the last decade as ecologically conscious products become less expensive and more readily available. Founded in 1993, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) <http://www.usgbc.org> has provided guidance to developers and architects in finding the most effective sustainable methods and products. USGBC's LEED green building certification system <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19> has become the standard measure of effective sustainable design and is used by federal and local governments to provide tax incentives for building owners who incorporate sustainable design into construction, operations, and maintenance decisions.

Building owners and developers look to architecture design firms such as Architura to find the best products and solutions for their individual green building design. Products which have low up-front costs and provide long term energy cost savings help earn LEED points.

Koreteck <http://www.koreteck.com/> is one such product. This monolithic wall system provides insulation R-values well above those of standard walls. Due to speed of installation and immediate return on investment in significantly reduced energy costs, Koreteck has proved particularly valuable to various retail markets, including auto dealerships and grocery stores. Koreteck buildings are already a part of Indiana architecture with multiple buildings in the Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne areas.

Another place owners can gain big energy cost savings is in the windows of a building. Serious Windows <http://www.seriouswindows.com/index.html> is the industry leader in insulating glass, and their products can significantly lower heating and cooling costs by reducing the amount of heating and cooling lost through windows.