GREEN GULCH HAPPENS

Twenty-eight SBSEers enthusiastically attended the retreat at Green Gulch Zen Farm. The Education and Research for Sustainability theme inspired a surprising diversity of approaches. Integrated and non-traditional teaching methods, research based on integrated computer models and on single environmental forces, and issues of interdisciplinary interest and cooperation were illuminated by the presenters. Virtually all participants submitted their approaches to sustainability for discussion and critique with interested colleagues.

Invited presenters Marvin Rosenman (Ball State University) and Raymond Cole (University of British Columbia) were lavished 150 minutes each to present and discuss overviews of education and research in sustainability. Marvin shared insights gained from organizing the EASE (Educating Architects for a Sustainable Environment) project and co-chairing the ACSA/AIA Cranbrook Seminar on Sustainability and Design. Ray laid out the history of his twenty-something years' evolving research on sustainability.

Three special projects were highlighted for the group. Cris Benton went center-stage at the Pacific Energy Center in San Francisco to outline the Vital Signs Project (see Vital Signs, page 3) and the wondrous facility that Pacific Gas and Electric has assembled in a recycled book bindery. John Reynolds and Bob Peña debuted the dazzling Design for PV curriculum package (see Now Available, page 4) assembled under the auspices of an ACSA/AIA curriculum development grant and talked about their grant writing process. Magician Rocky Rohwedder and the lovely Joe Armstrong outlined the emergence of Sonoma State University's EarthLab, a sustainable energy and agriculture education demonstration project. The final morning was devoted to an SBSE planning session (see Future Events, page 6).

The retreat was intense, rewarding, and featured the Zen Farm's fine vegetarian cuisine and warm hospitality (including sleeping in Jim van der Ryn's solar guest house), relaxing walks on Muir Beach and evening saunas, and lots of restorative networking with new colleagues (half those in attendance) and old-timers (who said their real reason for returning was revitalization). A detailed summary of the retreat is being prepared by Mark DeKay. Pipe up if you didn't attend and want a copy.

"Water and architecture—half-gallon flush at the Green Gulch guest house."

—Bruce Hoglund

SELECTED ONE-LINERS FROM GREEN GULCH

A small pebble will ripple the largest pond. —Tony Booth

You can't start with a clean slate (ecologically speaking). —Rob Peña

Don't get a carwash education—(book up, get pulled through)! —Marvin Rosenman

The idea of owning land is equivalent to saying you own your wife. —John Reynolds

I feel, in meeting with this intimate group, like I have been to a really fine, little restaurant. Now I don't know whether to tell everybody or keep it a secret. —Marvin Rosenman (in praise of SBSE)
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you know of a decent textbook, still in print, for building science (or building physics) that would be appropriate for a sophomore-level course. I am having a hard time finding a recent one. I'd be grateful if you could respond promptly, as I need to order very soon for next fall.

—Mohamed Bouchri, Illinois Urbana-Champaign

[Mr. Know-it-All recommends Heating Cooling Lighting by Norbert Lechner; Environmental Control Systems by Fuller Moore; Sun, Wind, and Light by G.Z. Broom/American Building, vol. 2 by James Marston Fitch (really recent!); and a trip to the SBSE bookshelf. Can anyone else help Mohamed?—ed.]

I know for a fact that the loving labors of newsletter editors go largely unappreciated, or at least nearly all the appreciation goes unexpressed. I'm writing to tell you how much I enjoy SBSE News. I end up reading every word just to be sure that I haven't missed any of the little nuggets of your humor that make it so much fun. It's a fine piece of work, not just the jokes, but the overall production. You have just the right touch. Keep up the good work!

—Ed Allen, South Natick, MA

[What kind of name is Ed, anyway? Thanks for the praise, but I'm not the real editor. I simply stand for Tisha Egashira, the funny one (with the mouse). I like your newsletter, Connector, too. (NB: Editor solidarity!) How do you stand for input? Incidentally, SBSE members have expressed appreciation publicly. What an organization! Gag me with a pitchfork—can anyone stand this mutual admiration society? Glad you like SBSE News. Ed.—ed.]

1994 SBSE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

20 to 30 members in attendance

Announcements

☐ Possibility of NSF FIFSE funding for two summer retreats—discussion deferred to Green Gulch.
☐ Mary Guzowski and Margot MacDonald (and other SBSE members) attended the ACSA/AIA Sustainability Conference at Cranbrook. They reported a plenary-centric approach with little interaction and no focus on classroom techniques. Marvin Rosenman, one of the organizers, was invited to present a post mortem at Green Gulch.

Passing the Gavel/Buck—John Reynolds was thwarted in his attempt to prematurely pass the gavel to chair-elect Mary Guzowski. [It's a two-year sentence, JR. You're not done until November 1995!—ed.]

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—SBSE has $10000 of capital in a business investment account and about $1000 in a nonprofit, economy checking account. The society's finances are robust.

Lifetime Membership—A $126.45 donation by Lance Levine prompted John Reynolds to propose a lifetime membership. Discussion revealed no consensus on the matter. However, a consensual thank-you to Lance was forged. Thanks, Lance!

1995 SBSE Summer Workshop—Update on plans for SBSE/ACSA (?) Workshop at Milwaukee. Nonconsensus again ruled. Discussion was deferred to the SBSE Board and, ultimately, a Green Gulch planning session.

SBSE Role in AIA Continuing Education—Walter Grondzik conjectures that SBSE could use its knowledge base to fill a vacuum. Send news of your experiences to Walter or the SBSE News.

Peer Review for SBSE Members at Promotion Time—an SBSE Service? [Sounds more like conflict of interest.—ed.] SBSE can provide a list of potential reviewers and can do as mentor candidates. A call for volunteers to perform peer reviews will be made in the fall SBSE News.

1995 SBSE Annual Meeting—The meeting will be in conjunction with the ASES Convention at Minneapolis, 15-20 July 1995. [ASES abstracts are due November 15!—ed.]

Mailing List Distribution—Consensus recommended that our mailing list be given out at the discretion of SBSE officers with the stipulation that no resale of the list to third parties be allowed.

—Leonard Backman, Bruce Hayland, John Reynolds

Infrared portrait of 'ed'.

Photo: Mike Utzinger
VITAL SIGNS RESOURCE PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT

At a kick-off meeting held at the PG&E Energy Resource Center in San Francisco on July 24 and 25, selected faculty discussed sample exercises, course material, and student experiences centered on using existing buildings for field investigation of environmental performance, an activity properly described as guerrilla monitoring. The faculty selected to develop the packages (a virtual, Swiss army knife collection of materials) funded through the Energy Foundation are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Package Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Brittain</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Whole Building Energy Use (Residential)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Degelman</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>Simulation and Prediction of Energy Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Grondzik</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M</td>
<td>HVAC Components and Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Haglund</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Thermal Mass in Passive Solar Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean Heerwagen</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Air Flow in Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Johnson</td>
<td>Miami (Ohio)</td>
<td>Dynamics of Solar Shading Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tang Lee</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>Health in the Built Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Milne</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Measuring/Displaying Building Thermal Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Shiller</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Interior Illuminance &amp; Daylight Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Utzinger &amp; Jim Wasley</td>
<td>Wisconsin-Milwaukee</td>
<td>Balance Point Temperature &amp; Glazing Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Stafford Woolard</td>
<td>Cal Poly SLO</td>
<td>Climatic Analysis for Architectural Design</td>
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This group will reconvene in January to report on their progress. The packages will be completed by June 30, 1995—just in time for beta testing by SBSE. Vital Signs has been selected as one subject for the 1995 SBSE Retreat. Workshops will feature hands-on experience. [Guerrilla monitoring of Gehry's UMa Art Museum, perchance?—ed.]

More good news—a proposal for an NSF Instructional Laboratory improvement grant to purchase eight sets of monitoring equipment to support Vital Signs was recently funded. Included in the sets are sensors, data acquisition systems, miniature dataloggers, handheld equipment, a laptop computer, and video camera—all of which will couple with the Vital Signs Resource Package protocols and activities for measuring building performance. We are actively seeking matching funds for the NSF grant. Does anyone have $100K to spare?

—Cris Benton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(continued)

I'm writing to ask about a couple of things. first, I seem to have mislaid the subscription reminder for sbse. to whom should I be addressing my query about subs? [To Leonard Bachman—ed.] Are they likely to have an e-mail contact address—a notable missing item from the recently published (1994) sbse membership guide?

second, is there an internet node about sbse? I had occasion to write a couple of people in the lighting field the other day, and it would have been useful to be able to pull in an electronic document with regular updates on the goals and membership of sbse. I could suggest a number of gopher servers on which such a list could be mounted.

—Michael Doon,
Victoria University of Wellington
mldonn@arch.vuw.ac.nz

[You e-mail your questions, I reply in print! We all should be on the info superhighway, right? Internet gives you permission to neglect capitalization and formatting. Aaack!!! If I was really connected, I wouldn't have had to retype this letter! So I talked to Leonard and Cris. We're adding e-mail addresses to the SBSE directory. And I'll let Cris address the internet node.—ed.]

A new network (as yet unnamed) of energy educators has come together under the auspices of the Energy Foundation. At a recent workshop I mentioned SBSE, and several people wanted to find out more. What should I tell them?

P.S. To talk to everyone in the energy educators' network, you can post a note to energize@alleg.edu

—Carl Blumstein, UC Berkeley
cjblumstein@lbl.gov

[jimmmmmm! See above and Cris' 'answer' below.—ed.]

• continued page 4
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

I am now on the Internet (and preaching gospel). [See photo, page 3.—ed.] My e-mail address is: cris@ced.berkeley.edu. Questions about Vital Signs can be sent to this address until a Vital Signs gopher server is established through the University of California’s Center for Environmental Design Research. We are currently establishing a mail reflector [is this medieval or part of the D.C. postal service?—ed.] for the project and are particularly eager to find SBSE members willing to participate in development discussions. Drop us a line with your e-mail address.

—Cris Benton, UC Berkeley

[Okay, something’s happening out there. All you Internet junkies need to interpret this stuff for me. I hope we can clarify the situation in the next newsletter. You can bug Cheryl Wheaton, tollbooth operator for the on/off-ramp to my info superhighway—aaarch@chiol.ensu.uidaho.edu. Just wait until I get a backbone. So how do I stand while waiting for articles?—ed.]

Could you please suggest any software suitable for studying local wind/energy effects in groups of buildings at the early design stage—i.e. crude!

—Owen Lewis, University College Dublin; (fax) 011-353-1-283-8408

[I’m not aware of a pellucid solution. Maybe G.Z. Brown’s Energy Scheming for Mac users. The crude hand method is in doubt? Maybe our readers can help you out.—ed.] &

NOW AVAILABLE

EXPERIENCING THE AURAL ENVIRONMENT OF ROOMS


DESIGN FOR PVS CURRICULUM RESOURCE PACKAGES

Demand for Design for PVS resource packages is high enough to limit distribution to one package per requesting school. An unanticipated production delay has postponed delivery of the packages until at least October 1. If you’re interested in obtaining one, contact Pradeep Dalal at the AIA/ACSA Council on Architectural Research, 202–785–5912.

SINGLE CHANNEL DATALOGGERS

The hit of Vital Signs and Green Gulch—everyone who sees ’em loves ’em! The Hobo is an exciting new device by ONSET Computer that Cris Benton uses in an array of applications (e.g., temperature as a proxy for electric light status). A Hobo can store temperature, relative humidity, illuminance, pressure, or voltage measurements, has an 8-bit analog-to-digital converter, can save 1600 measurements over a 15-minute to 360-day period, comes with Windows or Macintosh software, and only costs $100. Upgraded loggers, Stowaways, can store up to 32,000 measurements. ONSET Computer Corp., PO Box 3450, Pocasset, MA 02559–3450; (tel) 508–563–9000 (fax) 508–563–9477.

ARCHITECTURE READING LISTS AND COURSE OUTLINES, V. 3

This volume, edited by Georgia Bizios, includes design, theory and criticism, environmental issues, human behavior, professional practice, special topics, and urban design theory and history. Prepaid orders ($35 domestic) by mail or fax to Eno River Press, 115 Stoneridge DR, Chapel Hill, NC 27514–9737; (fax) 919–967–8246. For further information, contact Georgia Bizios, School of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695; tel 919–515–2205.

CHANGES AT UCLA

• Two new faculty positions have been authorized—one in architectural technology, especially lighting, and the other in design and computation. [The hire date will be fall 1995. See Fall ’94 SBSE News for job ad.—ed.]

• The architecture program has ascended to the status of a department in UCLA’s new School of Art and Architecture, while the urban planning program is to be the centerpiece of a new School of Policy Studies.

—Murray Milne

Do you always set your spell checker to “replace all” (especially on proper nouns)?—SBSE, to ‘Margin’ (Marvin) Rosenman
MORE BOOKS TO REVIEW

Water and Architecture, text by Charles Moore and photographs by Jane Leisz (Harry S. Adams, New York), has gotten raves from at least PA and the AIA. "What a pellucid and moving explanation of the relationship between water—oceans and streams, fountains and canals—and architecture." [Stephanie Stubb, "Memo, May 1994] I admit to not having read the text, but I love the book already, just from devouring the images [worth godzillions of words, anyway—ed.]. A must for your SBSE library.

The new Parker/Ambose serial Simplified Design of HVAC Systems, by William Bobenhauser (John Wiley & Sons, New York), appears to be holistic, straightforward, and comprehensive. The author credited Norbert Lechner and John Reynolds as instrumental manuscript reviewers.

Randy Croxton and the National Audubon Society present a detailed case study—how-to manual In Audubon House (John Wiley & Sons, New York).

Fine Homebuilding’s Energy-Efficient Houses (Taunton Press) is the on-paper equivalent of a solar house highlight film. It includes a full range of solar variations, the notable Déjà-Vu House, and the A. J. Davis solar cabin.

Places Magazine’s Lighting in Place, edited by Richard Peters, features contributions from several SBSE members—Marietta Millet, Susan Ubbelohde, and Cris Benton (in a non-gearhead role extolling the virtues of Oak Alley!).

Help Wanted. The press of new books to review has become overwhelming. Exercise your Pauline Kael tongue. Contact SBSE News.

—Bruce Hayland

PEOPLE NEWS

Gary Siebein and his team of acoustics researchers at Florida have been conferred one of the six Progressive Architecture Architectural Research Awards for their project, Listening to Buildings. Fruits of this research are available to SBSE members (see New Available, page 4).

Mark DeKay has moved to Washington University (St. Louis, MO) for his next teaching stint.

Available soon from Van Nostrand Reinhold, Spreadsheets for Architects, by Leonard Bachman and David Thaddeus. Leonard attributes the realization of this book to his contact with VNR’s Wendy Lechner at the 1993 Timberline workshop.

Offspring in the offing for Gail Brager. Delivery expected around Thanksgiving holidays.

Murray Milne and Dick Schoen have both retired from full-time teaching at UCLA to take appointments as University Research Professors. They will continue to teach one or two courses and supervise student thesis work, but will be free to concentrate on their research projects.

Murray has two microcomputer energy design tool development projects underway. One extends SOLAR-5 to show the connection between building design decisions and greenhouse gas production, while the other shows how the performance of an existing space can be measured, then compared to the performance of various redesigns. The third project is a manual on ways to design homes that automatically protect themselves against wildfires. [Topically hot this time of year in the West.—ed.]

Dick is working on the design and field testing of stand-alone sustainable facilities in harsh environments. He and Bob Jones of Arizona State University are currently monitoring the performance of the innovative field station that he designed at Granite Mountain in the East Mojave Desert. He will also have more time to devote to his practice which concentrates on the design of energy and resource conserving solar buildings.

SBSE GOES GLOBAL IN 1996

Plans are already underway to organize the first SBSE event outside the United States. Although only in its conceptual stage, plan to:

Gather in Istanbul, Turkey, on a Tuesday (affording low-cost, Monday overnight plane fares)

Take tours and give workshops in Istanbul (including a boat tour of the Bosporus and carpet/leather shopping in the Grand Bazaar) [Don’t forget guerrilla monitoring of the Hagia Sophia!—ed.]

Hold an eight-day retreat/workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus (certainly interspersed with trips to architectural/archaeological sites).

We anticipate that out-of-pocket expenses for participants will be minimized by bartering workshops (presented to Turkish architects and educators) for lodging in Istanbul and accommodations in Nicosia. The dates are not set yet, but late June/early July seems the most probable. The Istanbul stay could be arranged to coordinate with the 1996 UN Habitat Conference (exact dates unknown). [Anticipate a Cyprus planning session at the 1996 SBSE Retreat.—ed.]

If you have comments/suggestions, please direct them to Fatih Rikiki, NC State University; (tel) 919-515-2202(w) or 460-0222(h) (fax) 515-7330 (e-mail) rikiki@unity.ncsu.edu.

—Fatih Rikiki

The forms are important. Love letters are significant. We want to be significant.—Leonard Bachman
ASES PASSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Presented with beautiful slides and built with full monitoring instrumentation, Richard Schoen's passive solar (sans backup) research station at the University of California's Granite Mountain Reserve in the high desert of southeastern California inspired three papers at ASES and the admiration of many SBSE observers. Margot MacDonald captured a set of GMR slides for the SBSE slide archive.  

FUTURE EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

In trademark fashion, the members present at the Green Gulch Retreat reached a consensus on future SBSE-sponsored events. All issues involved in decision-making from the picayune to the profound were debated. A miraculous, harmonious agenda emerged from the fray.


2. 1995 SBSE Retreat—coordinator Cris Beaton, site San Francisco or Minneapolis area, dates undetermined but possible coordination with ASES Passive or ACSA Sustainability (not both), funding sought from the Energy Foundation and DOE, agenda includes Vital Signs.

3. 1996 SBSE Event—coordinator Fatih Rifki; site Istanbul and Nicosia, Cyprus; agenda includes internal and external workshops and interaction with international membership; dates tba (see Global, page 5).

SEND WORD—ANY WORD!

Thanks to all of you who contributed letters, announcements, or articles! Keep 'em comin'!
Send to: B. T. Haglund, SBSE News, Department of Architecture, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Or fax something interesting to 208–885–9428.

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Silver Spring, MD 20910