Sustainable Built Environment

The built environment is a complex system that shapes enormous resource flows (*i.e.*, material, energy, labor and economic investments) and impacts the natural environment for decades, if not centuries. If one considers typical design, construction and maintenance practices used today, the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment is not sustainable. Here, we propose that new, multidisciplinary approaches must be applied to the design, construction, maintenance and re-use of the built environment to make it more sustainable and dramatically reduce its carbon footprint. The sooner we make an investment in sustainable building practices, the faster we will make progress toward a truly sustainable future. The College of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), the Architecture program in TCAUP and SNRE have teamed together to build an initiative focused on Sustainable Built Environment; this effort will be accelerated and catalyzed by hiring three interdisciplinary junior faculty across the participating units: Sustainable Civil Infrastructure Systems (CEE); Sustainable Building Environments (TCAUP); and Ecological Assessment and Design (SNRE).