

NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS

STANLEY CENTER FOR PEACE AND SECURITY | MUSCATINE, IOWA





The design balances private and communal spaces within a high-performance office setting.



GLOBAL POLICY INFLUENCER LIVING THEIR MISSION

Currently tracking to be the world's second building renovation to achieve full Living Building certification from the International Living Future Institute, the Stanley Center for Peace and Security sets a new standard for resilient and community-inspired workplaces. Founded in 1956, the Stanley Center advocates for global policies addressing existential threats to humanity, mitigating climate change, eliminating nuclear weapons, and preventing mass violence and atrocities.

Led by Neumann Monson, the Center considered many sites and chose to renovate the former Musser Public Library building in their hometown of Muscatine. The building's prime downtown location provides a unique opportunity to connect with the community.

Achieving Living Building certification requires innovative solutions and a close partnership between the client, architect, and contractor. Biophilic design references include materials that mirror an underground creek bed that once traversed the site in the nineteenth century, and a curated program of paintings, sculpture, and public murals produced by local artists that will grace the lobby and alleyway adjacent to the building. Strengthening community connections, the project includes an outdoor courtyard with an 850 square foot community garden, providing fresh produce to the neighboring food bank.

As the purpose-driven Stanley Center organization continues its important work, they do so in a facility that allows them to live their mission and be an inspiration to others, locally and globally.

[View the Stanley Center's LBC video series.](#)



NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS' ROLE

Design Architect and Architect of Record

SIZE 19,260 sf

EST. COST \$11,050,000 (\$574/sf)

COMPLETION 2023

CLIENT Stanley Center for Peace and Security

COLLABORATORS

Contractor: Graham Construction

MEP Engineer: Design Engineers

Structural Engineer: Raker Rhodes Engineering

Civil Engineer: Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc.

Landscape Architect: Environmental Consulting & Technology Inc.

Water Systems Engineer: Biohabitats

SELECTED RECOGNITION

2023 1000 Friends of Iowa Best Development Award: Innovative Leadership

2022 The Chicago Athenaeum Green Good Design
Global Sustainability Award

Negative wastewater impact was achieved by upgrading outdated water fixtures in neighboring buildings, an approach called handprinting.

110% percent of energy needs are produced with solar arrays. Extending beyond the building, they add rainwater collection capacity and provide weather protection and shading at the Stanley Center entry and over the adjacent alley, where queuing patrons gather outside the neighboring food pantry.

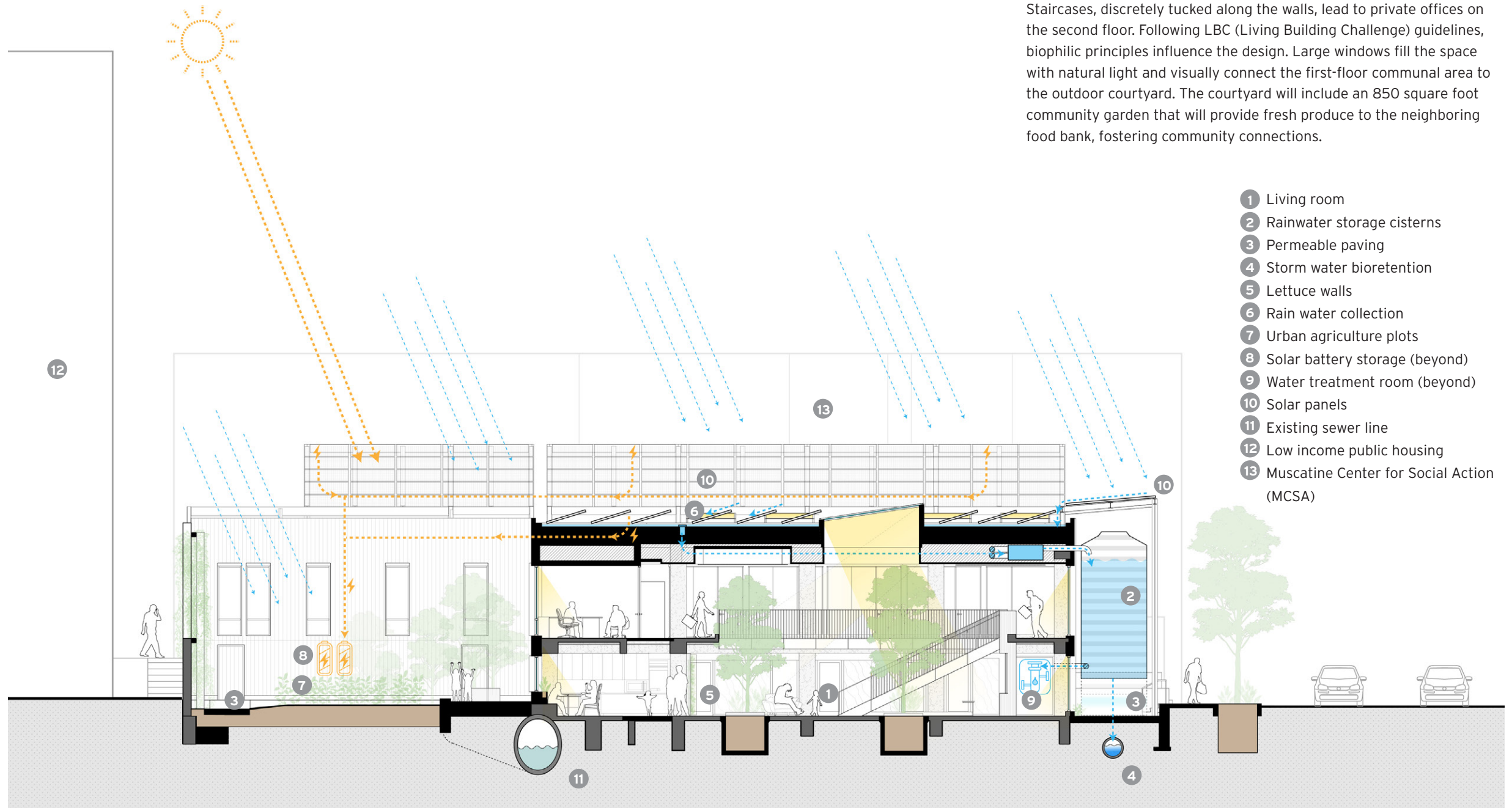
100% of the water needs are met through a combination of low-flow fixtures and rainwater reclamation. Water is stored in two large cisterns.

Mechanical equipment is strategically placed where solar performance would have been diminished by shading. Rainwater at risk of contamination by equipment is collected separately and sent to a bio-retention area.

A portion of the existing building was removed to incorporate urban agricultural plots, providing fresh locally grown food for both the Stanley Center staff and the neighboring food pantry.

DESIGN CRITERIA

The design balances private and communal spaces. The open first floor provides flexibility for collaborative work and community events. Staircases, discretely tucked along the walls, lead to private offices on the second floor. Following LBC (Living Building Challenge) guidelines, biophilic principles influence the design. Large windows fill the space with natural light and visually connect the first-floor communal area to the outdoor courtyard. The courtyard will include an 850 square foot community garden that will provide fresh produce to the neighboring food bank, fostering community connections.



- 1 Living room
- 2 Rainwater storage cisterns
- 3 Permeable paving
- 4 Storm water bioretention
- 5 Lettuce walls
- 6 Rain water collection
- 7 Urban agriculture plots
- 8 Solar battery storage (beyond)
- 9 Water treatment room (beyond)
- 10 Solar panels
- 11 Existing sewer line
- 12 Low income public housing
- 13 Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA)



 Stanley Center
FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

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Connect



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