

Committee on the Environment

AIA Knowledge Community



Open air circulation connects residents with views at Casa Adelante 2060 Folsom. Top Ten Award 2023 by Mithun + YA Studio Image: Bruce Damonte

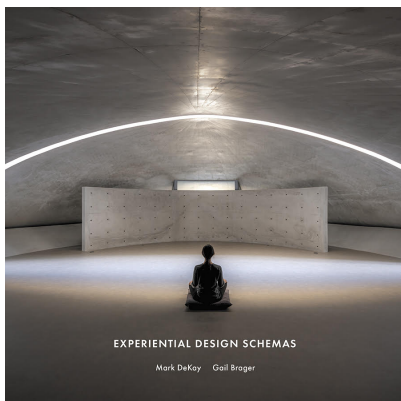
Letter from the chair



By Michelle Amt, AIA

As 2024 gets under way, there is much to be excited about with COTE. Our mission remains unchanged: to empower architects, allied professionals, and the public to achieve climate action and climate justice through design.

[Read more >](#)



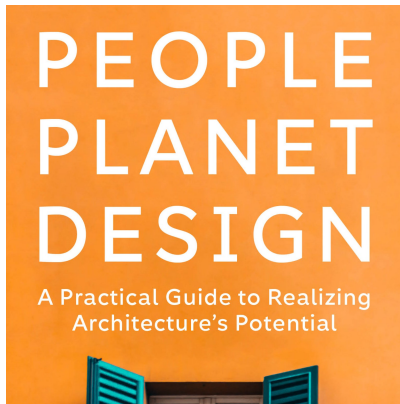
COTE book REVIEW: Experiential Design Schemas by Gail Brager & Mark DeKay

By Bob Harris, FAIA

Dedicated to “the student in all of us,” this comprehensive book seeks to both educate and inspire. Set in the context of

conventional practice, the information and ideas presented remain both academically rigorous and “laser-focused on bringing the person back to the center of design intentions.”

[Read more >](#)

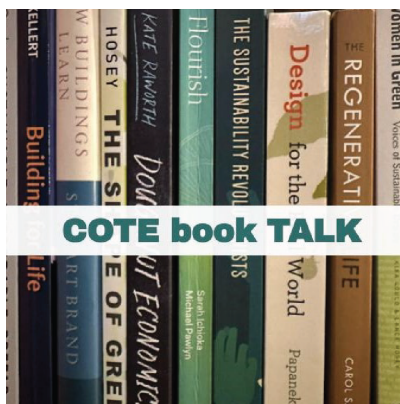


COTE book REVIEW: People Planet Design by Corey Squire

By Lyndley Kent, AIA

In his book, illustrated by Helena Zambrano, AIA, Squire steps through each stage of design to lay a framework for how architects can achieve design excellence. Using real-world situations and common examples of where project paths diverge, he outlines how practicing professionals can better guide outcomes.

[Read more >](#)



Save the Dates: COTE book TALKS

In conjunction with the book reviews above, we're piloting a new program of COTE book TALKS with COTE chapters and authors and publishers and YOU! Please consider joining us in February for one or both of our first installments of this virtual event:

**People Planet Design by Corey Square
(Publisher: Island Press) with the author
and reviewer Lyndley Kent**

February 8 | 1pm ET / 10am PT

**Experiential Design Schemas by Mark
DeKay and Gail Brager (Publisher: ORO
Editions) with the authors and reviewer
Bob Harris**

February 28 | 12pm ET / 9am PT

We will share registration links for these free events on social media: find COTE on

[LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) (formerly Twitter)
 (@AIA_COTE).



New Playbook for Community-Centered Design

By Julie Hiromoto, FAIA

The approach outlined in [Biositu's](#) new “Alignment Process Playbook” is intended to generate value for all through community-centered design. With support from the AIA Upjohn Research Initiative in [2021](#), this resource, with case studies from a pilot conducted in 2022 and 2023, is now ready for use!

[Read more >](#)



Foundational Action to Achieve Materials Holy Grail

By Jen Levinsen | Mindful MATERIALS

Annie Bevan, CEO of mindful MATERIALS, says, “Material embodied impacts remain too easy to ignore and too complicated to make decisions confidently.”

Enter mindful MATERIALS.

The team from mindful MATERIALS provides an update on the Forums’ progress.

[Read more >](#)

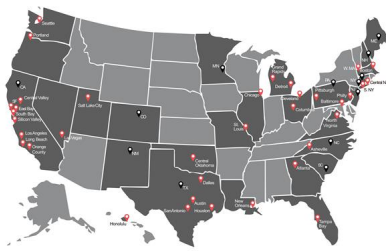


Advocacy update

By Arathi Gowda, AIA

The new year is a time for reflection so for this COTE Advocacy update I thought it would be helpful to share personal reflections on the progress made within COTE Advocacy and the work that lies ahead.

[Read more >](#)



COTE Network update

By Beth Brant, AIA

The COTE Network is excited to share that the 2024 COTE Chapter Guide and version 2024.0 of the Common App for Design Excellence will be out in the coming weeks.

[Read more >](#)



2024 Green Schools Conference

March 5-7 | Santa Fe, N.M. | Santa Fe Community Convention Center and El Dorado Hotel and Spa

The Center for Green Schools and Green Schools National Network are excited to share the [2024 Green Schools Conference \(GSC\)](#).

GSC convenes experts in creating and advocating for green schools, with a focus on those leading their schools and school systems toward whole-school sustainability.

[Read more >](#)



Readings + Resources

Top Ten...Playlist

KieranTimberlake Music League

Leading up to the submission deadline last fall for the COTE Top Ten Awards, the creative minds at KieranTimberlake created playlists for each of the Framework Principles.

[Listen >](#)

Climate actions should learn from building design

Adele Houghton, FAIA | The BMJ

Co-benefit climate action is the key to meeting the Paris Climate Agreement. Building design can help lead the way.

[Read more >](#)

Seeking a just transition to a decarbonized built environment

Elizabeth Waters | BuildingGreen

Community Climate Shift funds projects driving community-led decarbonization and building performance standards. Article free to COTE community in January and February.

[Read more >](#)

The most valuable guides to decarbonization in 2024

James Ball | GreenBiz

For the new year, here's a selection of the best free resources on how to decarbonize buildings.

[Read more >](#)

Achieving a decarbonized and climate-resilient built environment

C40 Cities

This new report offers tangible solutions and city action examples to address the contribution of the built environment to emissions and climate risks through the lens of three elements – location and site choices, design choices and materials choices.

[Read more >](#)

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