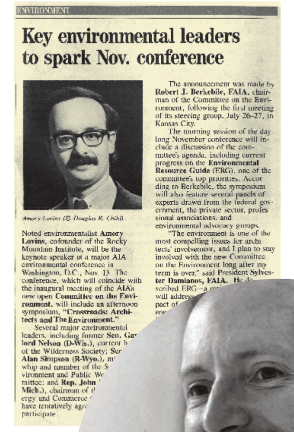
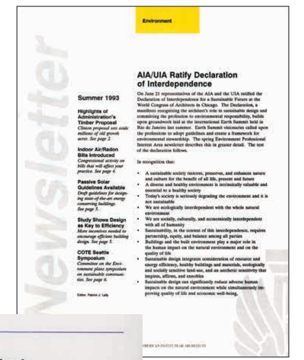
# Committee on the Environment

# COTE

# Looking back on our deep-rooted history of commitment to the environment.

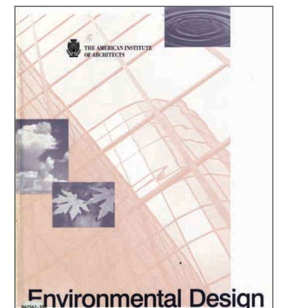


BOB BERKEBILE, FAIA
FOUNDING COTE CHAIR



**COTE holds Exhibition on Environmentally Conscious Architecture**

**First AIA National Convention with Sustainable Theme** The 1993 AIA National Convention in Chicago would be the first to focus on sustainable design, presided over by the AIA's first woman president, Susan Maxman, FAIA. At that event in Chicago, more than 3,000 AIA members joined Maxman and the Union Internationale des Architects, in signing the Declaration of Interdependence for a Sustainable Future, a document placing "environmental and social sustainability at the core of our practices and professional responsibilities."



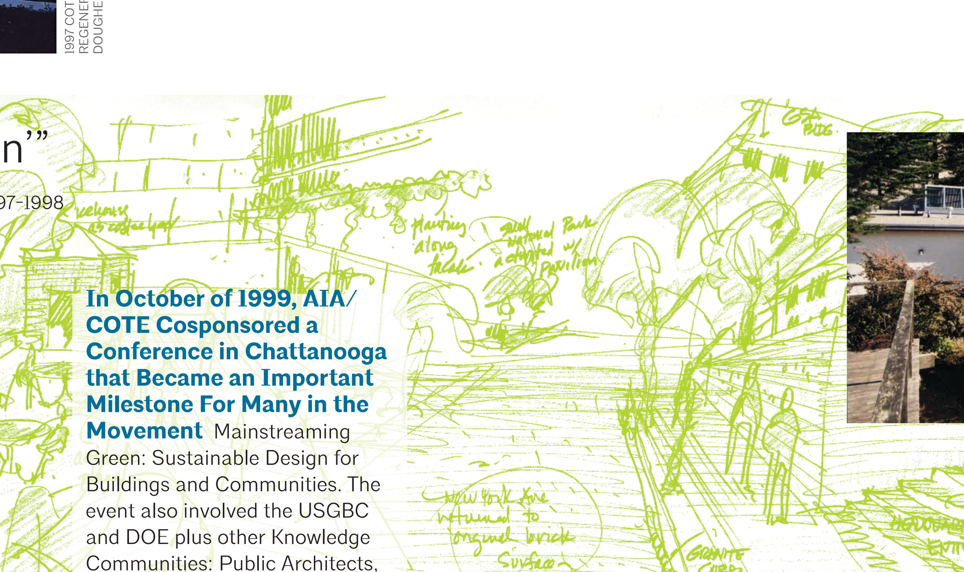

**Environmental Design Charrettes** AIA/COTE organized the Environmental Design Charrette, held simultaneously in 12 U.S. locations. The event was sponsored by the EPA and summarized in the Environmental Design Charrette Handbook (AIA Press, 1996).

1997 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: CENTER FOR REGENERATIVE STUDIES; POMONA, CA; DOUGHERTY + DOUGHERTY

"We called it 'Earth Day Top Ten'"

—GAIL LINDSEY, FAIA, COTE CHAIR 1997–1998

**AIA COTE Top Ten Launched** Recognizing that practitioners need to study exemplars, AIA/COTE launched the Top Ten Green Projects program on Earth Day in 1997 under Gail Lindsey's leadership. Gail Lindsey, FAIA: "We called it 'Earth Day Top Ten' when we started the Top Ten Green Projects program. I was interested in case studies and thought that a top ten would be a great way to start a database of the very best."




**In October of 1999, AIA/COTE Cosponsored a Conference in Chattanooga that Became an Important Milestone For Many in the Movement** Mainstreaming Green: Sustainable Design for Buildings and Communities. The event also involved the USGBC and DOE plus other Knowledge Communities: Public Architects, Building Codes & Standards, and Specifications and Building Technology.

2003 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: ARGONNE CHILD CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 450 ARCHITECTS, PHOTO BY DAVID BUSHNELL

**Updated COTE Sustainable Design Measures and Metric** COTE updates the framework for the Top Ten to fully include issues of site, watershed, urban design, and regional issues and to distinguish between "green design" and "sustainable."

**First Two AIA Position Statements on Sustainable Design** The AIA Green Building Summit results in the first two AIA position statements on sustainable design—Sustainable Architectural Practice and Rating Systems.

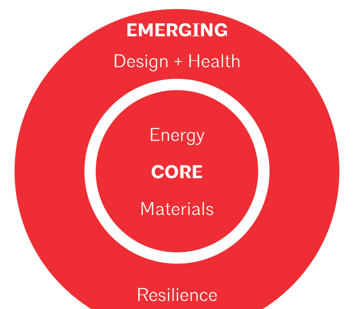
**AIA Adopts the 2030 Challenge** In December of 2005, The American Institute of Architects adopted the reduction goals outlined in the 2030 Challenge. The AIA is one of the first organizations to sign onto the challenge and provides an important leadership position for others to follow.

**2030 CHALLENGE**

2006 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: SCHOOL OF NURSING AND STUDENT CENTER, HOUSTON, TX, BNIM ARCHITECTS & LAKE/FLATO ARCHITECTS

**AIA 2030 Commitment Launched** In conjunction with COTE, the AIA 2030 Commitment was launched in 2009 as an initiative for the architecture profession to bring a reporting framework and level of accountability to the 2030 goals.

2013 FIRST COTE TOP TEN PLUS WINNER: 355 11TH STREET: THE MATAROZZI/PELSINGER MULTI-USE BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, AIDLIN DARLING DESIGN, PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MILLMAN




**Sustainability Leadership Scan** As part of the AIA's repositioning initiative, the AIA Board endorses the recommendations from the Sustainability Leadership Opportunity Scan which identifies four key priorities for the AIA's sustainability leadership efforts. AIA COTE leaders play a critical role in this effort.

**COTE Top Ten Plus Introduced** The new Top Ten Plus award recognizes a Top Ten project that has been previously recognized for design excellence, and for which verifiable baseline design metrics are available.

**AIA 2030 COMMITMENT**

**AIA Top Ten for Students Begins** COTE in conjunction with the ACSA launches the Top Ten for Students program which challenges students, working individually or in teams, to submit projects that use a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems, and technology to provide architectural solutions that protect and enhance the environment.

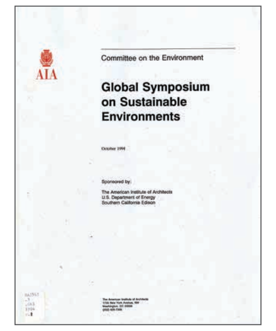
**Launch of the AIA 2030 Design Data Exchange** The AIA launches the online 2030 Commitment Design Data Exchange (DDx), which provides a consistent framework with simple metrics and standardized reporting architecture firms design, assess and improve the energy performance of their projects and portfolio. The DDx is a collaborative program with the US EPA and DOE. Increased emphasis on energy reduction in the built environment can result in massive reductions on a global scale.

**1990** · **1991** · **1992** · **1993** · **1994** · **1995** · **1996** · **1997** · **1998** · **1999** · **2000** · **2001** · **2002** · **2003** · **2004** · **2005** · **2006** · **2007** · **2008** · **2009** · **2010** · **2011** · **2012** · **2013** · **2014** · **2015**

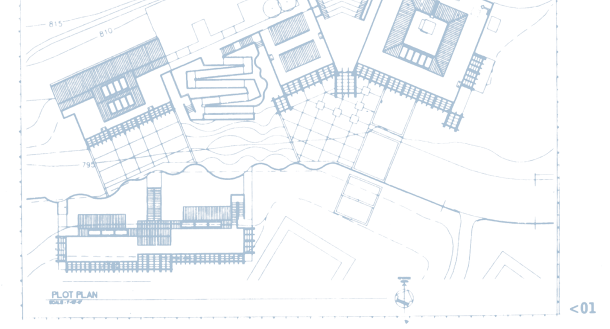
**The Committee on Environment is Founded** COTE began when a Critical Planet Rescue (CPR) measure was presented by AIA Kansas City leaders at the AIA 1989 convention in St. Louis and received broad support. Intense planning followed and COTE was endorsed by the Board and announced at the 1990 Convention COTE to address a broad array of environmental concerns.

**The Environmental Resource Guide is Launched** The need for a reliable guide for the profession along with $1 million in EPA funding drove the development of the first Environmental Resource Guide introduced in 1992. Architect Randy Croxton, FAIA who played a leadership role said of that time: "We saw early on that one of the most valuable roles COTE could play would be in the development and dissemination of reliable, and scientifically sound knowledge and insights needed within the profession to pursue this deeper consideration of architecture and design. This eventually became the ERG."

**COTE hosts Global Symposium on Sustainable Environment** Held in New York City in conjunction with the U.S. DOE and Southern California Edison, the Global Symposium on Sustainable Environment examined five distinct aspects of sustainability: greening of the home, greening of the city, greening our resources, greening the building industry, and greening the future.



1997 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: MILLER SOA BUILDING; HOLLAND, MI; WILLIAM MCDONOUGH + PARTNERS



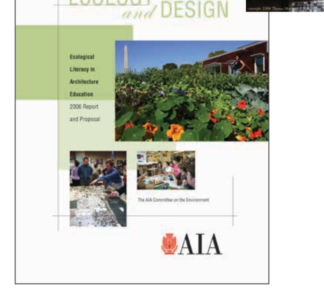
1999 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM EMERSON ELECTRIC CENTER, EXPANSION & RENOVATION, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, USA, HOK, PHOTO BY BALTHAZAR KORAB

2001 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, ANNAPOLIS, MD, SMITH GROUP

2002 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: TOFTE CABIN, TOFTE, MINNESOTA, SARAH NETTLETON ARCHITECTS

**COTE Pushes Broad Engagement on Codes, Schools of Architecture** COTE explored ways to team with groups to make effective appeals to legislators and others to help codify green design goals. They worked with the AIA to renew a critical Memorandum of Understanding with the DOE and to initiate a new one with the EPA. COTE held its first Dean's Roundtable on Sustainable Design.

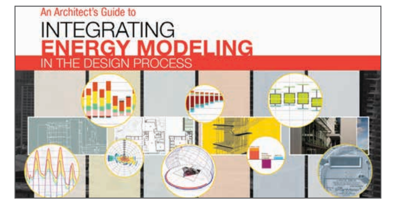
**Ecological Literacy in Architecture Education** COTE secures a grant from the Tides Foundation to pursue the Ecological Literacy in Architecture Education project, which published a report, Ecology and Design: Ecological Literacy and Architecture Education. AIA/COTE advocates the greening of the AIA convention, Graphic Standards, and awards. COTE also issues the Writing the Green RFP tool.



2005 COTE TOP TEN PROJECT: ARCH-AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS, AUSTIN, TX, LZT ARCHITECTS

**COTE Partners With AIAs To Offer the Annual AIA/COTE Research Scholarship**

**COTE Founders Receive Leadership Award from USGBC**




**2012: Energy Modeling Guide Issued** Energy Modeling is Not Just for Engineers: The AIA released an energy modeling guide to help architects become familiar with evaluating the performance of the buildings that they design.

**AIA Code of Ethics Updated to Include Canon VI, Obligations to the Environment**

Members should promote sustainable design and development principles in their professional activities.

E.S. 6.1 Sustainable Design:
In performing design work, Members should be environ-mentally responsible and advocate sustainable building and site design.

E.S. 6.2 Sustainable Development:
In performing professional services, Members should advocate the design, construction, and operation of sustainable buildings and communities.

E.S. 6.3 Sustainable Practices:
Members should use sustainable practices within their firms and professional organizations, and they should encourage their clients to do the same.

**AIA Honor Awards Require Sustainable Metrics** After decades of effort by COTE and others within the AIA, the AIA Board votes that sustainability metrics become required submission criteria for the annual AIA Institute Honor Awards. Beginning in 2015, submission guidelines require projected energy and water use figures and a narrative describing the project's sustainable features.

**COTE is 25!**

AIA COTE 25

**2030 CHALLENGE Percentage of Reduction** 50% · 60% · 70%

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**AIA COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT CHAIRS**

Bob Berkebile, FAIA > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > Kirk Gastinger, FAIA > > Greg Franta, FAIA > > > > Harry Gordon, FAIA > > > > Donald Watson, FAIA > > Gail Lindsey, FAIA > > > > > > > > > > > > > Muscoe Martin, AIA > > > > > Sandy Mendler, AIA > > > > > > > > > > > > > > > Joyce Lee, FAIA > > Daniel Williams, FAIA > > Mark Rylander, AIA > > > > Vivian Loftness, FAIA > > > > James Binkley, FAIA > Kira Gould, Assoc. AIA > > Henry Siegel, FAIA > > > Ken Scalf, AIA, & Dennis Andrejko, FAIA > > > > > > Dave Miller, AIA > > > Alexis Karolides, AIA: 2011 Filo Castore, AIA: 2012 > Bill Leddy, FAIA: 2013 > > Bill Sturm, AIA: 2014 > > > Rand Ekman, AIA: 2015 > > > > >

# Imagine building on our commitment to a better future.

80% 90% 100% 2030 CHALLENGE Percentage of Reduction

**AIA COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT CHAIRS**

› Paula McEvoy, AIA

COTE

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