Sustainability Base's orientation takes maximal advantage of the sun, wind, weather patterns, climate, and geography.

Living Light

Sustainability Base uses a "Native-to-Place" approach. Its orientation takes maximal advantage of the local sun, wind, and weather patterns, climate, and geography. The design optimizes natural lighting penetration using a narrow footprint with no interior columns to cast shadows. The maximum height of 42 inches (107 cm) for interior furnishings parallel to the windows, and the extensive use of glass enclosures for offices and other internal workspaces enhance the impact of natural lighting. The ground floor has high ceilings and the second floor has triple-glazed polycarbonate prismatic skylights supplemented with light-emitting diode (LED) bars. Overhead are both high-efficiency fluorescents and LEDs. The Lutron® interior lighting system enhances the building's energy efficiency by adjusting maximum lighting levels to optimally augment prevailing daytime seasonal sunlight. Occupancy sensors turn the lights off when not needed in the enclosed spaces. The automated shades using SolarTrac® by MechoSystems, Inc. allow the sunlight in while preventing glare and limiting additional heat load.

Not only do the windows bring sunlight in, they give the residents wonderful views. Rapidly growing vines on the building's exoskeleton blend this architectural element with the designed landscape to create integral and visually arresting elements. Residents can also use external workspaces, with wireless coverage and power outlets, so they can be productive outside, if they choose, in our comfortable California climate.