SBSE RETREAT 2017 ANNOUNCED

CRAFT: SHAPING BUILDINGS, ECOLOGIES, AND CITIES

Sublimity, Oregon, July 25–28, 2017

Materials, buildings, neighborhoods, and cities are intricately connected by complex systems intended to provide comfort, beauty, and well-being. The 2017 retreat theme, CRAFT, focuses on tools, strategies, resources, and innovative design practices we develop to inspire our students to create appropriate environments.

CRAFT is purposely intended to have multiple meanings—from hands-on sculpting or construction to creating powerful low-energy design projects, to matching theory with actual performance. In accordance with our long-standing retreat tradition, participants will be asked to share their wealth of knowledge and procedures from their architecture programs or practices.

Within the serene confines of the Silver Falls Cabin and Conference Center in Sublimity, OR (30 minutes east of Salem), the retreat will include workshops and short presentations, visits to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Gordon House and to Alvar Aalto’s Mt. Angel Abbey Library, keynote speakers, scholarship support for students and for a faculty Cook Scholar from a developing country, as well as plenty of open time for synergistic discussions, new research and scholarship ideas, hiking, and relaxation.

Our retreat will start on July 25 and end the morning of the July 28. Optional building tours are planned for Portland in the afternoon of July 28.

Stay tuned for further information. 🌿

---Alison Kwok and Seth Holmes

Frank Lloyd Wright’s Gordon House is on the agenda for an SBSE visit.

Silver Falls Cabin and Conference Center lodge’s common room awaits SBSEers occupancy.

HTTP://WWW.SBSE.ORG/RETREAT2017/RETREAT2017HOME.HTM
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is a lot to ask, but maybe someday the USC School of Architecture could have a building-science Dean. Anyone up for that?

The formal announcement of the USC Dean search is coming soon. Be ready. We have 800+ students with majors in architecture, building science, heritage conservation, and landscape architecture+urbanism. We’re in the middle of Los Angeles with a great group of building-science faculty providing a supportive team. 🥋

—Doug Noble, USC

The ball will be in your court soon SBSEers!—ed.

PLEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

[The “PLEA Lifetime Achievement Award” is conferred infrequently to distinguished individuals who have made a consistent contribution to the PLEA objectives. Only four have been awarded since PLEA’s inception in 1982. See <http://plea-arch.org/plea-awards/>. This year the award was presented to SBSEer Murray Milne.—ed.]

WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS …

I was in a daze. What a great surprise to be given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the PLEA Conference last month, so when I went up to receive the award I said almost nothing. Later, as it began to sink in, I thought of all the things I wanted to say.

WOW! Thank you so very much. This is truly a great honor because I consider you all as my tribe. The software that we have written was intended from the beginning, 40 years ago, to make it easier to design passive and low-energy architecture. The objective was to help designers instantly see the consequences of each design decision in terms of the amount of energy their building would use. The hope was not that your building should have a particular “look,” but rather that you could graphically understand how well it would perform for its occupants and for the environment.

When you run Climate Consultant for your particular spot on the planet, the objective is to crunch all that meteorological data to come up with a unique set of design guidelines. When you run HEED the objective is to make it easy for students to be able to instantly model any of the principles of building science, and for professionals to be able to run through a set of quick comparative day-one energy design sketches.

In HEED, you will see a bar chart that shows in red how many hours of the year your building will need heating, in blue how many hours of cooling will be needed, and in green how many hours your building will run free, in other words when it will be PASSIVE. As you refine scheme after scheme, you can watch that green bar growing longer and longer to the point where it fills all 8,760 hours of the year. That is where you have a totally passive building, a zero net energy building.

Over the years it has taken a team to put together HEED and Climate Consultant, including my colleague Robin Liggett, and our senior side kicks Carlos Gomez and Don Leeper, plus dozens of graduate students. We have received essential support from the California Energy Commission, and from California utilities, which are ultimately funded by the Public Goods Charges paid by California ratepayers. So, if you pay a utility bill in California, thank you very much.

I believe that to have an impact design tools must be free! In the last three years HEED has had 12,000 downloads and Climate Consultant has just reached 100,000! Everyone please continue to steal this software, and remember that if you run our design tools and have any questions or problems, e-mail me <milne@ucla.edu> because I will be your consultant for life! ☝️

—Murray Milne
**Annual Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Board: Alfredo Fernández-González, Bruce Haglund Ulrike Passe, Alex Rempel Members: 50  
*The most widely attended annual meeting ever!—ed.*

**Introduction:** The President (AFG) introduced the SBSE and explained our mission and activities; members introduced themselves.

**Treasurer’s Report (AR):** Membership is high, with approximately 100 more active members this summer than last summer; the discounted PLEA registration for SBSE members may be partly responsible.

The Cook Foundation generously awarded the SBSE $16,500 in December 2015 to support a second three-year cycle of scholarships for students and faculty from developing countries to attend relevant conferences, including PLEA conferences and SBSE retreats.

Revenue is accordingly high, with current funds of about $30,000. This amount will soon be diminished by the award of PLEA and SBSE Retreat scholarships, nevertheless we are operating well within our budget and perhaps even too conservatively.

2016 PLEA scholarships include four Cook Faculty awards (Shrestha, Salas, Rahman, Gallardo), four Cook Student awards (Al-Sudani, Khajehzadeh, Kolodiy, Singh), and four SBSE Student awards (Al-Shayeb, Lokko, Jones, Rivera).

2016 SBSE Retreat scholarships include one Cook Faculty award (Morales) and four SBSE Student awards (He, Kamp, Kopetzky, Rivera).

**Communications Report (BH):** The newsletter is ready for news, anytime. The educational portal is in beta testing and available to any member by request.

2017 SBSE Business Meeting Venue Discussion (all):
- GreenBuild, Boston, Nov 8–10
- PLEA 2017, Edinburgh, July 3–5

2017 SBSE Retreat Venue Discussion (all):
- Silver Falls Lodge near Salem, OR, July 25–28
- Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, not determined, possibly August
- Edinburgh, newly suggested

**New Business:** What new directions should we pursue? (all)

Educational portal testing, development, and contributions—needed from all members

*continued next column*
SBSE PEOPLE

This year’s ARCC Haecker Award winner is Larry Degelman was cited for his life-long inquiry into building science topics. For full details see http://www.arcc-arch.org/2015-2016-haecker-award/.

Amir Nezamdoost’s project (Automated Blind Study) was selected as the winner of the International VELUX Award 2016 for Students of Architecture in the Americas region (North and South America) and nominated for the global prize which will be awarded in Germany this November from among the winners of the five UIA regions. His work is discussed at the 6:32 mark in a video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ2IL6fyuOe>.

At their conference in Lisbon ARCC awarded Tracy Rose Rider, NSU, its New Researcher Award for her role as the Coordinator for the Design Initiative for Sustainability and Health. Details at <http://www.arcc-arch.org/2015-2016-new-researcher-award/>.

Fionn Stevenson and Doina Petrescu have co-edited a BRI special issue, “Co-producing neighborhood resilience,” now online with the six articles free to view and several more in the issue. The link to the special issue’s contents is <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rbri20/44/7>.

RETREAT 2016—2 VIEWS

Attending the Society of Building Science Educator’s retreat this year was a last minute decision and one of the best I made this summer. As a new faculty member in architecture, making a transition from practice to academia, I was looking for a cohort. I wanted to understand how the building science I had executed in practice (working for Buro Happold Engineering, specializing in sustainable water system design) could fuel my fledgling research agenda. I was looking for a template for the leap from practice and a definition of an exemplar landing. I found inspiration.

The SBSE retreat was comprised of dedicated individuals from across the country, from institutional types, who attend the retreat as a calling rather than an obligation, and who were seeking similar inspiration as I, regardless of rank or experience. The large conferences and conventions I attended while practicing never had this level of engagement and enjoyment. From the retreat I gained hands full of examples of how building science is integrated in design education at a spectrum of institutions and their place-specific pedagogies, found new colleagues who were seeking answers to issues similar to those in my research and teaching, and cultivated a desire to attend in future years to top up on inspiration and to further my new friendships.

—Courtney Crossen

What’s better than hanging out with a bunch of professors? Doing it off campus, of course! The SBSE Retreat was exactly this—an exciting time of knowledge sharing with educators, practitioners, and students from around the world in the great city of San Francisco. Over the course of three days, approximately forty-five educators and a handful of graduate students came together over the exciting topic of building science. It was exactly that! We heard from one of the most forward-thinking utility commissions in the U.S., and learned teaching tools from educators young and old. Several presenters showed some of their latest research, and we all spent a lot of time talking and sharing ideas and thoughts while creating memories.

As a graduate student in the midst of many seasoned educators, the SBSE Retreat provided a place to listen, to learn, and to meet. Though building science is a niche area within the architecture and building industries, its relevance within the profession shined at the retreat. The breadth of the field was evident, and the excitement present; the retreat gave me a new level of enthusiasm about the profession. I had the opportunity to observe how others teach and share their investigations and studies. And in both the tours and the seminar sessions, the forward-thinking nature of the profession and education was ever present. But most important, the retreat was a time to soak in the abundance of ideas and hear from brilliant and passionate educators.

As I think about my next steps in life, I’m aware of the upcoming school year—a year of thesis. Ball State University offers graduate students the opportunity to study a topic of their choice and one of the best I made this summer. As a new faculty member in architecture, making a transition from practice to academia, I was looking for a cohort. I wanted to understand how the building science I had executed in practice (working for Buro Happold Engineering, specializing in sustainable water system design) could fuel my fledgling research agenda. I was looking for a template for the leap from practice and a definition of an exemplar landing. I found inspiration.

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—Courtney Crossen

—Luke Kamp

SBSEers getting ready to tuck into a delicious Thai dinner at the Farmhouse Kitchen on retreat day one.

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PLEA 2016 REVIEW

This year PLEA (Passive and Low Energy Architecture) was held in the United States, specifically in Los Angeles, after a long trip around the world for the past 30+ years. Before we get to the conference itself, we should introduce where we were. If you spend your whole time in the conference hotel, have you really been to a place?

I hope you were able to take in some sun while in L.A. Immediately on walking out the hotel door, you find things to do and sights to see. Across the street from the hotel was a music and food festival in Ricardo Legorreta’s Pershing Square.

The tour the next day took us by many different places, including the Gensler LA office, and finished with a very calming rest at Rafael Moneo’s Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral. The interstitial space of the Bunker Hill Steps across from the library made enjoyable seating while listening to the tour guide. The library featured an inspiring engraving—“Books alone are liberal and free. They give all who ask; they emancipate all who serve them faithfully.”

We, as educators and researchers, pursue knowledge, not only from books, in an attempt to understand more completely what it means to design and employ the building sciences. SBSE and PLEA help us in that goal, be it through the camaraderie in the organization, the fascinating plenary lectures, the scores of research presentations, or the casual conversations in the hallways and elsewhere.

PLEA had a number of research tracks, and for the first time there was an educational track, which I greatly appreciated while attending many of the presentations. Learning from other people’s experiences and methodologies, in both research and teaching, even though their research topic is quite different, is invaluable. This new knowledge translates to better informed students and professionals in environmental design and the building sciences.

As a professional organization we impart to others the excitement found in our work so they may enjoy it as well. Our designs and thoughts, as described by the plenary speakers—Thom Mayne, Larry Scarpa, and Ed Mazria—instill a sense of pride in, need for, and urgency to our work. Their presentations combined to show that ideas must be sufficiently grounded to develop interest for a combined professional and societal following, so we achieve a common purpose or a fundamental goal. Our moves, both at and away from conferences, either in our studios or research labs, should have a consistent, systematic approach.

But the most important question is, “Was the conference fun?” If you do not enjoy what you are doing, then why do it? PLEA was, in a few words, fun, educational, and inspiring, and I look forward to next year’s conference in Edinburgh.

—Ken Black

OPPORTUNITIES KNOCK

DENVER EVENT

SBSE is pleased to announce that it is a community partner supporting the 2016 Getting to Zero National Forum. Attend the Forum Oct 12–14 in Denver along with leading designers, owners, operators, commercial real estate professionals, policy makers, manufacturers, and others to share perspectives on the growth of zero net energy (ZNE), discuss the policies driving new projects, engage in best practices for successful outcomes, and collaborate on opportunities for ZNE to transform the built environment. Find out more at <http://gettingtozeroforum.org/>.

Also, there is a formal student scholarship program set up to support student participation <http://gettingtozeroforum.org/scholarships/>.

—Walter Grondzik

BUFFALO EVENT

The University at Buffalo is hosting a half-day event on climate change resilient buildings on Nov 4, 2016 from noon until 5:00pm. More information is available at <https://resilientbuildings.org/symposium/>. Please register (for free) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/from-sandy-to-snowvember-climate-change-and-buildings-in-new-york-state-tickets-27408698154>.

—Nick Rajkovich

TORONTO STUDENTSHP

I’m pleased to announce two fully-funded full-time PhD studentships in the Building Science Group at Ryerson University, in Toronto.

The doctoral research study will be designed to address the overarching question, “How effective can advanced building systems be with PCM (one studentship) or Aerogel (the other studentship)?”

We are looking to recruit exceptional candidates of the highest quality, capable of submitting dissertations within 3 years.

Please feel free to transmit this opportunity to students or colleagues who may be interested in these studentships. For more detail, contact <uberardi@ryerson.ca>.

—Umberto Berardi
DIVA Day in Toronto

Solemma is pleased to announce the speakers for DIVA Day 2016 and to remind everyone that registration is now open. DIVA Day is an annual symposium to discuss the use of DIVA and associated environmental analysis tools in design practice, research, and architectural education. We are extremely pleased to welcome speakers from Transsolar, Cornell, MIT, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, HOK, University of Southern California, Loisos + Ubbelohde, Horton Lees Brogden, KieranTimberlake, Kohn Pedersen Fox, and Atelier Ten. For further details on the exciting speakers at this year’s DIVA Day, please see our event poster above. DIVA Day 2016 will be hosted by the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto on Friday, September 30.

In addition to the symposium, we will be offering DIVA and HDR photography workshops surrounding the event on September 29 and October 1.

Registering before September 5 secures a free DIVA Day T-shirt. In addition, 25% off the conference rates are available for multiple attendees from the same firm, educational institution, or business. Student rates are also available.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Toronto. —Alstan and the Solemma Team

EAAE/ARCC 2016 Review

This summer’s EAAE/ARCC conference, “Architectural Research Addressing Societal Challenges” was held 15–18 June 2016, in Lisbon, Portugal. It featured great keynote speakers (see http://eaae-arcc2016.fa.ulisboa.pt/index.php/conference/keynote-speakers/), beautiful off-site event locations, and over 200 titles printed in the conference abstract book. Of note were keynote speakers Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu from China’s armature architecture studio. Their presentation on the first day was a gentle and poetic reminder of the massive de-agrarianization movement in China. The design work presented was the outcome of eight years’ non-confrontational amelioration of state hegemony through armature architecture. A philosophical attitude directed towards design that de-objectifies architecture while bringing humanity into the core of the practice. A quiet voice in an otherwise busy and fast-changing world.

The chaotic running of the program was a major distraction throughout the conference. For four days, the conference participants tried in vain, to hop between the six concurrent sessions using an event schedule filled with mistakes. Some sessions I attended had fewer presenters than expected because of the large percentage of no-shows. Other sessions had only one or two attendees other than the presenters. [This lack of participation is an unwelcomed development that points to an unprofessional attitude among those whose abstracts/papers are accepted. How can conference organizers compensate for no-shows? It really throws off session planning. Not a good trend!] In general, the quality of the research presented varied and, consequently, audience participation was less than enthusiastic in many sessions.

On the positive side, the well-planned off-site events were great platforms for discussion among the attendees and for serious intellectual interchange. [Our Lisbon University hosts provided great hospitality, not limited to delicious pastries and libations during breaks, and at the planned ventures off-campus!] Lisbon as a host city provided a unique historical post-colonial atmosphere that has influenced most of the participants without overwhelming them. The keynote speeches were fresh, invigorating, and created a collective enthusiasm about the subject matter presented.

Despite my mixed experience in Lisbon, I am looking forward to Salt Lake City for the ARCC 2017 Research Conference. —Adil Sharag-Eldin
AN SBSE BOOK STORY

I’m not sure that everyone knows that as a result of your encouragement after my talk at the SBSE Albuquerque retreat in 2011, I started work on a book on sensory design based on a phenomenological approach to the shape of sensory space. My idea for the book is to bridge the gap between architects and engineers to create a sensory design of place. Now I’m very excited to let you all know this book is in the publishing process with Routledge, scheduled for release in December of this year. It’s titled, *Creating Sensory Spaces: The Architecture of the Invisible*, and it’s now available for pre-sale from Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Creating-Sensory-Spaces-Architecture-Invisible/dp/1138918776>) and other online outlets. The book is a comprehensive overview of designing for the senses to create a sense of place, and it plays homage to the work of many people in SBSE through the years. The early chapters address design for each individual sense; latter chapters bring the senses together through the investigation of a series of case studies and observations on time, movement, and sense of place.

On a more personal note, I want to let everyone know what a large role SBSE has played in helping me create this book. It is not just the encouragement and sharing of resources, but also the sense of community and caring I have always felt in the group. I think this sense of community is unique in the professional world, and I credit the many originators of SBSE for it. I am truly grateful to the organization for creating this place of sharing and empowerment to explore new ideas.

—Barbara Erwine

DAYLIGHT IN BUILDINGS

Published in 2000, this 262-page book is a record of 3 years of collaborative R&D on daylighting from 20 teams of researchers under the auspices of the International Energy Agency Task 21. There have been some advances in the last 15 years, but the underlying challenges and issues haven’t changed that much.

You can continue to download the pdf at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/daylight-in-buildings.pdf>, but some people still enjoy holding a book in their hands. We have extra “physical copies” of the book that we will mail to you while supplies last; up to two copies per university, with (1) the promise that they will find a good home, and (2) a note back from you about your current interests and activities in daylighting education, research, and/or practice.

Please contact Ellen Thomas <ellenthomas@lbl.gov> to get hard copies.

—Stephen Selkowitz

DESIGN WITH CLIMATE

On the longest day of the year, I have the pleasure of letting you know that my father’s book *Design with Climate* has been republished. Written over 50 years ago in 1963, it has gone through many editions, and has been out-of-print for 20 years.

—Victor Olgyay

*continued next column*
CALL FOR POSTERS!

Deadline: 30 September 2016

Our contest welcomes participants from all over the world and from all areas of knowledge, without exception, in order to release graphic descriptions of their scientific research projects, design projects, artistic proposals, manifestos, and such. The format proposed is the infographics, which will express complex ideas through graphics.

The competition is organized by the project coordination team “Global Agenda, Local Actions” from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE), one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country. Its main campus is located in the area of the Habitat Village.

The best posters will be part of an academic publication and an exhibition on PUCE’s campus during the month of October 2016, the month when the Third World Conference on Habitat and Sustainable Development of the United Nations will take place.

Proposals must fit into one of the six thematic areas of UN HABITAT III.

We promote an inclusive participation that addresses a variety of points-of-view. Therefore, we invite proposals from independent professionals, students at all levels, academic research groups, and public or private entities.


TEACHING REPORT: RISD

I teach a fall structures course and a spring building systems course at RISD, wherein grad students use construction documents for a case study building to produce a digital model showing the building’s structural and MEP/F systems. Last year, the students were assigned the University Center at The New School, by SOM. This is a LEED Gold building that was completed under the newest LEED standard. The building has 30% opening, smart daylighting systems, heat recovery units, a vast ice room for off-loading peak cooling demand for power, grey water recycling, a black-to-grey water treatment plant, storm water retention, green roofs, skip stop elevators, high voltage lighting, a co-generation plant, on-site waste recovery and composting, and other features. You can view the students’ case study model at <https://vimeo.com/130281328>.

This thirteenth such case study of a celebrated building joins the archive from the past decade featuring student-built integrated systems models of important projects by H3 Hardy, SANAA, Foster & Associates, Steve Holl, Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works, Diller Scopfio + Renfro, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, OMA, Kennedy & Violich Architecture, and Rafael Vinoly Architects. You can see the full archive <https://vimeo.com/album/1986566>.

This year, the students were assigned our fourteenth case study—the Building for Environmental Research and Teaching (BERT), by Toshiko Mori, at Brown University. This is a LEED Gold building that was completed during fall 2014. The Brown campus greenhouse was relocated to the top of the roof of the BERT, making room for the creation of a new, landscaped North—South axis through the campus, and adding a leafy floor to the top of the existing building. The BERT has new fenestration, smart daylighting systems, heat recovery units, stormwater retention, a stormwater-to-grey water treatment system, high-voltage lighting, chilled beams, a dedicated lab water system, a fertilized tepid water system for the plants, chemical waste treatment, reverse osmosis water purification for the growth chambers, and other features. It was a superb opportunity for the students to comprehensively study state-of-the-art systems and their energy implications.

The BERT is smaller than many of the case study buildings we have studied in previous years, so this year’s model is much more comprehensive and detailed than some of the other models you’ve already seen. As in previous years, we used the A&E construction documents and site visits to learn about the architectural, structural, mechanical, plumbing, fire, and electrical systems.

I’m happy to share the most recent case study, which my students completed this spring <https://vimeo.com/175853873>. Enjoy their work! —Peter Yeadon

—Mohamad T. Araji
This new research project links indoor environmental quality and staff productivity in office buildings.

In office buildings, the salary cost of staff can exceed energy and maintenance costs and the capital cost of the building by 40 and 200 times, respectively, over the life of the building. Even a small improvement in worker productivity can deliver major savings. This idea is reaffirmed by a recent report by the Green Building Council’s on Health, Wellbeing & Productivity in Offices, which highlights a lack of consideration for indoor environmental quality in building design and operation, despite evidence of productivity improvements between 8–11% as a result of improved air quality alone.

A new research project, Whole life performance plus (WLP+), led by Rajat Gupta of the Low Carbon Building Group of Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development at Oxford Brookes University (Oxford, UK) is addressing this challenge by empirically investigating the link between improving indoor environmental quality (IEQ) and increasing staff productivity. Funded by UK’s Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) this two-year project seeks to deliver a proven methodology for defining and measuring staff productivity, a statistically proven model of IEQ for improving productivity, and a control system for optimizing IEQ in offices in real time.

The WLP+ model aims to create work environments that increase productivity by 10% while reducing energy use by 30%. This co-benefit maximizes the whole life performance of buildings, supports wider business objectives, and at the same time improves the well-being and productivity of staff.

The project is run in collaboration with a building performance consultancy (LCMB), working in partnership with major building occupiers/owners (Kings College and clients of Emcor FM), and dissemination partners (British Council for Offices and Constructing Excellence).

For further information on the project, please contact Rajat Gupta, Oxford Brookes University, rgupta@brookes.ac.uk.

—Rajat Gupta

We are currently advertising for a research post at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, within the Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit (MEARU). This post is for a researcher on a major £1.2m EPSRC-funded project investigating Fabric Integrated Thermal Storage in Low Carbon Dwellings, being undertaken in collaboration with Strathclyde, Bath, and Imperial. This post is based within MEARU.

The post holder will have good post-graduate or doctoral research (or extensive practice) experience in the fields of architectural and environmental design, energy systems, and housing construction, with excellent technical knowledge along with drawing and graphic communication skills. Application at http://tinyurl.com/h6isbye.

—Tim Sharpe

The Mackintosh School of Architecture is pleased to announce a new Master’s course in Environmental Architecture based within the highly successful Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit (MEARU) at the Glasgow School of Art. This course provides students with specialist knowledge and insight into the relationships among low-energy architectural design, energy, indoor environmental performance, and building occupants. The program is based on the research strengths of the MEARU and benefits from informed teaching through engagement with live projects. It offers balanced academic and practical content. Students explore the latest developments in environmental design theory and practice; there are opportunities to participate in on-going MEARU research projects. Students will work within an architectural school with a well-established design culture, and within a specialist research unit providing key research skills.

—Tim Sharpe

What an exciting time—a time when Zero Energy Ready Homes have become readily achievable and cost-effective. By definition, these high-performance homes are so energy-efficient that renewable power can offset most or all the annual energy consumption.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Race to Zero Student Design Competition inspires collegiate students to become the next generation of building science professionals through a design challenge for zero energy ready homes. Students become part of a new leadership movement to achieve truly sustainable homes.

Upcoming Webinar: Kick Start Your 2017 Race to Zero Competition! Monday, Sept 19, 2016, at 3 p.m. ET. Register Today!


The search is a two-stage process. Interested applicants should first submit a short biography, a curriculum vitae, and a statement of interest.

First-stage applications must be submitted online and should be received by October 31, 2016. Selected applicants for the second stage will be notified by November 30, 2016, and preferred candidates will be subsequently invited to visit the school for an interview in early winter 2017. The search shall remain open until a suitable candidate has been identified.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community. We especially welcome applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities.

Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.
CHAGRIN AT LA MOCA

I entered anticipating great integration of art and light in Isozaki’s extensively daylighted museum, only to discover every skylight had been blacked out to protect the art! What a dismal experience, sigh!

IS THIS BUILDING SCIENCE? OR JUST A HOOT?

I landed a position at Central Michigan University where I’m teaching classes including Master of Science in Administration (MSA) core classes (research methods, strategic planning, and multiculturalism), and Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) courses (production planning, technology and the environment, along with Engineering Management (EM) classes).

Illustrated is a little “experiment” I did in class on the perception of attire and room layout: not really building science, but it was a hoot.

I started with the Hawaiian shirt—it was 10 degrees outside and snowing hard—then next week did the business suit with a tight haircut.

The image with the work shirt does not show that I was sporting a Mohawk haircut in week three. Each class meeting I also changed the layout of the classroom. The U-shape of desks and chairs promoted more free-flowing discussion, where the pod arrangement encouraged smaller impromptu conversations at the expense of paying attention to the larger discussion. Normal rank-and-file seating squelched conversation (students liked pods best, I liked the U).

—Richard Hayes

Richard’s experimental dress and desk layout (l to r) week 2—business as usual, week 3—mohawk with pods, and week 1—Hawaiian shirt with U-shape.

SBSE CALENDAR

2016
Sep 19–20  SBE16 Toronto/Toronto, Canada
Sep 29–31  DIVA Day 2016, Toronto, Canada
Oct 10–11  Façade Tectonics Conf./Los Angeles, CA, USA
Oct 12–14  Getting to Zero National Forum /Denver, CO, USA
Nov 1  Race to Zero applications due
Nov 4  Climate Change Resilient Buildings, Buffalo, NY, USA

2017
Jul 3–5  PLEA2017/Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Jul 25–28  SBSE Retreat/Sublimity, OR, USA
Aug 7–9  Building Simulation/San Francisco, CA, USA
Sep 6–9  EAE13 Conference/Glasgow, Scotland, UK

WINTER ISSUE SUBMITTAL DEADLINE—DECEMBER 1