

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



The recent AIA Leadership Assembly was held in Denver, near Golden, Colorado - the home of this 2011 COTE Top Ten recipient, NREL's Research Support Facility.

Designed by RNL. Image: Frank Ooms



Letter from the chair

By Marsha Maytum, FAIA

The AIA 2019 Leadership Assembly met in mid-August in Denver where members of the COTE Advisory Group had an opportunity to listen, learn, and collaborate with the other 21 AIA Knowledge Communities as well as AIA Strategic Council, Strategic Planning Committee, and AIA staff.

[Read more >](#)



2013 COTE Top Ten Recipient A New Norris House worked to reconcile environmental, social, legal, and aesthetics for a modern take on a historic affordable housing model.

Equity in architecture: It's part of sustainability

By Betsy del Monte, FAIA

Justice and equity are difficult issues to connect directly with the practice of architecture and sustainable design, but these issues are, in fact, embedded in our pursuit of a sustainable future. As we continue to raise the profile of dealing with issues of climate change in the public sector, we must remember who the public sector is, and who are the groups most impacted by these problems.

[Read more >](#)

Moving toward design awards that support climate action

By Anne Schopf, FAIA, and Corey Squire, AIA

Because design awards are the venue that AIA uses to recognize excellence in the professions, it's essential to continue aligning AIA awards programs with the Institute's new holistic vision of sustainable design excellence. Over the past year, AIA COTE has been working to test a new Common Application.

[Read more >](#)

COTE chapter best practices

Event planning: The AIA San Antonio COTE recipe

By Corey Squire, AIA; Sam Rusek, AIA; Helena Zambrano, AIA; and Torrey Carleton, Hon. AIA



AIA San Antonio is a small chapter with a small Committee on the Environment (we have about a dozen consistent members), but through a combination of scrappy tactics and innovative programming, we've built AIA San Antonio COTE into a leading voice on sustainability for our region.

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Two decades of Top Ten data becomes a resource leverage point

By Varun Kohli, AIA

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Can we hear her?

Greta Thunberg is asking us (the adults): Can we hear her yet? And our friends at Architects Advocate are inviting us all to #StandWithGreta on September 20.

[Learn more here >](#)

Calendar

Defining Design Excellence in the Era of Climate Change

September 16 | New York

In 2018, AIA published the Top Ten Toolkit, a resource accessible to all architects, that closes the information gap to designing high-performing, equitable, beautiful buildings. This session, presented by two of the Toolkit's lead authors with AIA New York, will share the theory, application, and strategies for using this new resource to its full potential. [Register to attend >](#)

AIA COTE Top Ten education session

September 17 | New Jersey

Join AIA NJ for a one hour presentation on the COTE Top Ten Toolkit from the creators of the Toolkit, Corey Squire, AIA and Tate Walker, AIA. They will walk

through how to integrate the toolkit into your everyday practice and will follow the presentation with time for questions and short discussion. [Register to attend >](#)

Embodied Carbon Part One: The Blind Spot of the Building Industry

September 19 | New York

Our industry mostly ignores Embodied Carbon, even though it will account for almost half of total new construction emissions globally between now and 2050. This workshop will feature a guest speaker and have guided discussions and brainstorming on the topic. [Register to attend >](#)

Healthy materials workshop & fair

September 24 | Dallas

Whether you practice in a large firm or as a sole practitioner, you have the opportunity to choose! Will you choose healthy materials? Learn how to change the way you select and specify materials, how to put materials health into practice in your office, and what you can do now "off the shelf" at this workshop. [Register to attend >](#)

Zero Waste Design Guidelines: Design Strategies and Case Studies for a Zero Waste City

September 24 | AIAU | 1 LU/HSW

The Zero Waste Design Guidelines address the crucial role that design plays in achieving NYC's ambitious goal, outlined in OneNYC, to send zero waste to landfills by 2030. This presentation will give an overview of the design strategies within the guidelines and show how the waste calculator can be used to estimate the quantities of different waste streams a building will generate. [Register >](#)

Living Product Expo: Products with Purpose

October 8-10 | Nashville, TN

Join the [International Living Future Institute](#) for the fifth [Living Product Expo](#) this October 8 – 10 in Nashville, TN. At the Expo, you'll connect with 700+ leaders in sustainable design, healthy materials, interior design, and health & wellness. You'll experience three game-changing days of engaging education sessions, [inspiring keynotes](#), an exclusive trade show brimming with leading-edge products, and much more. [Register to attend >](#)

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