

Elevating Sustainable Design with Better Material Management

Lord Aeck Sargent + Acelab's Material Hub



CASE STUDY



Acelab
Technology Provider

[Website](#)

2025

The Challenge

Lord Aeck Sargent (LAS) has built a national reputation for creating high-performance, sustainable buildings across multiple offices and a diverse portfolio spanning institutional and multi-family projects. However, the firm's traditional approach to managing material knowledge—scattered across spreadsheets, traditional tools, and individual collections—created barriers between their teams and the critical information needed for sustainable design decisions.

Despite years of accumulated expertise, Lord Aeck Sargent faced significant bottlenecks in how material knowledge flowed through their organization. Traditional workflows were creating barriers between their teams and the critical information needed for sustainable design decisions.

LAS had built a comprehensive library of vetted products and sophisticated boilerplate specs, but staff turnover threatened this accumulated knowledge—expertise often left when experienced team members moved on. This information lived in disconnected systems—spreadsheets, SpecLink, and individual cut sheet collections—keeping deep specification knowledge siloed with the spec team.

While LAS maintained high sustainability standards across projects, accessing critical environmental data like EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) and HPDs (Health Product Declarations) required extensive manual research. This barrier made it difficult for project teams to maintain visibility into sustainability goals and report on commitments like the AIA Materials Pledge. With multiple offices handling different project types, teams struggled to share learnings and coordinate material selections across the firm.

The Approach

Acelab's Material Hub has helped LAS work toward transforming how they research, select, and document healthy, sustainable materials. The AI-powered platform provides access to a database of 150,000+ building products with 200+ performance metrics, 30+ building & energy codes, 2,000+ tracked certifications, and complete integration with the mindful MATERIALS Common Materials Framework.

CMF IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT RESOURCES



[Technology Provider CMF Implementation Toolkit](#)



[2025 Data Ecosystem Report](#)



[CMF Prioritization v1.0](#)



[CMF Prioritization v1.0 Applicability Considerations](#)

Material Hub centralized LAS' material standards and expertise in one environment.

By integrating sustainability data alongside technical specifications, the platform empowers teams to make better material decisions and enables the firm to design and deliver higher-performing buildings more efficiently.

Lord Aeck Sargent leveraged Material Hub to serve as their firm's central nervous system for material decisions, addressing challenges through both immediate project-level improvements and long-term organizational transformation.

Material Hub provided a centralized repository for LAS's accumulated product knowledge—an accessible, searchable database where all design staff can find vetted materials with complete technical and sustainability data. The platform surfaces sustainability certifications—EPDs, HPDs, and other environmental credentials—alongside technical specifications and performance criteria.

By bringing spec, design, and sustainability teams together in one platform, Material Hub broke down communication silos. Global comments and custom fields enable teams across offices to review and discuss products, while project templates with default material selections based on sustainability standards and client requirements provide starting points that align with firm expectations while allowing flexibility for project-specific needs.

CMF Connection

Complete integration with the Common Materials Framework allows LAS teams to evaluate materials holistically, considering both performance requirements and environmental impact in the same decision-making environment.

Working with Lord Aeck Sargent to improve their entire materials workflow helped us at Acelab better understand how we can have a profound impact and help the industry make progress with sustainable materials. With our mindful Materials partnership, the shared language of the CMF, and Material Hub's growing capabilities, we are excited to continue our work with firms and enable them to meet their goals for higher-performing, healthier buildings."

— Armaan Shah, Acelab, Forum Partner

LAS is continuing to democratize materials knowledge and expertise across the firm—design teams now have intuitive access to specification data and documented material experiences that once lived primarily with senior staff. This means more informed decisions happen earlier in the design process, benefiting from the firm's collective wisdom rather than individual memory.

The impact shows most clearly in how LAS approaches sustainability and coordination: with Material Hub's environmental data and multi-criteria comparison capabilities, teams can confidently meet or exceed the requirements of the AIA Materials Pledge while efficiently evaluating trade-offs and catching potential issues before projects reach the construction phase.

Material Hub is helping LAS create a cycle of improvement—each project adds to the firm's material knowledge base, making the next project stronger. New team members onboard faster by building on documented experiences, design iterations happen more quickly, and as LAS's library grows richer with each specification and project completion, the firm's capacity to deliver exceptional, sustainable architecture is strengthening over time.