

Committee on the Environment

AIA Knowledge Communities



Letter from the Chair

Hello COTE Community!

May was the month for conferences and conventions for me. It started with Ceres, then a quick stop at ILFI's Living Future unConference and finally the AIA National Convention. In all events, the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions were front and center.



At [Ceres](#), there were discussions around the financial impacts. Corporations are examining climate change vulnerabilities and determining how they will be prepared to meet their fiduciary responsibilities to their stockholders. How are [states](#) planning policies and infrastructure to address the predicted stressors for their regions? [Financial](#) and [insurance companies](#) are already addressing these issues. The [International Living Future Institute](#) unConference followed a "[Truth + Transparency](#)" theme. This applied not only to materials but corporate and civic responsibility. Manufacturers are grappling with supply chains and the [circular economy](#). Design for underserved communities and diverse populations highlighted issues and opportunities not previously discussed at these events. Clearly, the definition of "sustainability" has changed. Many of these issues don't currently impact our practice. But considering the depth and breadth of the discussions, it won't be long before they will. Clients will ask how we are designing for performance, resilience and health.

These themes emerged as COTE gathered in Philadelphia for our first "Hackathon." Current and past AG members were joined by community, organization and component leaders to completely rethink what the [mission](#) of COTE is and what it should be going forward. How can COTE help educate and empower architects to take the lead in designing for these new issues? How can we help design the future we want to see? We'll tell you more about our ideas in this and upcoming newsletters. At this point, the prospects and possibilities seem limitless.

In this issue

▶ [Features](#)

▶ [Upcoming Event](#)

Sustainability Scan

[Energy by Design](#)

[Materials Matter](#)

[Resilience by Design](#)

[Design and Health](#)

Resources

[Lessons from the Leading Edge](#)

[Materials transparency and risks for architects](#)



2016 Sponsors

Founding Sponsor:



Presenting Sponsor:



Green Sponsor:



Sustaining Sponsor:



Event Sponsor:



Regards,



Paula McEvoy, FAIA, LEED Fellow
2016 Chair, AIA Committee on the Environment Advisory Group

Features

First COTE Hackathon in Philadelphia



What do you get when you gather over 40 COTE leaders in an inspirational meeting space, divide them into small groups, and give them a little over two hours to save the planet? The first COTE Hackathon, of course.

In years' past the Wednesday before the AIA National Convention has played host to the COTE Summit, which was an opportunity for COTE leaders from around the country to gather and discuss the functionality of the Knowledge Community. For our 26th year as a committee, COTE decided to change up the format.

[Read more](#)

Breaking Down the Opportunities and Risks of Materials Transparency

By Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C



A robust crowd gathered in the Philadelphia Convention Center to hear about the new AIA Whitepaper on [Materials Transparency and Risk for Architects](#) which was just issued in April 2016. The Whitepaper tells architects what they can do to promote materials transparency in their projects while managing risk. The panelists included three experts who participated in the development of the Whitepaper: Brodie Stephens, General Counsel at Perkins + Will; Frank Musica, Senior Risk Management Attorney at Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc. and Mike Davis, FAIA, President of Bergmeyer.

[Read more](#)

Catch up on the COTE #AIAChat



The Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building. The original 1974 building (right) and today, following its high-efficiency makeover (left). Photo credit: SERA (left); Nic Lehoux (right).

On May 4th, we chatted about the 2016 COTE Top Ten/Top Ten Plus Award recipients and trends in sustainable architecture with host Paula McEvoy, FAIA, LEED Fellow, 2016 COTE Chair.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Event

NeoCon in Chicago / June 13-15

NeoCon has evolved into one of the most recognized and attended trade shows in the industry and this year will be no exception. With the help of their [Advisory Council](#), the show has remained focused on being at the forefront of changing commercial design and business trends.

On Tuesday, June 14, one of our Advisory Group members, Jon Penndorf, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, will speak at the session "Weathering the Storm: Mental Health Aspects of Resilient Interior Design," from 2:30-3:30pm. Attendees will gather new tools for assessing the types of stresses a resilient strategy can address and how to incorporate them into overall designs. More specifically, participants will hear how community-scale resilient design strategies can be scaled down to a single building or interior tenant scale, and what impacts these strategies have on design.

Learn More 

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

AIA Knowledge Communities 

This message was intended for: %%emailaddr%%

The AIA strives to provide information that is most relevant to you. To update your contact information or add an AIA Knowledge Community, update your [AIA.org Account](#).

[Unsubscribe](#).