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# Equipping Better Buildings

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## Learning goals

This chapter is dedicated to buildings and how to equip them better from a sustainability perspective. After studying this chapter, readers will have the ability to:

- 1 To discuss buildings and their impact on profit, people and planet;
- 2 To describe the main sustainability challenges faced by building developers considering the correct accreditation tools, the use of building materials and equipment, and financing of development projects;
- 3 To provide examples of ways to address some of these challenges;
- 4 To identify good practices in sustainable building.

## Introduction

When discussing hotels, it is very difficult to do so without conjuring an image of a beautiful tower in a city centre or perhaps a majestic chateau in the countryside. Regardless of the initial image, chances are that the first thought was of a building of some kind. These types of buildings have existed for as long as the profession of hospitality has existed and with this have often demonstrated little regard for energy efficiency or the larger economic, environmental or social impacts of the built environment.

Sustainable building attempts to break with these practices by reducing negative impact and, when possible, restore the balance between the social, environmental and economic dimension of sustainability. By understanding the main challenges in this topic, one can begin to address them by considering the past and present in order to build for the future. Early efforts to bring change to the building sector in the 1960s through the 1980s generally focused on single issues such as energy efficiency and conservation of natural resources, but a movement to formalise led to the rise of committees and institutes in the late 1980s to the