

green features at the homes at old colony

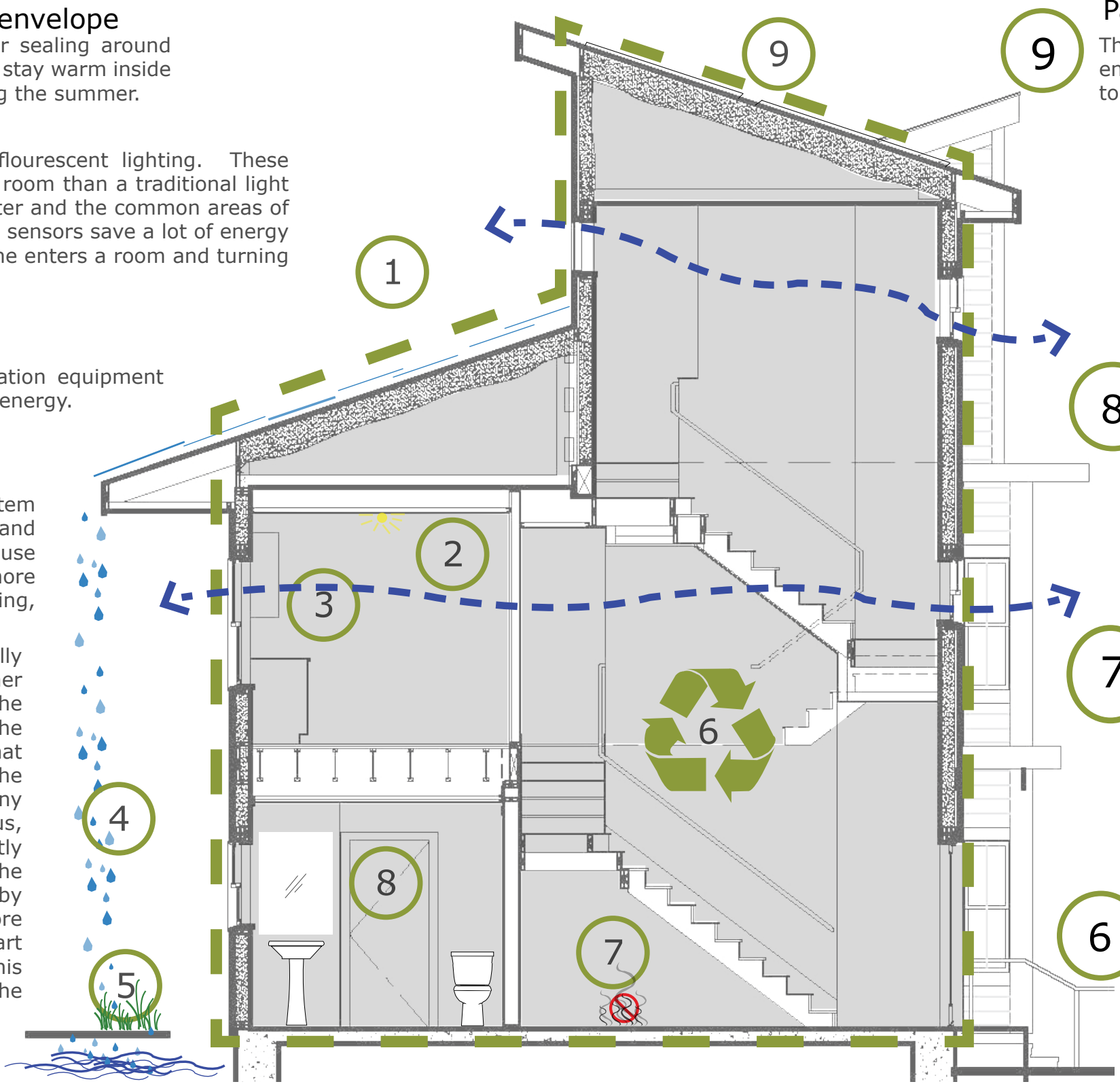
1 Insulation and building envelope
 High levels of insulation and air sealing around the buildings mean the buildings stay warm inside during the winter and cool during the summer.

2 Lighting
 The lights are high-efficiency fluorescent lighting. These lights use less energy to light a room than a traditional light bulb does. In the Learning Center and the common areas of the mid-rise building, lights with sensors save a lot of energy by only turning on when someone enters a room and turning off when somebody exits.

3 Mechanical systems
 The heating, cooling and ventilation equipment was chosen because it uses less energy.

4 Site
 A low flow, drip irrigation system brings water to all the plants and grasses on site. It is designed to use as little water as possible, so more water can be saved for drinking, instead of for watering plants.

When it rains, the water usually runs along streets and other hard, impervious surfaces into the sewer system. Along the way, the rainfall picks up pollutants that make the water dirty. Some of the streets here look the same as any street, but the paving is pervious, meaning it filters the rain directly back into the ground so that the rainwater does not get polluted by running along the streets before it gets treated and becomes part of our drinking water supply. This is a much better system for the environment.



9 Panels
 The special panels on the roof (called photovoltaic cells) capture energy from sunlight and convert it into electricity for the building to use.

8 Water
 Most regular faucets and toilets use more water than they need to get the job done. The faucets, toilets and showers in the homes here use a lot less water. You probably didn't even notice a difference!

7 Materials
 The flooring, adhesives, paints and coatings in the buildings give off lower levels of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (or VOCs) when compared with many other common products. This makes the air safer for residents to breathe.

6 Materials
 Many of the building materials, like the flooring, have recycled content. This means that instead of taking raw materials directly from the environment, old products are reused. This conserves the planet's limited resources.

5 Site
 The plants and grasses on site are drought tolerant meaning they need less water than many plants and require less maintenance.