

1.5°C

Symposium on Climate Change

WHEN

Friday, April 17, 2026
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM PDT

WHERE

Loyola Law School
919 Albany St, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Parking is available onsite for \$12/day
with entry off of Albany Street.

LEARNING UNITS

AIA CES: 6 LU|HSW including 5 ZNCD MCE
hours for California Licensees

We are excited to host the 9th annual 1.5°C Symposium on Climate Change. This year's symposium shifts the conversation from policy to practice, and from intention to action. In a time of political uncertainty and climate urgency, this event asks: How can individuals, firms, and communities drive real, tangible change?

The 2026 Symposium will explore how climate action is scaled across projects of every size, within firms of every structure, and across sectors often siloed from each other. From small-scale pro-bono efforts to market-driven green development, the event will celebrate and elevate practical, resilient, and replicable strategies. Attendees will engage with Southern California-based impact projects, sector-specific insights, and a network of collaborators reimagining what's possible. Our goal is to democratize knowledge, strengthen cross-sector connections, and accelerate a just transition in the built environment.

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Symposium on Climate Change

Loyola Law School Campus Plan

250 Attendees

ESPLANADE

- BREAKFAST AREA
- CIRCULAR SOCIAL CHARRETTE + LUNCH THINK
- HAPPY HOUR AT END OF DAY

LAWN

- EXHIBITOR AREA

Exhibitors:

- FOLAR
- USGBC
- College of the Canyons
- Practice Labs
- AISC
- Energy Code Ace
- Armstrong
- COTE Table
- Digne
- Venaera
- Thermoshade
- BOOK TABLE
- Introba
- LADWP
- Midori Chan
- CEDA

CHECK-IN

BURNS LOUNGE

230 Occupants Max

- KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- SESSIONS

ROBINSON COURTROOM

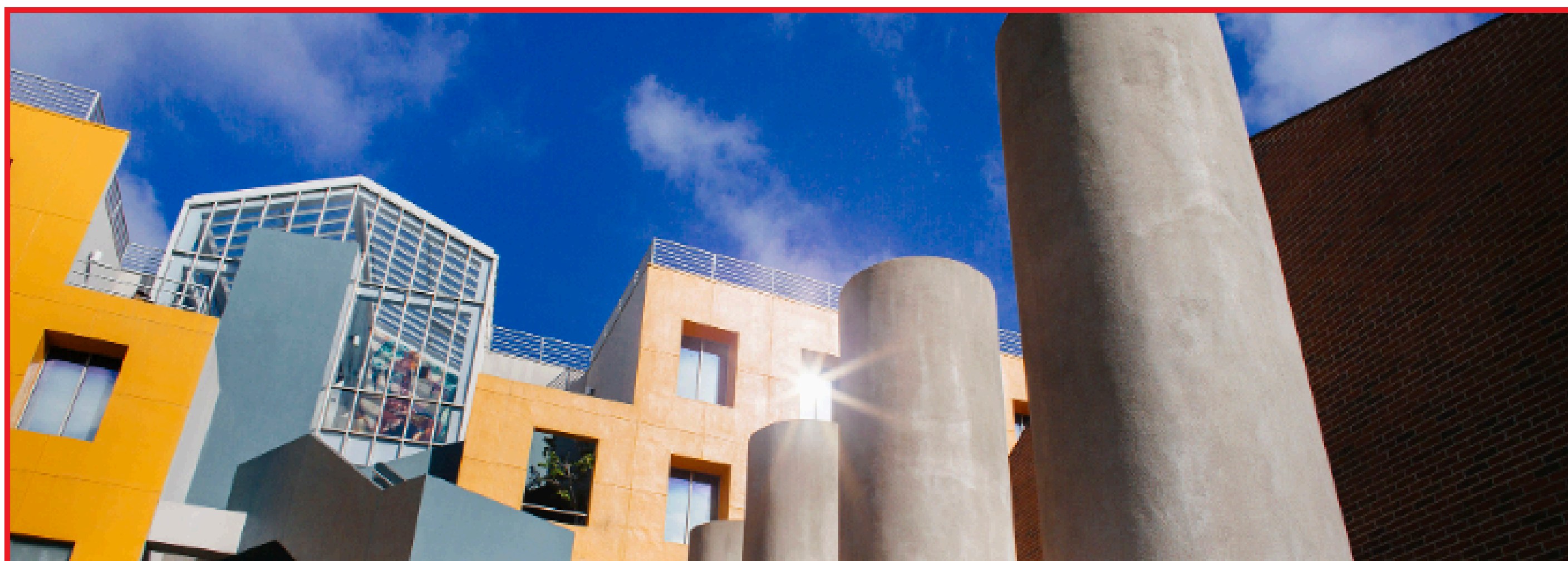
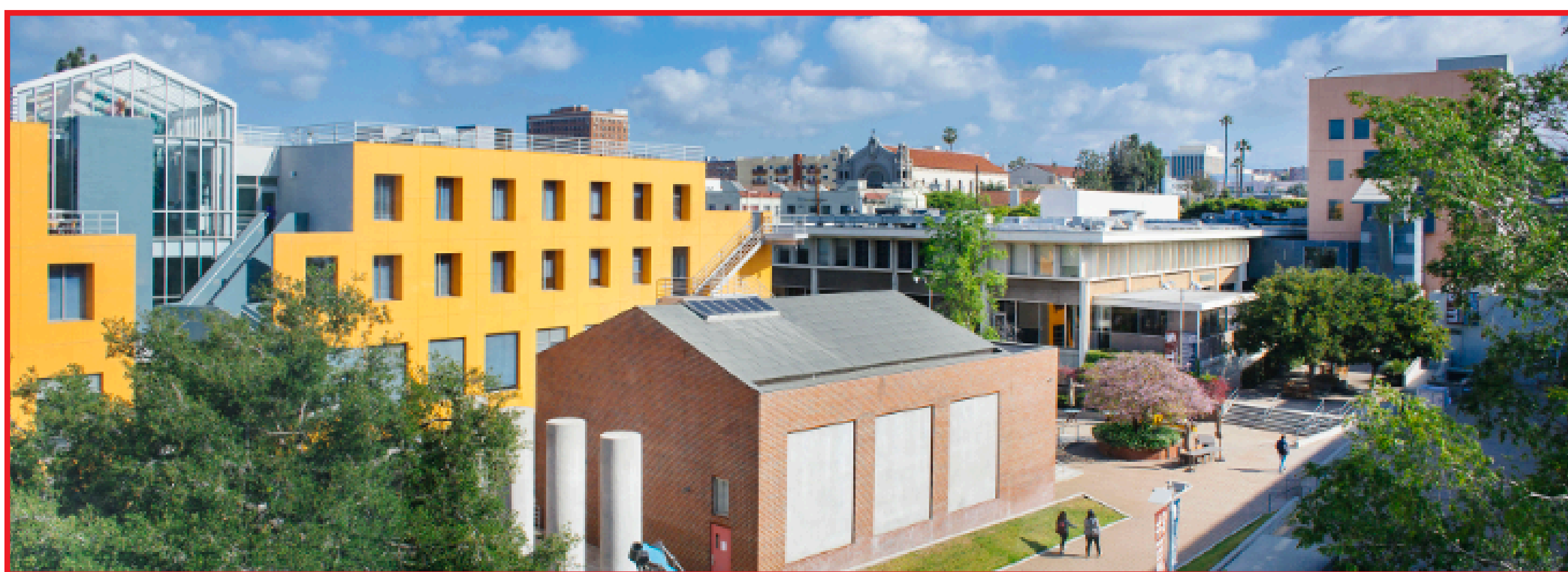
106 Occupants Max

- SESSIONS

Exhibitor Booth Layout:

1	5	9	13
2	6	10	14
3	7	11	15
4	8	12	16

- Parking is available for \$12/day with entry off of Albany St.*
- See Run of Show document for full schedule.*



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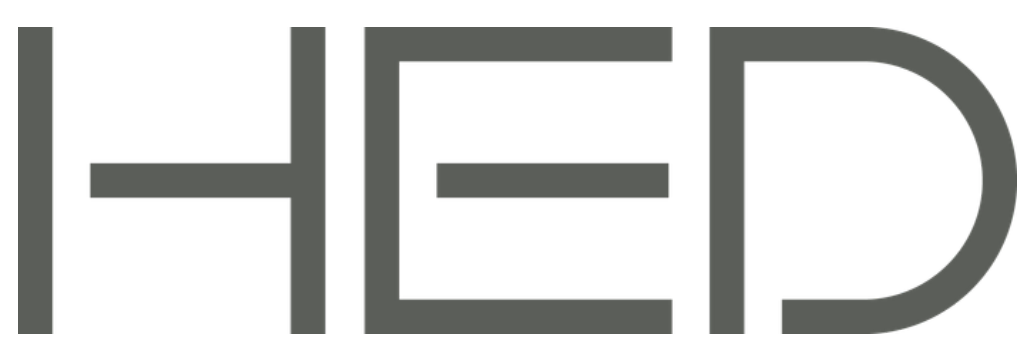
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Keynote Speakers



Angela Brooks, FAIA, ENV SP, LEED bd+c
Principal, Brooks Scarpa Huber Architects



Dean Maltz, AIA
Managing Partner, Shigeru Ban Architects

Speakers



Kyle Fiano, AIA, CPHT, LFA
Builder & Architect



Avidesh Haghighi, AIA, LFA
Founder, ZEROHOUS
Design + Development



**Izumi Tanaka, Green Realtor,
LEED Associate, LFA,**
Certified Electric Coach,
Associate, San Francisco



Dalton Ho
Senior Regenerative Design Advisor,
Senior Associate, Perkins&Will



**Madeline Gradillas, RA,
LEED AP BD+C**
Associate, Atelier Ten, San Francisco



Maggie Messerschmidt
Resilience Associate, Arup



**Hafsa Burt, FAIA,
LEED Fellow**
Principal, hb+a Architects



**Pablo La Roche, Ph.D.,
Intl. Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C**
Principal & Global Sustainable Design Director,
ARCADIS,
Professor of Architecture,
Cal Poly Pomona



Abigail Coover
Architectural Designer, Educator, &
Director, Overlay Office



Monte Hilleman
Vice President of Environmental Resiliency,
Compliance & Investment, SIG



Ravel Ravel
Facilities & Engineering (F&E) team
Genentech



Marco Alves, PE, LEED AP
Principal, PAE Engineers

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Speakers



Siobhán Burke, AIA, LEED AP
Executive Director, 99 Neighborhoods Network
Principal, Lyric Design & Planning



Aaron Vaden-Youmans, AIA, LFA, ENV SP
North American Sustainability Lead, Grimshaw Architects



Michael H. Anderson, AIA, NOMA
Architect, Author, & Urban Design Strategist
Principal, Anderson Barker



Ameer Bhatt, AICP, LEED AP
Director of Urban Design,
John Kaliski Architects



Russell Fortmeyer
Sustainable Design Leader
Arup (North America)



Jennifer Koster
CEO, WorkWell Holdings,
Entrepreneur, & Builder



Brian Wickersham, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Founding Partner & Design Director,
AUX Architecture



Alison MacCracken
Fire Rebuild Liaison
Crest Real Estate



J. Lopez
Retired Assistant Chief
Los Angeles County Fire Department



Jeff Denholm
Founder & CEO
Strong Water Technologies & Home Dome



Ksenia Garrett
Architect & Designer



Soham Patel
Sustainability Analyst, Practice



Heidi Creighton, FAIA
Senior Design Manager, City of Santa Monica



Maya White-Turre, AIA
Senior Associate & Project Manager
Gruen Associates



Rachelle Habchi
Low Carbon Products Lead
Carbon Leadership Forum

circular social charette leaders

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program

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	Community-Powered Climate Action: Bridging Scale, Equity, and Design Aaron Vaden-Youmans, Russell Fortmeyer Siobhan Burke, Michael Anderson Amea Bhatt B1	(Re) Building with Resilience Jennifer Koster, Brian Wickersham Alison MacCracken, J. Lopez Jeff Denholm B2
B Sessions		
11:50am	GSOC: Achieving a Whole-Building Net-Zero Carbon Dalton Ho, Ravel Ravel, Marco Alves, Ksenia Garrett C1	Natural Ventilation in Goldilocks Climates Madeline Gradillas C2
C Sessions		
12:30pm	LUNCH Circular SoCal Charrette Lunch Thinks Exhibitors	
1:45pm	Keynote PM Humanity in Architecture: Sustainable Responses to Natural Disasters and the Climate Crisis Dean Maltz, AIA	
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: Community-Led Climate Design at the Neighborhood Scale Abigail Coover E1	Aligning Sustainable Design with Sustainable Finance: What Works? Monte Hilleman E2
E Sessions		
4:00pm	COTE Closing Remarks	
4:30pm	HH Happy Hour + Networking	

workshop sessions

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, Amea 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, Alison MacCracken
J. Lopez, Jeff Denholm

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.

11:50am **C Sessions**
C1 **GSOC: Achieving a Whole-Building Net-Zero Carbon, Mass Timber Beacon of Security and Resilience**
Dalton Ho, Ravel Ravel, Marco Alves, Ksenia Garrett

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.

3:20pm **E Sessions**
E1 **From Block to System: Community-Led Climate Design at the Neighborhood Scale**
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 **Aligning Sustainable Design with Sustainable Finance: What Works?**
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.

1.5°C **2026 COTE leadership**



Casey
chair



Esmeralda
vice chair



Brendan
past chair

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A special thanks to the following for helping to organize this event!

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2026 COTE LEADERSHIP

Chair - **Casey Castor, Assoc. AIA** - Principal, Practice Labs

Vice Chair - **Esmeralda Ward, AIA** - Associate Principal, NAC

Past Chair - **Brendan Townes Bailey, AIA** - Senior Designer+Project Architect, Johnson Fain

2026 COTE CHAIR ALUMS

Tahmores "Tommy" Zandi, AIA - Senior Associate Principal, SOM

Megumi Hironaka, AIA - Associate Principal, HED

Ismar Enriquez, AIA - Design Lead / Project Manager, Practice

2026 COTE SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

George Reilly, Hon. AIA|LA - West Coast Leader, Building Environments, Burro Happold

Joel Stout, AIA, LEED Fellow - Senior Sustainability Specialist, LAUSD

Blake Patten, AIA - Associate Principal, Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners

Michael S. Martin, FAIA - Martin Studios

Bruce Danziger, S.E - Principal, Danziger Engineering Collaborative, INC.

Joseph Dziekan, Assoc. AIA - Architectural Designer

Marc Tanabe, AIA - Associate Principal, ZGF

Cameron Chorney - Associate & Project Engineer, Facades+

Alyce Wallace, Assoc. AIA - Account Manager, Lutron

David Lucas - Cal Poly Pomona Architecture Student

Nao Fesseha - Designer, Exhibition Specialist

Olivia Ku, AIA - Studio Director, Gensler

Hiba Charek, Assoc. AIA - Senior Designer, Studio 111

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