



AIA 1.5° CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

Run of Show

919 Albany St.
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Hosted @ Loyola
Law School

8-8:45am	BREAKFAST Breakfast + Networking	
8:45am	Welcome, AIA + COTE Intro	
9:00am	Passion to Practice	
Keynote AM	Angela Brooks	
9:50am	Resourceful Architecture: A Design-Build Case Study for Material Stewardship Kyle Fiano A1	From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Decarbonizing Existing Homes Avideh Haghighi + Izumi Tanaka A2
A Sessions		
10:30am	COFFEE Coffee Break + Networking + Exhibitors	
11:05am	Empowering Community-Driven Resilience and Climate Solutions Aaron Vaden-Youmans, Russell Fortmeyer Siobhan Burke, Michael Anderson Ameer Bhatt B1	(Re) Building with Resilience Jennifer Koster, Brian Wickersham Drew Pedrick, Andrew Dennis Jesse Kaye B2
B Sessions		
11:50am	GSOC: Achieving a Whole-Building Net-Zero Carbon, Mass Timber Beacon of Security and Resilience Dalton Ho C1	Natural Ventilation in Goldilocks Climates Madeline Gradillas C2
C Sessions		
12:30pm	LUNCH Circular SoCal Charrette Lunch Thinks Exhibitors	
1:45pm	Humanity in Architecture: Sustainable Responses to Natural Disasters and the Climate Crisis Dean Maltz	
Keynote PM		
2:35pm	From Site to System: Resilient Design Solutions Across Scales Hafsa Burt Maggie Messerschmidt D1	Passive Cooling Strategies for Low Carbon Architecture in Southern California Pablo La Roche D2
D Sessions		
3:20pm	From Block to System Abigail Coover E1	Green Finance Writ Large Monte Hilleman E2
E Sessions		
4:00pm	COTE Closing Remarks	
4:30pm	HH Happy Hour + Networking	

AIA 1.5° CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

Session Details

9:50am

A Sessions

A1

**Resourceful Architecture: A Design-Build Case Study
for Material Stewardship**

Kyle Fiano

This session explores a single-family design-build project that reframes deconstruction as a generative design tool. Through material reuse, selective dismantling, passive strategies, and climate-responsive construction in the Sonoran Desert, the project demonstrates how integrated practice can reduce embodied carbon, lower costs, and advance long-term resource stewardship.

A2

**From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Decarbonizing
Existing Homes**

Avideh Haghighi + Izumi Tanaka

Can a century-old house become fully electric and net zero without losing its charm? This session explores two retrofit case studies, one architect-led, one investor-driven, highlighting electrification, space optimization, indoor air quality, cost strategies, incentives, and resale value, demonstrating how sustainable upgrades can be practical, healthy, and financially viable.

11:05am

B Sessions

B1

Community-Powered Climate Action: Bridging Scale, Equity, and Design

Aaron Vaden-Youmans, Russell Fortmeyer
Siobhan Burke, Michael Anderson, Ameer Bhatt

This panel explores how community-centered design advances equitable climate resilience. Featuring leaders in heat planning, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and cultural placemaking, the session highlights practical frameworks that align infrastructure investment, policy, and grassroots leadership to create inclusive, climate-smart neighborhoods across Los Angeles and beyond.

B2

(Re) Building with Resilience

Jennifer Koster, Brian Wickersham, Drew Pedrick,
Andrew Dennis, Jesse Kaye

This panel examines real-world wildfire recovery strategies that integrate WUI-compliant assemblies, low-carbon materials, water efficiency, and insurance-aligned design. Featuring interdisciplinary leaders, the session highlights practical tools and scalable frameworks for rebuilding fire-adapted, climate-resilient homes and neighborhoods aligned with long-term 1.5°C performance goals.

AIA 1.5° CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

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C Sessions

C1

GSOC: Achieving a Whole-Building Net-Zero Carbon, Mass Timber Beacon of Security and Resilience

Dalton Ho

This session showcases Genentech's Global Security Operations Center, a net-zero energy, mass timber facility designed for resilience and low-carbon performance. Presenters highlight all-electric systems, CO₂ heat pumps, high-performance envelope strategies, and biophilic stormwater design, demonstrating how security infrastructure can model scalable, climate-aligned innovation.

C2

Natural Ventilation in Goldilocks Climates

Madeline Gradillas

Natural ventilation and passive cooling can advance resilience, wellbeing, and low-carbon comfort in California's evolving climate. Through three case studies, presenters examine regulatory, environmental, and economic barriers—and demonstrate adaptive design strategies that prepare buildings and occupants for a hotter, more variable future.

2:35pm

D Sessions

D1

From Site to System: Resilient Design Solutions Across Scales

Hafsa Burt, Maggie Messerschmidt

This session explores resilient design from building to city scale, demonstrating how biophilic strategies, material choices, and integrated green, blue, and grey infrastructure address flooding, sea-level rise, and extreme heat. Presenters connect project examples to LEED v5 resilience measures, highlighting adaptable solutions that protect communities and reinforce surrounding ecosystems.

D2

Passive Cooling Strategies for Low Carbon Architecture in Southern California

Pablo La Roche

Peer-reviewed research and real-world test beds demonstrate innovative passive cooling systems for Southern California's climate. From smart ventilation to evaporative and radiant strategies, the presentation highlights low-energy, low-carbon solutions that reduce overheating, improve comfort, and advance climate-adaptive building design.

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3:20pm

E Sessions

E1

From Block to System

Abigail Coover

This session explores how small, community-driven projects—shaded streets, open streets, gardens, and adaptive reuse—reduce heat and strengthen resilience at the neighborhood scale. Through case studies, the presentation demonstrates how block-level interventions can connect into replicable, citywide climate systems rooted in equity and local stewardship.

E2

Green Finance Writ Large

Monte Hilleman

Sustainable design strategies can unlock financing and enhance asset value across market-rate, LIHTC, and mission-driven projects. Presenters demystify valuation metrics, tax credits, and capital stacks, equipping A/E/C teams to translate decarbonization strategies into financial performance, risk reduction, and climate-aligned investment outcomes.