

Committee on the Environment



Westwood Hills Nature Center (Top Ten 2023 Award winner), City of St. Louis Park, Minn. / HGA Architects and Engineers Image: Corey Gaffer

Letter from the chair: September 2023



By Lori Ferriss, AIA

Amid roiling climate news, we celebrate policy wins, winners of "COTE® Top Ten for Students," and the opening of the 2024 COTE® Top Ten Awards cycle—entries due October 26.

[Read more >](#)

2024 COTE Top Ten Awards cycle

Don't miss the schedule shift: The 2024 COTE Top Ten Awards cycle opened on August 7, and submissions are due October 26.

[Learn more >](#)

Performing Beautifully: Lessons from COTE® Top Ten Award-winning teams

These AIAU On-demand courses explore the design strategies and

outcomes of COTE® Top Ten Award Winners. They include videos from each team and commentary from the Jury and COTE® Chairs.

[2021 Award Winners >](#)

[2022 Award Winners >](#)

Going to Greenbuild? Save September 28 for a COTE Gathering

AIA DC COTE has organized a casual gathering for Thursday, September 28, 4:30-6:30pm ET at Calico, across from the Convention Center. All members from all COTE chapters are welcome to join for a fun-filled happy hour. The event is free to register; however, food and beverages are to be purchased by attendees.

[Register >](#)

Lead the dialogue at A'24!

Every year, AIA opens a call for proposals to solicit the best speakers and content for the AIA Conference on Architecture.

This year's event includes a Call for Educational Sessions and a brand-new Call for Tours that showcase significant sites and iconic architecture in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

We're looking for ahead-of-the-curve content from a diversity of voices and career stages. AI, smart materials, community-centered design, sustainability, wellness, and equity are a few of the 32 topics and seven tracks you can submit, plus a variety of session formats.

It's your opportunity to lead the dialogue at one of the most anticipated events in our industry and be part of a diverse, collaborative community shaping the future.

Hurry—the Call for Proposals closes at 11:59pm ET on October 5.

[Learn more >](#)

Top Ten Awards Updates: Quantifying Equitable Communities

By Helena Zambrano, AIA

Recent updates to the Top Ten awards measure Design for Equitable Communities introduce new metrics to define the full depth of equitable design at four scales of impact.

[Read more >](#)



Next Gen Promise: 2023 COTE Top Ten for Students Competition

By Robin Z. Puttock, AIA

Check out the 2023 Student Winners—great results from a year with a record-breaking number of entries.

[Read more >](#)

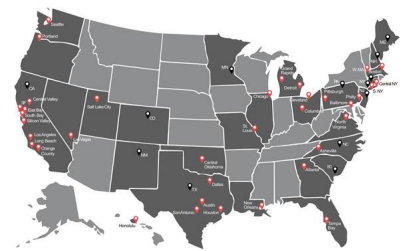


Advocacy update

By Arathi Gowda, AIA

Explore our COTE community and advocacy activities, as reflected at A'23 and beyond.

[Read more >](#)



COTE Network update

By Bunny Tucker, AIA

The COTE Network Q3 in August included almost 100 participants gathered virtually to discuss policy and advocacy successes at the local level.

[Read more >](#)

Readings + Resources

AEC Equity: In the Work and in the Industry

Paula Melton | BuildingGreen

BuildingGreen has generously opened access to two articles about smart equity:

Equity in Design and Construction: Seven Case Studies

[Read more >](#)

Re-forming the Building Industry: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

[Read more >](#)

Materials Sustainability Progress: Getting Unstuck

Alex Muller | mindful MATERIALS

Materials are foundational to the sustainability of the built environment. This isn't about whether we address material toxicity, climate impacts, waste, etc. It's about how. And what we stand to gain if we align.

[Read more >](#)

IRA Progress Check

Ezra Klein with Robinson Meyer | The Extra Klein Show/New York Times Podcast

The IRA passed a year ago. Ezra Klein talks with Robinson Meyer for a progress check on the Act and America's path toward lower emissions.

[Listen >](#)

The Clean Energy Future Is Arriving Faster Than You Think

David Gelles; Brad Plumer, Jim Tankersley, and Jack Ewing | The New York Times

The Clean Energy future is arriving faster than you think, riling both friends and foes, and a battle for hearts and minds.

[Read more >](#)

Climate Solutions from the Global South

Carl Elefante, FAIA | Architizer

Why the future of architecture is regional – though it remains largely unexplored.

[Read more >](#)

Advancing Net Zero Whole Life Carbon

World Green Building Council

This report recommends when, how, and why offsetting may be used to advance net zero carbon emissions in the built environment.

[Read more >](#)

2023 AIA COTE Partners



Partner Content by ROCKWOOL: Stone wool insulation: a two-prong tactic for meeting decarbonization goals

AIA partner ROCKWOOL explains how stone wool supports decarbonization efforts in both its manufacturing and use in energy-efficient buildings.

[Read more >](#)

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