

## Feature 88: Biophilia I – Qualitative

### Part 1: Nature Incorporation

### Part 2: Pattern Incorporation

### Part 3: Nature Interaction

WELL Building Standard™ (WELL)™  
WELL v1 with the Q1 2020 addenda

How to use this document:

This document is a guide for creating the documentation for Part 1: Nature Incorporation, Part 2: Pattern Incorporation, and Part 3: Nature Interaction Feature 88: Biophilia I - Qualitative. This document is meant to demonstrate an acceptable degree of detail for a documentation submission. The level of detail is up to the discretion of the project team, as long as each of the requirements is sufficiently addressed.

- Three different examples of a professional narrative that addresses Parts 1-3 are provided. These narratives differ structurally, but all are considered appropriate forms of documentation. Note, the variable items are highlighted in yellow throughout the document.

The text is updated to the Q1 2020 version of the WELL Building Standard, which may vary from previous or future versions of WELL.

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## FEATURE 88: BIOPHILIA I

### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE (1) PART 1: NATURE INCORPORATION

- A. Environmental elements are incorporated through:
  - a. *Example: The use of earth-tones and natural colors.*
  - b. *Example: Natural materials such as marble, granite and wood.*
  - c. *Example: A skylight that provides ample sunlight and views of the open sky.*
  - d. *Example: A water feature that is installed in the lobby that resembles a waterfall over a rock formation.*
  - e. *Example: Floor to ceiling green walls located at each major entrance.*
  - f. *Example: Exposed wooden beams throughout the office.*
  - g. *Example: A ceiling installation that resembles clouds overhead.*
- B. Lighting elements are incorporated through:
  - a. *Example: Glass curtain-walls that allow natural light to penetrate the space.*
  - b. *Example: A circadian designed lighting system that mimics natural lighting throughout the day to optimize employees' circadian rhythm.*
  - c. *Example: A dynamic art installation that mimics the patterns of sunlight passing through tree leaves on a windy day, playing on the largest wall of the main lobby.*
  - d. *Example: Skylights located throughout the project space to maximize daylight exposure.*
  - e. *Example: Interior light shelves that reflect sunlight deep into the building interior.*
  - f. *Example: The building's central atrium and reflective interior curtain wall allow natural light to flood the center of the building. Thus, office spaces are fully surrounded by sources of natural lighting.*
- C. Space layout is incorporated through:
  - a. *Example: Inclusion of an inside-outside cafeteria space that allows for a natural transition to the outdoors.*
  - b. *Example: Meeting areas located within the building's large atrium, nestled under trees.*
  - c. *Example: Workstations that are zoned in clusters, oriented 360 degrees around a central natural element, such as a tree-like structure, a large plant, or a column covered by vines.*
  - d. *Example: The building's central atrium and reflective interior curtain wall that allow natural light to flood the center of the building. This center space includes a ground-level courtyard with large trees. Thus, office spaces are fully surrounded by sources of natural lighting and views to nature.*
  - e. *Example: Consideration of natural patterns in the configuration of workstations.*

### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE (1) PART 2: PATTERN INCORPORATION

- A. Nature's patterns are incorporated throughout the design through:
  - a. *Example: a reception desk with a wood-grain design that is visible to all that enter the office.*
  - b. *Example: Floor panels in the open office area that use mixed textures and earth tones so as to appear like grass and leaves on a forest floor.*

- c. *Example: Reclaimed wood is used for flooring, displaying patterns of nature and nature's ability to weather materials overtime.*
- d. *Example: Wall paper in collaborative zones that was chosen to reflect patterns within nature, such as leaves, branches, and sand patterns.*
- e. *Example: A central staircase that is lined by wooden handrails that resemble branches along the length of the structure.*

#### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE (1) PART 3: NATURE INTERACTION

- A. Interaction with nature occurs within the building through:
  - a. *Example: Multiple living plant walls that are visible to all throughout the day and plants provided at each individual workstation.*
  - b. *Example: Nature-themed conference rooms, each with a different motif.*
  - c. *Example: There is a large aquarium in the lobby replete with marine life for visitors and employees to enjoy.*
  - d. *Example: Water features in the lobby and cafeteria spaces, one of which is lined by a bench for occupants to sit.*
- B. Interaction with nature occurs within the project boundary, external to the building through:
  - a. *Example: Walking paths on campus that tour through the gardens and woods.*
  - b. *Example: Landscaped grounds with educational signage.*
  - c. *Example: There is a vegetable garden where employees are responsible for maintenance and upkeep.*
  - d. *Example: Terraces with plant beds and potted trees, where employees can utilize as an eating space, meeting space or break space.*
  - e. *Example: A rooftop cafeteria where a chef serves seasonal dishes, often incorporating produce from the company garden.*

#### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE (2) PARTS 1-3

Incorporating nature was an important design decision for our company. Our company culture celebrates being outdoors and exploring nature, and we strive to express this element of our culture throughout design. The most noticeable elements are our multiple living plant walls, present in reception, the eating area and open office area. These were strategically placed so that all employees could enjoy the benefits and that they would be visible to all who entered the office. Additionally, over 95% of workstations have live plants, as a budget is provided to all employees to purchase their own plant upon starting at the company (*Nature interaction within the building*).

The wood-grain patterns used throughout the office on the floors, the exposed wooden beams in the open office areas, the natural stone pattern within the pantries and in reception (see pictures below), and natural wood conference tables all provide references to nature's patterns. They were selected based on their ability to address occupant's desire to be around natural materials and to mitigate the typical, "cold" office environment (*Nature's patterns throughout the design and Nature incorporation through environmental elements*).

Virtually all employees are located in close proximity to windows in order to efficiently utilize daylight (*Nature incorporation through lighting*). For employees that are located farther from

windows, or for all employees on cloudy days, a dynamic light system has been designed to emulate the sun's color temperature, and therefore match the outdoor light and optimize the circadian rhythm of employees, helping them to stay alert, awake and productive during the day (*Nature incorporation through lighting*).

Views to the outside (including treetops and the sky) are present from all employee workstations to provide a visual connection with nature. Additionally, meeting areas are located within the building's large atrium, and situated under trees. (*Nature incorporation through space layout*).

See photos of items listed in the narrative above. <<INSERT PHOTOS>>

### EXAMPLE PROFESSIONAL NARRATIVE WITHIN ANNOTATED DRAWING (3)

1. On a floor plan, identify where each biophilic feature is located.
2. Next, indicate which element(s) of Biophilic Design (for example: Part 1a) it satisfies. For example, project team can color code features based on the elements they satisfy and have a corresponding key indicating which color indicates each element (e.g. all elements of nature's patterns may be highlighted in blue and all elements of human-nature interactions within the project boundary external to the building may be highlighted in green, etc.).
3. Once all requirements have been identified on the drawing, provide a brief description of each element. This can be done either on the architectural drawing or on a separate page. Include information such as: what is the feature? How does it represent the intended biophilic element?  
*Example: Wood-grain materials have been incorporated throughout the office, including locations such as conference tables, flooring, reception desk and café. This feature satisfies the following elements:*
  - *Environmental elements: wood-grain represents trees (plants) in the space.*
  - *Nature's patterns: wood-grain has a characteristic sensory variability and also can indicate age, change and passing of time depending on how the wood is cut.*

\*Note: A similar exercise could be completed using renderings or images of the completed space. A key may not be necessary in this situation, if the element is visible within the document, but at least one descriptive sentence should be included that provides details on the indicated element.