

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community

Dear COTE Colleagues:

Happy Spring to all! As per the season, COTE has many new beginnings highlighted in this newsletter:

- **New, Critical, Advocacy Role:** As part of COTE's new advocacy focus, our first Call to Action to the EPA in response to the proposed FY18 budget [received signatures from 775 firms from 48 states!](#) This is a terrific response that will be built on in coming months of federal budget discussions. It reinforces the critical need for the design community's voices to be heard in making fundamental budget decisions that will have longterm impacts on our ability to serve our clients and communities.
- **New Research:** Read all about [a new research report](#) on the practices of High Performing Firms with multiple Top Ten COTE awards. This is based on the findings in last year's Lessons from the Leading Edge analysis of 20 years of Top Ten COTE award winners. It's great information that all practices can learn from.
- **New People:** A profile of Marsha Maytum, FAIA, a new COTE Advisory Group member who is a partner at this year's [AIA Firm Award winner Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects](#). This is the first of three profiles of new AG members. You can learn more about the COTE AG selection process [here](#)



There's a great deal new to look forward to this month as well: On April 19 we'll announce this year's COTE Top Ten and COTE Top Ten for Students awards. It will remind us all that there is great design integrating high performance and aesthetics happening with our clients and our future architectural leaders. We need that kind of positive news in this sometimes topsy-turvy times.

From April 27 to 29 many will gather in Orlando for A'17, the Conference on Architecture, to celebrate and learn from each other. I hope to see many of you there, especially at the [COTE Top Ten Toast](#) reception on Thursday evening, a wonderful social celebration of sustainability.

Enjoy Spring wherever it finds you

Warmly,

MAL

Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C
2017 Chair, AIA Committee on the Environment Advisory Group

New COTE report studies the habits of high-performing firms



For over 20 years COTE Top Ten has recognized architecture firms that employ the latest innovations in sustainable design to create the highest performance buildings. Of the 130 architecture firms that have received at least one COTE Top Ten Award, 29 have done so more than once and 17 have three or more times. According to this research, lead by COTE Advisory Group member Lance Hosey, FAIA, these firms exhibit several common traits related to their specialization, size, location, staff, and age. These findings are valuable for any firm, and support the concept that there is a connection between great, sustainable projects and overall firm excellence. [Read more >](#)

Marsha Maytum Joins AIA COTE Advisory Group

By Kira Gould



Marsha Maytum, FAIA, and founding principal at Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects (LMS^A) in San Francisco, expressed her interest in joining the COTE leadership group long before the November election. But to her, the changes at the Federal level have heightened the pressures around responding to climate change. [Read more >](#)

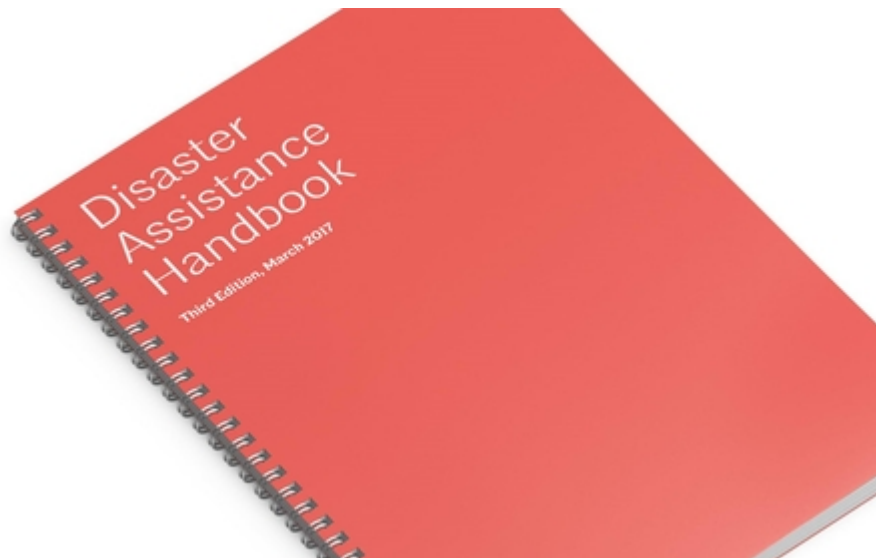


Lessons from Green Business (conferences)

By Rand Ekman, AIA

I went to GreenBiz 17 with questions: How do other industries address sustainability? What is important to their business? How does this relate to the architectural profession? Are there ways that my firm, and others, can provide value to our clients that we have not yet explored? What is important to investors and how mature is this market? [Read more >](#)

Updated Disaster Assistance Handbook



As the impacts of climate change combine with other factors to increase the frequency, severity, and costs of natural and manmade disasters, the AIA has released a new tool to help architects make their communities stronger. The Third Edition of AIA's Disaster Assistance Handbook features:

- A new chapter on hazard mitigation and risk reduction.
- Detailed explanations of recent changes and advances in emergency management protocols.
- Case studies, best practices, and replicable projects from AIA chapters and members.

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