FROM FAILURE, WE LEARN

How do we make better buildings? Answer: by learning from the mistakes we have made in the past.

This month’s theme is learning lessons from buildings in use. It is rare to find a building that so totally meets the needs of its users and owners that we have nothing to gain from studying it. If we choose not to study actual buildings in operation, we miss the most important lessons for future design. At the Welsh School of Architecture, we are committed to learning from the failure of past designs to help designers make it better next time.

Its all in the details
- Good design and installation of services is essential to deliver good building performance. Often we find that due to errors in details, the gap between designed performance and actual performance achieved in buildings widens. The photograph shows difficulties insulation hot water pipe, resulting in heat loss.
STORIES FROM THE WEB

Here are a few selected articles we found about building performance that may be of interest to you:

Lessons Learned from 4 Zero Energy Buildings
(Read the article)

Four buildings, four stories. Here are lessons learnt from the USA. One of success in achieving energy use reduction at no extra cost. One of questioning energy performance metrics. One of failure of building materials claiming to achieve energy reduction. One of improving building performance through monitoring.

Why tools for buildings and cities performance simulation need to evolve
(Read the article)

This article discusses some of the pertinent issues with performance simulation tools and questions facing the future of building performance simulation.

Case Study - Floth 69 Robertson Street, Fortitude Valley
(Read the article)

Australia’s leading building services firm designed their own head office, achieving accolades for its net zero operational carbon design in Asia Pacific region. The findings from the occupant surveys also showed improved occupant satisfaction in the new HQ compared to their old office.