

Integrating Ideas from Building Biology

Building Biology or Bau-Biologie is “the study of the holistic relationships between humans and their built environment ... to create a healthy, natural, sustainable, and beautifully designed living and working environment, ” said Winfried Schneider, Director of the Institute of Building Biology and Sustainability.



While “healthy” and “natural” are not synonyms — for example, natural substances such as asbestos, mercury and lead are unhealthy — building biologists or bau-biologists are right in saying indoor spaces work best when viewed as a whole.

Just as biology is a science, building biology is building science, defined as the study of improving indoor environmental quality through an ecosystem lens factoring in biomimicry, physics, architecture, energy-efficiency, lighting, acoustics, HVAC and other technologies, measurement, health, comfort and satisfaction of occupants, cleaning processes, and other factors.

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