

# Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



LAUNCHED IN 1871, THE [LEWIS R. FRENCH](#) IS THE OLDEST COMMERCIAL SAILING VESSEL IN THE US AND A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. IMAGE: FRED LEBLANC

Dear Fellow COTE Members:

I've just returned from a wonderful wifi-free vacation on a wooden windjammer sailing in Penobscot Bay in Maine. The boat is the oldest continually working schooner in America,



operating since 1871, hauling cargo including granite, lumber, sardines, and even Christmas trees until she was converted to a passenger boat in the 1930s. Almost all of the structure has been rebuilt many times—all that remains of the original is the keel and part of the hull—but she maintains her original identity. Upon reflection, this experience offers a great lesson about the need for adaptability and resilience while staying clear on longterm goals. Several articles in this month's newsletter reinforce these same points:

- an editorial challenging the qualifications for the AIA's 25 Year Award by former COTE Chair Kira Gould. What should be the essential qualities of buildings that stand the test of time?
- an article looking at the important relationship between mental health and resilience by Jon Penndorf, FAIA
- a link to resources for advocating with your federal elected officials during the August break—recognizing the critical role that budget decisions make in long-term impacts.
- an article by the co-chairs of the AIA 2030 Commitment about its critical role in addressing the Paris agreement

Hoping that you have a chance to get some wifi-free reflection time this summer.

Warmly,



Mary Ann Lazarus  
2017 Chair, Committee on the Environment



## **The future of the Twenty-five Year Award: Celebrating buildings that improve**

By Kira Gould

The Twenty-five Year Award has gone to projects of various scales and types over the years, but typically they are public, mid-sized, and iconic in nature. In 2016, EHDD's [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) received the award; this seemed like a positive departure, as it had less of a formal statement than a public, urban one. It was a building that shaped a place over time. Given this step forward, how will we come to define good design as it spans decades: based on looks and contribution to community, or perhaps based on performance? [Read more >](#)



## **We are still committed to action**

By Heather Holdridge, Assoc. AIA and Greg Mella, FAIA

As we all continue to consider the ramifications of the Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the firms participating in AIA's 2030 Commitment are making a difference in reducing energy use and combating climate change. This letter from the 2030 Working Group co-chairs details the positive impacts of the Commitment and shares ways to get involved; whether by signing, reporting, or deepening your firm's engagement with the program.

[Read more >](#)

### **The "2030 By the Numbers" report for 2016 is now here!**

With a record 175 firms reporting this year, see an overview of the progress we've made in 2016. In the coming months, this summary report will be joined by several in-depth looks at specific aspects of the 2016 data. [Download the 2030 report >](#)



IMAGE: JON PENNDORF

## **Building for mental health and resilience: Architects use design to mitigate environmental stressors**

By Jon Penndorf, FAIA

While the understood goal of resilient buildings is to physically protect both the property and the people, resiliency can also have positive mental health effects for building occupants. Knowing that increased stress levels have been found to directly cause greater psychological issues including suicide, domestic abuse and other destructive behaviors, my colleague, David Cordell, and I set out to explore how the interior environment could actually reduce mental distress. [Read more >](#)

*This post originally appeared on Perkins+Will's [Ideas+Buildings blog](#)*



## **Advocacy action for August!**

You can be the change you want to see by meeting with your federal



legislators during the summer recess. You can advocate for the programs and policies that are important to you and the Committee on the Environment while legislators are home during the month of August. [Learn more >](#)



### Education Spotlight: AIA + 2030 Online Series on AIAU

This series will inspire architects to meet the 2030 Challenge through design strategies, efficient technologies, and systems, and applying renewable energy resources. It's based on the highly successful AIA+2030 Professional Series, which was created by [AIA Seattle](#) and Architecture 2030, with support from the City of Seattle and Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

[Learn more >](#)



### Living Product Expo 2017

September 12-14, Pittsburgh

The International Living Future Institute is hosting its 3rd annual Living Product Expo, dedicated to healthy products for everyone. Imagine products made completely from non-toxic inputs and factories that support equitable development in their local communities. With the support of leading minds in the industry, this can be a reality. Join in the collaborative design process as we craft a healthy and inclusive materials economy. Early bird registration ends August 1. [Learn more >](#)



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