

Committee on the Environment

AIA Knowledge Communities



Letter from the Chair

Hello COTE Members!

I hope 2016 is getting off to a great start for you! It is for me and I'm very happy and excited to be taking the reins of COTE Chair from my friend and colleague, Rand Ekman. Through Rand's leadership in 2015, COTE accomplished some remarkable things.



One of the most important goals was to strengthen our communications with you, our members. With over 15,000 members, AIA COTE is a mighty force. In 2015, we celebrated our 25th year with a Summit at Convention of national, regional and component leaders. I hope to continue to build that network and leverage the expertise and enthusiasm of all of you. We awarded the COTE Top Ten, Top Ten Plus and Top Ten Student Competition recipients, underscoring the importance of education by teaching sustainability in schools and following up on the performance of our work. We also held our first [Colloquium](#) between COTE and the Historic Resources Committee (HRC) at Taliesin West, where we explored the opportunities to make historic and existing structures more sustainable. Making a positive impact on those structures will make a powerful difference to our environment.

In 2016, COTE will be losing some AG members and welcoming new ones. I'd like to say a heart-felt thank you to Bill Sturm, AIA; Carl Elefante, FAIA; Lisa Fay Matthiessen, FAIA, LEED Fellow; and Scott Shell, FAIA, for years of service to COTE and the profession. We look forward to continuing to draw upon their expertise in upcoming years. I'd also like to welcome our new AG members, Angela Brooks, AIA, LEED AP; Stephanie Horowitz, AIA, CHPC; Alison Kwok, Ph.D., AIA, LEED AP; and Tate Walker, AIA, LEED Fellow. With these remarkable new members, COTE continues to represent large and small practices, academia and diverse geographic regions and perspectives in an effort to better serve our members. I'm looking forward to working with these talented new AG members!

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Finally, as we close nominations for the 2016 COTE Top Ten Awards, I'd like to reiterate the COTE [Mission](#) to enhance both the design quality and environmental performance of the built environment. I'm looking forward to celebrating our 2016 projects and working with you all to continue to prove that design excellence means sustainable design excellence.

Here's to 2016!



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

Features

Design and Health Research Consortium

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

Do you know about the AIA's Design and Health [Initiative](#)? The AIA has assembled a tremendous team of design, planning, and public health experts to promote education, research, and resources to help architects implement a wide range of solutions connecting human health and wellness to design.

[Read more](#)

AIA COTE Advocates City of Chicago Energy Benchmarking

By Kira Gould, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP



Photo from US-pictures.com

Two years ago, the city of Chicago adopted a policy to raise awareness of energy performance through information and transparency, with the goal of unlocking energy and cost savings opportunities for businesses and residents.

[Read more](#)

Modular Passive House

By Pamela Sams, AIA, LEED AP BD+C | Originally published in the TDBP newsletter



Second story unit as it arrived on site with the roof folded and without the eave overhangs. Photo credit: David Peabody.

On a warm August morning just near the north east city limits of Washington DC in the Fairmont Heights neighborhood in Maryland, two prefabricated units sat in a parking lot ready to be transported down the street and lifted onto the carefully constructed foundation on a site in the residential community. The units had arrived on trucks from the factory in Delaware where they had been prefabricated. One unit was the first floor which was lifted into place in 90 minutes and the other was the second floor unit which had to have the roof “unfolded” and the eave overhangs attached.

[Read more](#)

Expanding Diversity for Design

By Kira Gould, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP | Originally published in metropolismag.com



Speakers at the U.S. Green Building Council 2015 session. Left to right: Kira Gould, Gabrielle Bullock, Liz Ogbu, and Susan Szenasy. Photo Courtesy: Kira Gould.

We're turning a corner, or so I felt at the U.S. Green Building Council's annual conference last November, nearly 10 years after I began research on the book, *Women in Green: Voices of Sustainable Design*, with Lance Hosey, FAIA. The book came out in 2007 and it's gratifying that the conversation we started continues. It's even more gratifying that the discourse has broadened in ways that appear to be changing the face and the practice of design and related professions. Slowly.

[Read more](#)

In the News

New AIA Strategic Plan

With a careful and optimistic look to the future, the AIA Strategic Council publishes the Institute's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan this past fall. The document is meant to guide the organization through the next five years and looks beyond to what practice and architecture will be like in 2030 and 2050. Not surprisingly, sustainability has surfaced as one of the four strategic initiatives the AIA will be focused on in the coming years. See more about the new Strategic Plan and all four initiatives [here](#).

Architects Issue Statement on Final Obama State of the Union Address

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) issued the following statement on President Barack Obama's final state of the union address. Please attribute to AIA President Russell Davidson, FAIA:

"Both President Obama and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, in her Republican response, spoke in broad strokes about their parties' competing visions for the nation. But instead of offering competing ideas, there are still clear bipartisan initiatives both the President and Congress can undertake in his final year in office to grow jobs in the \$1 trillion design and construction sector, which accounts for almost 6 percent of GDP:"

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

2016 AIA Convention in Philadelphia- Registration Now Open!

TH303- COTE Top Ten: Performing Beautifully...a Restorative Future

Thursday, May 19, 2016 | 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM | Earn 1.00 LU/RIBA

The AIA Committee on the Environment Top Ten and Top Ten+ Awards are the profession's foremost recognition for integrated, holistic design. This program celebrates projects that exemplify high-performance architecture with stories from the winning design teams. Join your peers in celebrating how beauty and performance create holistic architecture.

EV217- COTE Top Ten Reception

Thursday, May 19, 2016 | 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM | \$35

Join the AIA Committee on the Environment as we honor the 2016 recipients of the prestigious Top Ten Awards. Celebrate practicing architects and emerging student talents, as well as the 20th year of COTE's Top Ten Awards and the tail end of COTE's 25th anniversary.

SA105- Lessons from the Leading Edge: COTE Top Ten Research Project

Saturday, May 21, 2016 | 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM | Earn 1.00 LU/HSW/RIBA

The highly anticipated Top Ten Research Project illuminates the work of nearly 200 Green Projects Awards winners, and the Committee on the Environment's groundbreaking report sets the stage for a new era in design. Extraordinary things are happening in sustainable design. This session dives into a whole host of them.

Learn More 

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

AIA Knowledge Communities



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