



Modern buildings are responsible for much of the **environmental damage** occurring today. It is therefore the policy of van Dijk Architects to **promote sustainability** in the design of new and converted buildings.

Up to 70 years ago almost all building was to a large extent, green; **natural materials** were used and buildings were built using **local skills**, assembled to harmonise with the **local environment**, and requiring **little energy** to run.

Thinking **greenly** at the design stage of a project uses ‘**intelligence to displace energy**’

To that end the following actions are encouraged by van Dijk Architects:

- The promotion of **sustainability** to the entire **design team** with which we work.
- The questioning of where the building should be, what it must do and how it will evolve .
- The encouragement of dense development near **public transport** and **public infrastructure**.
- The avoidance of excessive material and energy in the building itself.
- Ensuring the appropriate application of **Insulation** which has far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. The use of Insulation at its optimum level, at least as high as the building regulations but preferably higher as this leads to really serious savings in terms of energy and in terms of emissions’,
- Promoting the **Natural Cross-flow Ventilation** and **Natural Light** in the design of commercial buildings to reduce the need for air conditioning and artificial lighting.
- The application of materials which are of a more sustainable nature – **Brick, Stone, Aluminum, Timber, Glass & recycled materials**.
- The use of **Timber Frame Construction** in developments which is renowned for its excellence in energy efficiency. Building with **wood** – milled or green is potentially the most effective building technique if sourced from a managed forest.
- The implementation of **Passive Solar Design** is the basic tried and tested bio-climatic approach to modern green building.
- The use of **Photo Voltaic & Solar Panels** that create electricity are also feasible as are **Wind Turbines**, small-scale **Hydro**, and **Biomass** systems.
- The specification of **Low Energy Fittings & Appliances** wherever possible.
- Reducing** a buildings appetite for water which can be done through installing **low flow appliances** and **minimising** the use of potable water

