The Health and Happiness Petal seeks to create robust, healthy spaces by requiring operable windows, exemplary indoor air quality, and elements that reinforce our connection with nature.

The Materials Petal fosters an economy that eliminates use of harmful materials, reduces the carbon footprint of buildings, promotes use of locally-sourced goods, and requires use of salvaged materials during the construction process.

The Equity Petal seeks to benefit the community by requiring human-scaled places that are equally accessible to all, prohibiting the reduction of adjacent developments’ access to fresh air and sunlight, and promoting business practices that value the welfare of people.

The Beauty Petal requires the building to elevate our spirits and inspire us to be better through design, public art, public tours, and educational opportunities.

The Place Petal seeks to create connected communities by setting standards for where to build, how to protect and restore a place once it has been developed, and how to use active forms of transportation to, and within, the site.

The Water Petal requires that 100% of the building’s water be supplied by rainwater treated on-site and that all stormwater and water discharges be treated on-site for reuse or infiltration into the ground.

To conceptualize regenerative buildings, the Living Building Challenge uses as its metaphor a flower with seven “Petals,” which are performance areas that have to be met for certification.

The Energy Petal requires that at least 105% of the building’s energy be supplied by on-site renewables on a net annual basis, as well as on-site energy storage for resiliency.

“We must find ways to live within our ecological means.”

– Diana Blank, Founder, The Kendeda Fund
The Kendeda Building is a living, learning laboratory. This is a place for experimentation and discovery. The building was designed and built to meet the requirements of the Living Building Challenge (version 3.1), a building certification program and regenerative design framework created and administered by the International Living Future Institute.

This rigorous certification consists of seven performance areas or “Petals” that are divided into 20 requirements called “Imperatives.” As you explore this building, you will find performance areas designated by the icons and colors above.

Photos by Jonathan Hillyer and Justin Chan. Artwork by Beardy Glasses.