

Cascadia USGBC Living Building Financial Study

PORTLAND, OREGON

Services

Mechanical
Plumbing
Sustainable Design
Energy Services

FAST FACTS

Architect

SERA Architects

Developer

Gerding Edlen Development

Contractor

Skanska

Completion

February 2009

Contact

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Interface recently collaborated with Gerding Edlen Development, SERA Architects and the Cascadia Region Green Building Council on the Living Building Financial Study, a reference document on the cost of living buildings in various climates. The Study provides pricing information and building strategies for nine building types and four climate zones compared to a set of reference buildings that have all achieved, or are pursuing, LEED gold certification.

The study looked at the cost of living buildings and described the added value. **The team was challenged with going beyond the LEED platinum level** by looking at ways to make the sites, energy usage,

building materials and water usage coordinate to **create zero-energy buildings.**

What the team learned was that Living Buildings can be built cost effectively in today's market driven economy given the rising costs of energy and water.

The premiums for many building types are significantly lower than what many would have expected for an energy and water independent structure. The degree of cost effectiveness depends on three factors: climate, building use and scale. The study also found that two additional factors, the availability of incentives and the costs of energy and water, can affect the economic competitiveness.

Graphic: Gerding Edlen Development

