### COTE community conversation 1

We are in a practice transformation. What tools or activities are missing for firms along the learning-to-leading-edge spectrum?

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Policy is crucial. Architects are busy. How can we get more architects/allied professionals to serve on code/regulatory groups?

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Then tackle one or both questions in the minutes available. Add additional post-its if necessary.

If your collective brainsail gets some wind, consider highlighting one or two takeaways to share with the larger group.

**mission** | COTE works to achieve climate action and climate justice through design. We believe design excellence is the foundation of a healthy, sustainable, and equitable future.

**Committee on the Environment**

**Click to type!**

- how to make equity part of the narrative?
- better metrics to measure impact on local community
- need community engagement strategy from the beginning of a project
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- Integrate sustainability into the culture w/ weekly learning opps.
- Carbon impacts and health implications
- Embed Engineers into Architectural practice
- WRNS seeks past COTE student winners for hiring positions!
- Activities: Random or direct mentorship programs between students and professionals.
- Tools: Exposure to eco-centric approaches during internships.

Policy is crucial. Architects are busy. How can we get more architects/allied professionals to serve on code/regulatory groups?

- IGCC has a call for volunteers every 6 months
- NAAB/ACSA Including the who/how of development of codes and policies in the curriculum
- Share the benefits of networking w/a national knowledge base
- More awareness of the role of architects in writing code.
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Net Zero First (before eye candy) in student design studio

Add a sheet to the drawings set that integrates the framework (see OPN for ex)

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What’s a good embodied carbon benchmark number?

J. Cain: Site Performance Metrics

The Smart Surfaces coalition has some great tools for site performance.

Consider biosourced materials and noncombustible materials.

Design for climate action and climate justice -

Fill out the Super Spreadsheet for ALL projects.

2030 New DI (pushing towards carbon) and SAP plan detailing firm best practices from over 50 firms across the institute

Design for belonging - design for equity

J. Cain: energy/water nexus - 25% of energy is for water infrastructure; this is missing from NZE metrics

More software that gets a holistic metric system in architecture to calculate health and wellness as well.

Radical integration of nature into the built environment

Policy is crucial. Architects are busy. How can we get more architects/allied professionals to serve on code/regulatory groups?

State of WI adopted the framework for all publically funded projects
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- Integration in design process
- More than off/on sustainability, highlight process
- Passive strategies still underrated
- Addressing equity through sustainability: climate justice
- Embedded carbon/adaptive reuse
- Shift power structures to be less top-down within firms
- Actual performance metrics
- Let’s go back to our completed buildings and measure them!

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Themes:
* highlight processes to breakdown silos, make better projects
* celebrate collaborations and individuals
* embodied carbon - critical!

Student program

- Inspiring to see students addressing indigenous communities
- Cool to see the range of problems being addressed
- Would love to see collaborations between students/faculty
- Student projects are able to dream...something about the dynamic between where we are and where can we get to

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<td>time is tight - CliffsNotes or cheat sheets to help make the decision-making smoother and clearer</td>
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<td>contracts aren't largely structured to accommodate research/integrated design</td>
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<td>Have the ability to be more product specific in CEU presentations</td>
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| How do we "raise the floor"? |
| Policy training - maybe as a component of something else |
| success stories from AIA chapters - case studies |

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We are in a practice transformation. What tools or activities are missing for firms along the learning-to-leading-edge spectrum?

- Open Source Solution
- More design Crits with real world problems.
- In house early analysis. Looking at you, energy models
- Simple scrappy tools to help increase knowledge - an entry drug approach
- Publishing of work in an open source format.
- Peer pressure through sharing of progress/data in visual ways
- More courses in college
- Better shared (+ verified) data

Policy is crucial. Architects are busy. How can we get more architects/allied professionals to serve on code/regulatory groups?

- Increase awareness and commitment from firm leaders to support staff time for these efforts
- Expansion idea of what an architect’s “role” is (energy code is as important as architectural review board)
- Events with local and state leaders
- Create a “how to” or tool set to inform architects on how to get involved (policy and code seems daunting if you are young to the profession)
- Start Young
- Use the AIA Virginia model for policy engagement between state, local and architects
- Architect as activist

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Tired of pushing? Let's make the market pull. How can we urge clients/finance entities to demand climate-responsive solutions?

PUT A PRICE ON CARBON!

Provide information about alternatives, performance over time, reduced long term costs

Pittsburgh: CEOs for sustainability

Clients want to see examples of how it works

proven resilience works

Owners need to be aware

How can we expand who we collaborate with in terms of how projects contribute to equitable communities?

Talk to the communities

Need more effective language in RFQs

Regulations that require s
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- Increase end user awareness
- Talk them about how much money they will save in the long term
- Get to know your city council members and state legislators and talk to them about the importance of climate-responsive solutions
- Talk about embodied carbon loads and energy demand as much as electricity production
- Saturate the media with positive outcomes of projects and policies
- Stretch codes w/incentives
- Resilient Design Incentives

Get media to hold entities accountable, both for the good and the bad.

How can we expand who we collaborate with in terms of how projects contribute to equitable communities?

- Firms doing pro bono or grant-based projects should share how they stay profitable

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Reflections!

- nice range of projects - great presentations
- impressive amount of data
- how can we mine the data, how can we share how we look at things
- how to streamline?
- how do we drive more diverse applicants
- nothing else quite like the COTE award - would hate to see it wrap into a generic program
- open to ideas for professionals
- why you’re here - what about these metrics? Let design excellence be a gateway drug to COTE
- value in prioritizing certain criteria - weight community engagement, health, energy

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- Change the ways projects are funded - incentivize through banks, insurance
- Tax credits
- Standardizing ESG metrics and sustainable accounting methodologies
- ESG=Environment and social governance, look to investment funds
- More incentive programs, tax, PACE, zoning variances -- make green pay back in dollars
- Educate building occupants on why this stuff matters, then dollars will vote

Hit them with the code stick

How can we expand who we collaborate with in terms of how projects contribute to equitable communities?

- Engage with local community stakeholders to play a substantive role - not just focus group
- Speak with local advocate groups of marginalized populations
- Capacity building
- Less telling, more asking

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