Designing for Social Equity: Building For Disability Differently
8/18/21 8:00 AM 1 LU/HSW, ADA
Ganesh Nayak
Designing buildings for social equity is making them equitable to people with differences that extend to race, class, color, gender, disability, sexuality. Disability is a form of ‘Otherness’, how society perceives Otherness is shaped to a large extent by design and the sensibilities of designers in making spaces inclusive and attempting to reduce the distance from the Other. Since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was established over 30 years ago, thinking in the disability world has evolved. Disability is seen as natural – not as merely a problem to fix, but part of the human experience, seeking greater visibility and inclusiveness. We need to rethink accessibility beyond literally getting in the door, even beyond universal design, and move from mere regulatory compliance to design that focuses on visibility and inclusion. While other differences (such as race, class, etc) can perhaps primarily be addressed by policy and operations, disability is one difference that building design can impact directly. The session will seek to answer questions and provide examples of more equitable design for disability. It seeks to address and expand on the strategies for providing increased access to people with disabilities indicated in the Social Equity part of the Design for Equitable Communities section of the Framework of Excellence.

Shaping the Spaces of Community Health: Stories from the Field
8/18/21 10:40 AM 1.5 LU/HSW
Lauren Stanley, Sari Albornoz, Carmen Llames Pulido, Krissie Marty
What makes the projects we undertake as designers, builders, and citizens truly support our wellbeing and endure over time? It should be abundantly clear in 2021 that human health is tied up with the health of our natural world, that the best built and unbuilt spaces we create are the healthiest ones we create, and that this is an inherently distinct process empowered at the local level. This panel will consider projects that draw from the perspective and experience of communities and that champion strengths and expertise from within communities. We will focus on case studies across Austin that explore what health looks like when communities have an active and creative hand in shaping it. Hearing stories of projects at the confluence of human, environmental, and urban health, we will then discuss how we know these projects are succeeding, so we can improve and evolve the practicum.

KEYNOTE Creating a Culture of Justice, Equity, and Diversity
8/18/21 9:30 AM 1 LU
Gabrielle Bullock
Research has shown the consequences of a lack of diversity in professions inside and outside the building sector, but the general public’s growing awareness of institutional racism has raised the consciousness of some companies. How can firms wanting to do more than express support for diversity and inclusion begin? And why should firms successfully operating in the status quo be motivated to change?

Affordability Unlocked
8/18/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW
Murray Legge, Alan Knox, Fayez Kazi
This course is designed to address the issues surrounding affordable housing and the various approaches to solving the issue. Equitable and innovative solutions will be examined from the perspective of architects, developers, and city planners, to provide a holistic picture of the current state of low-income housing as well as provide insight into what the future may hold. This session will look specifically at Austin’s “Affordability Unlocked” program and how city policy is shaped to help support affordable housing development. The panel will include representation from the city, developers and architects.

Materials Matter As Part of Firm Culture
8/18/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW
Kendall Claus, Mary Dickenson
This course introduces frameworks for integrating knowledge of environmental and human health impacts from material substances. It explores strategies at play when materials decisions are driven by clients, rating systems, firms, and even individual initiatives. Case studies share lessons learned from on the ground experiences, and speakers candidly discuss the different perspectives and motivators of project team members. Participants will learn about the AIA Materials Pledge and how to apply related principals to their projects.

Revisiting the 1976 Austin Creeks Book
8/18/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW
Stephi Motal, Charlotte Tonsor, Ivey Kaiser, Jonathon Ogren, Heyden Walker, Sinclair Black
Revisiting the visionary, 1976 Austin Creeks Book, as it approaches it’s 50th anniversary. Learn how it has influenced watershed protection and urban design thinking in Austin through the years and transformational projects underway, finally bringing the over-arching vision to life.

10 Action Points for Real Change in Design and Construction Industry
8/18/21 1:15 PM 1 LU/HSW
Elizabeth Sydnor, Gary J Nelson, Carlos A Murrieta, Olga Bracamontes
As an inclusive, multicultural, and multidisciplinary community, The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) Arizona will present 10 Action points for real change in the design and construction industry. With the goal to address the disparity of representation in architecture and related professions, these 10 points are succinct and powerful tools for your firm to develop and commit to equitable practices and culture in the office, and beyond.
Austin’s urban forest, trees and the carbon economy – trading for a better future?

Promises, Promises: How Modular Construction Can Finally Deliver

After Snowpocalypse: Resiliency and Adaptation In Texas

The Importance of Soil Diversity in Design

Zoning and Affordability

Diversity in Design

The Importance of Soil Design in Building a Greener City

What to Expect When You’re Expecting New Building Codes

Valentine’s Day 2021 began a hellacious week for Texans as not one, but multiple critical infrastructure grids failed amidst prolonged record low temps. The architectural assumptions about building performance in this climate zone was put to the test. Given that the climate will continue to change and become more volatile, this session will focus on what lessons we can draw from the disaster and create a more resilient, safe city.

This course will provide participants with an understanding of the importance in properly drying hardwood lumber. Properly dried hardwood lumber is vital to project success. We will guide you through the reasons we dry lumber, a look at the cell structure of wood, and the drying process. We will also provide additional notes on selecting hardwood lumber and slabs for your next project.

Of the 1,166 AIA Austin members, only 14 are black and of those only two are women. There is a clear lack of equity and diversity in our community although we believe that design is for everyone. “As makers of place and transforming of environments that really means engaging all communities and not just the select” Maija Kreishman, Managing Partner Michael Hsu Office of Architecture. The AIA Austin Women in Architecture committee created the “Profiles” interview series to ask firm leaders in Austin and across Texas why diversity matters and what are firms doing to address it through their firm culture? WIA will present the full compilation of interviews, followed by a live panel discussion with the firm leaders featured in the film. We will discuss what action firms can take to make more equitable work environments and how we can begin to design for a more equitable city by approaching diversity as best practice. “Design has the power to inform more equitable, resilient, sustainable, and relevant built environments for the increasingly multicultural population of our nation” Rosa Sheng.

Healthy landscapes make for healthier people, and healthy landscapes begin with healthy soils. Whether on structure or at grade, mistakes in soil design can result in catastrophic landscape failures. Establishing a healthy ecosystem requires more than the use of native plants, and often overlooking the details in industry mindset so that modular can finally fulfill its promise -- and beyond.

This course focuses on how to properly plan for the foundation of a healthy landscape during the design process, and how to avoid critical mistakes during construction.

This course will examine the 2021 International Building Code & International Residential Code that were recently adopted by Austin City Council and that will go into effect on September 1st of this year. City staff will be on hand to review changes to the local amendments for these codes and to answer questions from attendees.

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Prepare yourself for accessibility changes in the 2021 IBC/2017 ANSI

8/19/21
8:00 AM
1 LU/HSW, ADA
Eaine Andersen
The soon-to-be adopted 2021 IBC comes along with accessibility changes in the 2017 ANSI. This course will review the biggest changes on accessibility requirements, which project types they affect, and help you prepare for new codes. The turning spaces are getting bigger, the clear floor spaces are getting bigger, but good news! The changes don’t apply to all areas of a project the same way. The course will leave you prepared for new projects and prepared to discuss the accessibility implications of the code change with clients and designers alike.

The Central Texas region is the fastest growing area in the county, and Austin is a key draw. Austin stands out among other Texas and U.S. cities topping the charts on population size, job growth, and diversity. However, population and economic booms in the area do not always translate into prosperity for all and can lead to displacement. In this talk, Dr. Lila Valencia will review Austin’s urban planning history, explore more recent demographic trends, and take a look at future growth. She’ll discuss implications of these demographic changes on housing, transportation, and other policy areas.

The course will focus on three non-visual features of architectural design, lighting quality, indoor air quality, and thermal comfort. Each feature will be covered in depth, in terms of scientific background, impacts on occupants, and design strategies that will result in good outcomes. The fourth non-visual feature of architectural design is non-a feature of a space, but the literal design process. The second half of the session explores how tweaks in the design process can drive certain outcomes and opportunities that leverage goal setting, process, and communication will be explored. The course will begin and end with a silent interactive exercise that will better acquaint the session participants with the invisible impacts of architecture.

The new Austin Energy Headquarters building in Austin represents some of the core values and mission of the municipal utility: energy efficiency, minimizing carbon footprint, and commitment to its customers and employees’ wellness. Designing for these values required iterative energy model analyses, engaging technical expertise beyond that of conventional design and construction, and interrogating the architecture continuously throughout design development.

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The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) along with other building codes are developed on a three-year cycle. The 2021 IECC was recently released and the DOE preliminarily affirms that the updated code will increase energy efficiency in residential buildings. The City of Austin is set to adopt this code with local amendments this fall. This course will review the biggest changes in the 2021 IECC and the local amendments, as well as how design teams can navigate various paths of compliance and use partnerships to help their clients in the field.

The AIA Austin Fellowship Committee is creating a conversation about becoming a Fellow, and ways to embrace, articulate, and advance professional thought leadership. The session includes presentations from recent chapter College of Fellows Inductees, Logan Wagner, FAIA and Michael Hsu, FAIA, and a FAIA panel conversation discussing the categories of AIA Fellowship, and chapter resources to assist those who are interested in positioning themselves for application in the next 1-5, or 10 years.

Hotel Magdalena: Legacy of Site, Mass Timber, and Culture

8/19/21
11:55 AM
1 LU/HSW
Sophia Razzaque, Melina Phillips, Christine Skaglund, Erik Warkentin
Hotel Magdalena opened in the Fall of 2020 as the largest ground up property operated by Bunkhouse. It is also the first mass timber hotel in North America. Join us for a panel discussion from Lake|Flato Architects, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, and StructureCraft Builders to learn about the transformation of the site of the old Terrace Motor Hotel into Hotel Magdalena in the Heart of Austin’s South Congress District. The design, which was heavily influenced by Lake Flato’s ethos of aligning building performance goals with connecting to the outdoors, has also allowed this hotel to open during the pandemic. Attendees will be interested to learn more about this unique project and the collaborations that enabled it to be successfully realized.
Creating a Community Alternative for I-35

2 LU/HSW

8/19/21 2:25 PM

Heyden Walker, Emily Risninger, Jay Blazek Crossley, Jonathan P. Brooks, Ben Crowther, Priya Patel, Addie Walker

The Austin community has a once in a lifetime opportunity to come up with a design for I-35 that better supports the city of Austin and the needs of the city. Currently all three of TxDOT’s alternatives for I-35, in the urban core of Austin, show 20 lanes in an open trench with limited connectivity. Meanwhile, the conversation around highways in urban areas is advancing rapidly at the national, state and local levels. From Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg to the local, community-driven alternatives in Austin, there is increasing emphasis on considering future land uses, multi-modal transportation options, increased connectivity, access, and climate equity goals. These concepts lean on the long and varied history of highway removal and renovation projects in the US and around the world, which successfully rethink highways in urban areas to create safe, interesting, people-oriented space. Join us to learn what is changing and why this is our chance to apply best practice and design skills to arrive at a better solution.

The Holdsworth Center: A Sustainable Leadership Campus for Texas Public Education

1 LU/HSW

8/19/21 2:25 PM

Justin Garrison, Jean Pierre Casillas, Chris Krajcer, Pauline Dow

The Holdsworth Center’s Campus on Lake Austin is a first-of-its kind facility for Texas’ public school districts designed to grow the skill, ingenuity and effectiveness of the professionals who educate the state’s 5.5 million students. It was built as a gift for hardworking educators who deserve world-class professional development opportunities that rival what CEOs and business executives experience. This session will consider how the mission of The Holdsworth Center grew to support an integrated approach to campus design that inspires environmental and communal thriving. In addition to sharing the history of the project’s realization, panelists will discuss how the campus planning, architectural and landscape design, and construction strategies came together to create a sustainable campus for transformative learning.

Waterloo Park - the big reveal

15 LU/HSW

8/19/21 2:25 PM

Daniel Woodroffe, Gullivar Shepard, John Rigdon, Melba Whatley

Waterloo Park, opening soon in Austin, TX presents a key moment in the transformation of the mile-and-a-half long corridor emerging along the intensely burdened Waller Creek. As the first in a chain of parks pieced together from a complex collection of City-owned properties and easements, multi-level jurisdictions, and cooperative developments in City infrastructure, the park confronts a uniquely complex web of permitting challenges, planning overlays, dynamic coordination criteria, and community politics. Overall, the project also straddles the ambitious programmatic goals of an urban park system and sets a high benchmark for an urban ecological corridor. Waterloo Park establishes the language for the rest of the greenway that is deployable across the staggering array of circumstances present along the Creek. The park’s design, material language and planting will be discussed as key elements that engage the imagination of its everyday users, provide an immersive experience of nature, and perform important work to improve water resources, build urban tree canopy, and create resilient niches for habitat.

2021 AIA Austin Design Award Winners Panel - Design Excellence Measures

1 LU/HSW

8/20/21 8:00 AM

Kendall Claus, Camille Jobe, Sophia Razzauq, Melina Phillips, Tim Cuppeth, Michelle Rossomondo, Brian Carlson, Michael Hsu

In 2019 AIA passed a resolution to prioritize climate action within the Institution and adopted the COTE Top Ten Measures as the official Framework for Design Excellence. The Framework offers designers a guide for developing more deeply integrated and visually rich design solutions. As our society faces increasingly complex challenges, from climate change, to social equity, to the emphasis on individual well-being, good, or “excellent” architecture provides a primary means to address these issues head on. It mandates addressing nuanced concepts of culture and place. It asks simple questions that not only illuminate opportunities to integrate sustainability, but to further a deeper understanding of our clients, future building inhabitants and communities in which they reside. It helps to remove the barriers to high performance and high design by focusing on proven low cost, high impact strategies. Concurrently the AIA has issued strong position statements on climate change, and incorporated Canon VI - Obligations to the Environment into our Code of Ethics. It’s our responsibility as designers, as Architects, to make a better world than how we found it. This year’s AIA Austin Design Award Winners display a commitment in their work to do just this, and this panel discussion will take a deeper look at the measures taken to achieve design excellence in their award-winning projects.

Accessible design for affordable housing

1 LU/HSW, ADA

8/20/21 8:00 AM

Elaine Andersen, Andrea LaCour

Affordable Housing projects must weave together many accessibility requirements. While most Designers are familiar with FHA and ANSI, these vary from the local, state, and federal levels and requirements can change based on funding sources. This course will dive into what accessible requirements apply to different types of affordable multi-family housing projects, from City of Austin Affordability Unlocked, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, to federally funded projects. The course will provide example projects in Austin and across Texas to demonstrate the layers of accessibility requirements on affordable multi-family housing projects.
Design Principles and Priorities for Healthy Indoor Air 8/20/21 8:00 AM 1 LU/HSW Kristof Irwin Indoor air quality plays a powerful role in our overall health and well-being. As we transition from our pandemic lockdowns back to our offices and send our kids back to schools, now is a key time to focus on proper ventilation, filtration and humidity control. Let's harvest lessons from the pandemic and societal interest in air quality to get clear on the when, where and how for selecting energy/heat recovery ventilators (ERVs/HRVs), air filters and air purifiers, and humidity control equipment. Done correctly, these three measures make sure that as air moves from the spaces we inhabit, into our lungs and to every organ, tissue, and cell, it promotes health and well-being and does not enable the spread of airborne pathogens and pollutants. This seminar will cover key principles and priorities that apply to both retrofit and new construction situations. Clean healthy air is a basic human right and the time to view the indoor environment as a health intervention opportunity with the architect as a leading advocate is here.

KEYNOTE Making Austin the Most Livable City in the Country: Introducing Austin's Equity Assessment Tool (DEC2Livable) 8/20/21 9:30 AM 1 LU/HSW Brion Oaks The vision of the City of Austin is to make Austin the most livable city in the country. The mission of the City of Austin Equity Office is to provide guidance and insight on how to develop leadership and improve the quality of life for all Austinites. To achieve this vision, institutions need tools to closely examine policies, practices, budget allocations, and programs that perpetuate institutional racism and systemic inequities. The Equity Assessment Tool is a thought exercise to guide city departments in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, practices, budget allocations, and programs to begin to address their impacts on equity. Why should government make use of a racial equity tool? From the inception of our country, government at the local, regional, state, and federal level has played a role in creating and maintaining racial inequity. Without intentional intervention, institutions and structures will continue to perpetuate racial inequities. Government has the ability to implement policy change at multiple levels and across multiple sectors to drive larger systemic change. Routine use of a racial equity tool explicitly integrates racial equity into governmental operations. Racial equity is the condition when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community. The City recognizes that race is the primary determinant of social equity and therefore we begin the journey toward social equity with this definition.

City of Austin's Water Conservation Strategies 8/20/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW Mark Leger, Rebecca Batchelder, Lee Butler, Susan Kenzle, Lisa Storer Water resources are becoming increasingly strained in many parts of the country and water prices are increasing faster than energy prices. This 90-minute panel discussion features speakers from the City of Austin who will present policies meant to preserve our water supply and case studies of projects that have successfully implemented water saving strategies. Rebecca Batchelder from Austin Water will discuss Water Forward, Austin's 100-year integrated water resource plan and the recently enacted Onsite Water Reuse Systems Ordinance. Lee Butler will discuss how the award-winning Austin Central Library repurposed a pump from a decommissioned energy plant into water cisterns that collect stormwater for reuse within the building. Lisa Storer from Austin Parks and Recreation and Susan Kenzle from the Watershed Protection Department will present Waterloo Park, the newly opened 11-acre park in downtown Austin that planned for water integration and conservation from the start. The discussion will be moderated by Mark Leger from Austin Energy Green Building.

Integrating Research into Architectural Practice 8/20/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW Ashley Grzywa, Anne Herndon, Sam Rusek, Kate Sector Leveraging existing research, investigating new ideas, conducting post-occupancy evaluation and sharing lessons learned allows us to improve the design and performance of the built environment and promote occupant and environmental health. This course will offer tools for developing research strategies appropriate for your firm and workflow. Panelists will introduce a variety of research and partnership models by presenting examples that include post-occupancy evaluation of energy performance, literature reviews of existing urban greenway research and thermal comfort technology prototyping, among others. The session will discuss both process and application of findings to future projects, highlighting the importance of using research to inform professional practice.

New Forms of Equitable Housing 8/20/21 10:40 AM 15 LU/HSW Murray LeggeNew, Ryanna Henson, Ada Corral, Benje Feehan This course is designed to look at alternatives to the detached single-family home, by examining different approaches to community living and engagement. The course will explore project examples that address the concerns of vulnerable communities such as elders and houseless individuals, and how these projects are challenging the notions of social, political, and economic influences in American culture that led to the popularization of single-family homes.

Dance Halls, Gas Stations, and Vacant Lots 8/20/21 1:15 PM 15 LU/HSW Murray Legge, Penny Snyder, Harold McMillan, Bonnie Cullum, Casey Jordan This course is designed to provide insight into the influence of informal urban design on social spaces in central Texas. The panel will review the history of the culture surrounding social gatherings in Texas. Examples of these spaces, ranging from dance halls and venues will be discussed, and we will look at how they specifically changed the social landscape of their surrounding community. We will look at specific examples of these types of spaces ranging from historical spaces like gas stations and dance halls to informal spaces like the Vortex and Patriots.
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<th>Event Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lessons from Post-Occupancy Energy Evaluation</td>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>1 LU/HSW</td>
<td>Kate Sector, Gus Starkey, Sam Rusek, Sunnie Diaz</td>
<td>Buildings operational energy makes up about 40% of the U.S.’s total energy usage and CO2 emissions. Post-occupancy energy monitoring and data collection is necessary for evaluating measurable energy performance, improving our designs, and creating future measurable goals to reduce our energy use and subsequent environmental impacts. Lake</td>
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<td>Mass Timber on the Gulf Coast</td>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>1 LU/HSW</td>
<td>Steve Durham, Michelle Old, Darrell Whatley</td>
<td>The architects that designed San Jacinto College’s revolutionary Mass Timber Classroom Building will discuss what they thought they knew going into the project and what they’ve learned 14 months later. With rising concerns about climate change and carbon usage, mass timber is an increasingly relevant solution for one of the largest carbon-consuming industries: construction. Mass timber has a lighter carbon footprint and can store carbon, making it a great alternative to other fossil fuel-consuming materials. Technology advances have also evolved mass timber into a prefabricated system that is highly modeled and coordinated before entering the construction site. This coordination reduces the construction time, which also reduces emissions from transportation and construction equipment. Innovative mass timber projects are now part of a Texas landscape that seeks to change the way we design buildings in the future. Focusing on the possibilities while acknowledging constraints of Mass Timber can maximize this construction type.</td>
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<td>Creating a people-centric design for the &quot;new&quot; workplace</td>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>1 LU/HSW</td>
<td>David Dalton, Kate Dalton, Amy Hartman</td>
<td>What happens when the wellbeing of an organization’s employees and the community are the founding principles for a new workplace? The answer is Credit Human, a next generation workplace developed in The Pearl District, San Antonio. Join the client and design team to explore moving beyond “minimal requirements” to solutions that focus on wellbeing, sustainability, and community connectivity.</td>
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<td>Pandemonium, Purgatory, &amp; Paradise: Sustainable Management Of Contextual And Resilient Systems</td>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>1 LU/HSW</td>
<td>Marc Coudert, Matt Fajkus, Katharine Glasheen, Tzulin Lin, Jessica Felicelli</td>
<td>Resiliency is the capacity to adapt to changing conditions and to maintain or regain functionality and vitality in the face of stress or disturbance. It is the capacity to bounce back after a disturbance or interruption. Contemporary global crises are colliding at multiple scales, including with social justice, a pandemic, political divisiveness, as well as climate change and its impact. Resilience is both response and action. As designers, we are faced with the reality of taking risks as we create, experiment and generate new buildings and spaces that interact with the uncertainty of the future. Looking for opportunities to mitigate the potential risks of the future can aid in the creation of shock-resistant, healthy, adaptable and regenerative communities – creating resilient design through diversity, foresight and experimentation. This course will include an introduction to the topic of resilience in architecture by Matt Fajkus, an overview of the City of Austin Office of Sustainability and local initiatives, as well as presentations of community based approaches in the design of a Resiliency Hub in Austin, Texas by University of Texas School of Architecture graduate students.</td>
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*As of 8/13/21 Speaker list may be adjusted slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.*