



2030 challenge

sustainability action plan

HISTORY

SHCA has been in continuous practice since 1906. Early works include private townhouses and office buildings for great names of that period. In the 1920's the firm added larger scale commercial commissions to their ever-expanding portfolio, including lasting examples of Art Deco architecture. SHCA then established an international practice and also began work in the public sector. From 1955 – 1975 the firm led the establishment of interior design as a professional industry. SHCA's interest and success in the business of historic preservation became keenly evident as well. The Firm then opened an office in Miami in 1985 and started to receive major New York architectural commissions. SHCA also opened its doors in the UK, establishing itself as a top design firm in the London market. Between 1995 and 2005, SHCA broadened its areas of practice, adding workplace consulting and healthcare design to its portfolio of expertise. Continuing its global expansion, offices have now opened in Istanbul, Paris, Shanghai and Moscow. As a result, major new commissions and the range of building types continues to expand.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that design can inspire positive change and transform the environment for the benefit of our clients and the wider population. Based on over 100 years of insight and experience, SHCA seamlessly integrates interior and architectural design practice with master planning and historic preservation. We work across a broad spectrum of project types and scales, helping clients envision and construct a future that is innovative, sustainable, and beautiful.

Successful projects celebrate the resolution of the natural tension between a building's physical constraints and a project's goals and objectives. By designing from both the "outside in" and the "inside out" our interior and architectural design skills naturally reinforce each other and enables our building designs to deliver the required internal functionality.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SHCA aspires to the highest level of design quality, coupled with care and concern for our staff, the communities in which we live and work, and our shared planet. Our corporate social responsibility policy is at the heart of this - an integrated ethical approach which embraces three primary areas:

- sustainability of design - a clear focus on 'green' design is applied to each project;
- impact as a business on the environment and staff wellbeing - significant reductions in carbon footprint and improvements in workplace quality have been achieved in recent years, with more targeted;
- engagement with the local community - SHCA and our staff regularly donate funds, professional expertise and personal time to a variety of philanthropic and design industry organizations around the globe.



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SUSTAINABILITY of DESIGN

Sustainability is essential to our design philosophy and is integrated with our thinking from the start of any project. We are determined that the highest standards of excellence are developed in our approach to energy and environmental management. We see this as a key component in achieving the goals we have set ourselves, as part of a socially responsible approach to our business. This process can include:

General Project Standards

- discussions with all potential clients on sustainability as it applies to their project.
- inclusion of sustainable design in all projects consistent with client's vision.
- utilization of sub consultants with the same commitment to sustainable design as our own.
- inclusion of sustainable criteria throughout the design and construction process.
- an integrated design process using BIM where applicable to clarify program execution, enhance production efficiency, and support energy demand modeling.
- sustainable concept reviews at each project QA review.
- sustainable implementation reports at each submission milestone
- stay current with the latest green technologies and materials through research and education

Design Approach

- consider re-use of existing buildings and materials and flexibility for future change - minimizing use of new materials;
- consider local climatic and microclimate conditions;
- exploit daylight, natural ventilation & building form and mass to maximize microclimate benefits;
- building modeling that projects direct reductions in energy demand;
- active and passive renewable energy sources;
- integrating new projects into the urban infrastructure;
- use of energy and resource efficient materials, methods, and forms;
- question green credentials of manufacturers and suppliers;
- minimize carbon footprint and pollution impact;
- design for simplicity and user friendly buildings;
- and, most importantly, careful consideration of the well-being of the end user.

All of these responsibilities to sustainable design will be realized and approached on every project from its inception, into design and carried out through construction and post occupancy.



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BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

We are determined that the highest standards of excellence are developed in our approach to energy and environmental management. We see this as a key component in achieving the goals we have set ourselves, as part of a socially responsible approach to our business.

Our standards of operations are:

- Minimize our energy consumption and costs
- Minimize our water consumption and costs
- Minimize our waste stream
- Maximize our recycling
- Maximize our use of virtual meetings
- Maximize our use of energy efficient transportation
- Source renewable resources for all our purchases
- Include sustainable guidance in our new hire orientation
- Include sustainable criteria in our annual employee evaluations
- Increase our LEED AP staff from the current 41% to 75% within 2 years

In addition, our office location within an adaptive reuse structure constructed in 1885 and within 100 feet of 5 subway lines and 2 bus routes gives our firm and our employees a strong grounding in some of the basic concepts of sustainability.

The summation of several of the standards of operations listed above greatly impacts our business carbon footprint. Therefore, SHCA has identified major contributors to the overall carbon footprint of the offices operations, activities and procedures. SHCA identified the three most significant contributors to its carbon footprint as business travel, paper usage and in-house energy use.

Business Travel: As an international architectural design firm having offices and clients all around the world, the demand for means of air, train and car travel is high.

Paper Usage: As a design company with a major part of our deliverables being documents, we produce large quantities of drawing sets and specification books.

In-House Energy Use: With business operations in a 19th century Neo-Romanesque building, we are faced with several 'old building syndromes' including energy use efficiency and performance.

The goal here is to minimize these three contributors while not affecting the efficiency of the firms' success. SHCA has been tracking business travel, paper usage & in-house energy use for the year 2010 that has established a baseline. From this baseline, SHCA projects scenarios to reduce the impact of these contributors ultimately reducing our overall carbon footprint.

