THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS: Sustainability Initiative

Qualities of Resilience

OVERARCHING QUALITIES

RISK-INFORMED SITE SELECTION: some locations and orientations are safer or more problematic than others.

APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSES RISKS: mitigate the hazards identified in the vulnerability assessment.

ADAPTIVE: Design to accommodate projected changing environmental and social conditions throughout the anticipated service life of the building. Design infrastructure and buildings to adapt to changing needs over time.

AVOIDS MALADAPTATION: ensuring the buildings and infrastructure designed to protect people from a hazard does not diminish resilience and make them more vulnerable in the future.

RECOGNIZES INHERENT INTERDEPENDENCIES: Utilize a systems-based approach to address the building, site, and community together.

PREPARED FOR DISRUPTION: Integrate systems that support the operation, occupants and mission of the structure should a disruption or failure occur. Individuals, buildings, and communities can meet their own vital needs.

DURABLE and ACCESSIBLE for its DEFINED SERVICE LIFE: Balance first costs and long-term value of the intended service life in the decision-making process for total value. Can withstand the impacts of identified and foreseeable hazards while remaining physically functional and part of the community fabric.

OPERATIONAL: Emergency preparations are made and maintained, and staff and occupants are trained in emergency procedures.

DESIGN ATTRIBUTES

PLACE-BASED: design strategies address local risks and opportunities. Creates a space that provides equitable social, environmental, and economic benefits to the community.

SAFE, SECURE and SELF-SUFFICIENT: Provides for physical protection and mental comfort from acute shocks and daily stresses. Building safely shelter occupants during outages and interruptions.

MINIMIZES NEGATIVE IMPACTS: Design strategies successfully mitigate risk without compromising the integrity of dependent systems.

MAINTAINABLE/SERVICEABLE: Design provides for maintenance access and regular improvements to building systems and envelope.

MATERIAL SELECTION: Materials are durable, low maintenance, and reduce the potential for toxins to enter the waste stream if the building is damaged by a hazard event.

Other Key Qualities? // Contact resilience@aia.org