

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

COTE^{dc}

AIA/DC committee on the environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2004 was a very active year for COTE^{dc}. We spent much of our efforts building on the vision established by a small group of committed people going back to 2000, including past chairs Michelle Scurfield, Lance Davis and Chris French, as well as current chair and co-chair Kara Strong and Tove Anderson, and the ever-enthusiastic Elizabeth Floyd.

We began the year by reviewing our mission and laying out a very realistic plan for raising awareness and educating ourselves and others about sustainable design. Programs included the House of Cards educational materials, the Festival of the Building Arts (FoBA), our monthly presentations, and Summer Solstice and Green Tie affairs.

Membership and involvement increased as a result of the success of programs and outreach. This meant expansion of the structure we laid out that includes Officers and Task Group leaders. It also led to a solid core of about a dozen people actively involved in planning and leading programs, including Hal Bolton, Greg Ciotti, Reuben Hammed, and Erin Christiansen. Meeting attendance increased with our regular seminars to a point where we were regularly seeing 20-30 people at meetings. At a spring meeting where we toured the green roof at the Human Rights Campaign building, we had more than 50 people in attendance. While membership increased in numbers and involvement, fund-raising for programs moved in fits and starts.

We improved communication with COTE national dramatically this year - a relationship beneficial at all levels. Kathleen Lane and Erika Taylor, administrators for the COTE PIA (now called a Knowledge Community), attended meetings and coordinated with COTE^{dc} on such initiatives as the COTE top ten awards at the National Building Museum, the AIA Sustainable Design roundtables, and the setup of COTE Regional Team Leaders. This meant added visibility for our local chapter, members, and initiatives. We saw winners of the AIA/DC Sustainable Design award showcased at the National Building Museum along with top national green design award winners. Our own chapter leaders are at the table as the AIA defines its position on sustainable design for the profession.

COTE^{dc} continued to foster relationships with other green building groups, including the US Green Building Council's National Capitol Region chapter (USGBC-NCR), International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), and the US Department of Energy National Renewable Energies Laboratory (NREL). COTE^{dc} worked this year with local groups such as GreenHOME and contributed proceeds from events to Shaw EcoVillage, a youth education program focusing on sustainable design initiatives in economically challenged neighborhoods.

We wrapped up the year with a new slate of officers for 2005, and began planning for the year with an Officers' retreat in October. At that time we identified the need to set up a Task Group Leader dedicated to fund-raising and begin planning for FoBA earlier. We unanimously agreed to work with the Architect of the Capitol again to hold our Summer Solstice at the US Botanic Garden, and work more closely with USGBC throughout the year. Inscape Studio will continue to host monthly meetings, and we'll begin with happy hour at 1215 Connecticut Ave.

We have a terrific slate of programs to promote sustainable design next year and an energetic core of members. It has been my pleasure to work with all of them. I will continue on to serve as Mid-Atlantic Regional Team Leader, helping to build the network of local COTE chapters. I look forward to it.



Rick Harlan Schneider, AIA, LEED
COTE^{dc} Chair, 2004

AIA/DC Committee on the Environment (COTE^{dc})

Washington DC area architects and allied professionals creating a sustainable future.

MISSION

To promote the awareness and practice of sustainable design and green building with the participation of design firms, organizations, and individuals who support this endeavor.

GOALS

1. Awareness:
 - Provide information to all participants on up-coming sustainable design/green building events
 - Provide resources such as the COTE^{dc} website (<http://www.aiadc.com/aboutaiadc/COTEdc.htm>), for the design community to utilize in the practice of sustainable design/green building
 - Provide the public with contact info on sustainable design professionals and services through such resources as AIA/DC Resource Center and Chapter publications

2. Education:
 - Provide public programs pertaining to sustainable design on major topics such as security, historic preservation, and community design process
 - Team with other organizations such as Baltimore COTE, NOVA COTE, USGBC, IIDA, AEE, NREL, and local green building organizations to share information and program materials

3. Implementation
 - Organize the committee into separate task groups that are assigned one project a year
 - Collaborate with the local AIA Chapters and COTE national in organizing and promoting events + sharing info
 - Team with outside organizations on joint projects that promote sustainable design/green building

The Committee on the Environment (COTE), a professional interest area (PIA) of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), is the Institute's forum for the compilation, exchange, and dissemination of environmental information integral to design and the practice of architecture.

OFFICERS

Chair – Rick Harlan Schneider, Inscape Studio
Vice Chair – Kara Strong, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott
Secretary – Tove Anderson, Hickok Warner Cole
Treasurer – Hal Bolton, Niles Bolton
Past Chair/Historian – Chris French, Torti Gallas

TASK GROUPS

House of Cards

Leader: Elizabeth Floyd

Originally begun as an educational tool for the COTE^{dc} booth at the National Building Museum's (NBM) Festival of the Building Arts (FoBA), the "House of Cards" demonstrates how to integrate environmental concepts into home construction. Over the last two years, we have developed the game to teach children and their parents about a variety of green building materials.

This year our goal was to produce a version of the game that could be distributed through Washington Architecture Foundation's Architecture in the Schools program. In 2004 the informational content and graphics for COTE^{dc}'s "House of Cards" game were revised. We gave away this 3rd version of the game and presented related materials and source information at FoBA.

Our goals for 2005 include developing two additional forms of the educational game, a "tactile" version for use in Washington area grade school classrooms and a web-based version. A task-force will present our schematic ideas and possible curricula to teachers in mid-May 2005. The recommendation is that COTE^{dc} team with the Washington Architectural Foundation to secure grants as funding for further research and development of the classroom game.

Festival of the Building Arts

Leader: Chris French

For the fourth consecutive year, COTE^{dc} participated in the Festival of the Building Arts, an event hosted every fall by the National Building Museum that introduces families to the construction trades. As the only architecture and design representative at the Festival, it has been our goal to educate families about opportunities to design healthier, more sustainable homes.

This year was our most ambitious exhibit - a ten-foot-tall, 12'x24' pavilion made of structural bamboo and metal screens, finished with bamboo flooring and linoleum. In the pavilion, we walked families through the latest edition of House of Cards, a board game developed by COTE^{dc} in which players design their own homes by making choices about the materials and systems they will use, and then discover the environmental impacts of their decisions. Over 5,000 people attended the Festival.

Plans for the future involve finding ways to design and construct a reusable, flexible display/system that will save time and effort in both construction and deconstruction/disposal.

Fundraising/Finances

Leader: Chris French

2004 marked the first year that COTE^{dc} attempted a coordinated annual fundraising drive. In the past, each separate event or program was accompanied by its own fundraising effort. Past COTE^{dc} Chair Chris French led the drive with active support from COTE^{dc} members. While there were a number of "learning opportunities" along the way, the first annual drive was ultimately a success, raising enough money to support all of our programs throughout the year.

The 2004 drive provided valuable lessons for future annual fundraising efforts. They are: 1. Identify a small "core group" of fundraisers - 3 or 4 people at most. The shotgun approach by encouraging all of the active members to participate in fundraising was not very successful. 2. Be more subtle. We posted some fundraising strategy info on the website that would have been more appropriate to distribute internally among active members.

Summer Solstice Fete

Leader: Greg Ciotti and Reuben Hameed

COTE^{dc} sponsors an annual summer party at the time of the summer solstice. In past years, attendees primarily consisted of members of the green construction community. The goal for this Summer Solstice, held on June 23, was to celebrate Sustainable Design in the DC area at the US Botanic Garden (BG) while networking with local and Federal government.

We invited Congressional members and their staff as well as members of the DC Council and mayoral staff to socialize with the Green A/E/C industry and view a display of the winners of the AIA/DC Sustainable Design awards. This was supported by a small but active group who headed sub tasks (like catering, music, etc.), a large group of greeters during the event, and the generous contributions of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) BG and Capitol Police.

Brief statements were made by the AOC, the director of the BG, and the chair of COTE^{dc} in support of the group's 2004 activities. Local and organic food was served by the AIA's caterer to the sounds of a Caribbean drum player. We finished the evening with ice cream donated by Ben and Jerry's. All aspects of the event exceeded expectations and it is our goal to build on this success by expanding the scope of displays, activities and attendees this year.

Green Tie Affair

Leader: Tove Anderson

Green Tie is the USGBC-National Capital Region's Annual Winter Networking Party. Although there are others who help, there are four planning organizations: USGBC-NCR, IIDA, AEE and COTE^{dc}. Each group was tasked to raise \$2000 for the event. Usually it is a rotating venue. This year was held at the new Herman Miller Showroom (600 14th Street, NW) on December 15th. The theme was "M'earth & Merriment. All proceeds were donated to Shaw EcoVillage, a local nonprofit with design education programs for at-risk youth. Shaw EcoVillage has partnered with COTE^{dc} on building projects that promote a more sustainable community. Since the proceeds from 2003 were not allocated, both 2003 and 2004 proceeds were donated to Shaw EcoVillage. The total proceed amount was \$2900.71.

Coordination between the groups was good. The event is one of the key sustainable community events for the year and brought out a variety of folks from all different fields. Even though security was tight, there was a good turn out. Next year we are hoping to include more planning partners to involve the landscape/civil and planning communities. This will help us reach more people as well as make new contacts and connections.

Website

Leader: Rick Harlan Schneider

Launched in 2003, our goals for the website this year were to maintain the web page for COTE^{dc}, keeping it current and fresh to newcomers. The page was updated regularly with meeting notes, upcoming events, and sponsors. The website is currently four pages on the AIA/DC website: Home, Mission, Task Groups, and Meeting Notes. A list of charities that accept donated building materials was added.

Goals for the future include adding resources such as green building links, books, and articles generated by COTE^{dc}. Also planned for 2005 is a dedicated email address for the group and/or a listserv. The task for sending notes to AIA/DC for uploading was shifted from the Chair to the Secretary.

Seminars

Leader: Kara Strong

Each COTE^{dc} meeting highlights a different aspect of green design and construction. 2004 featured topics as diverse as sustainable forestry, green building efforts, and solar energy. This year, we featured seminars in salvaging and re-using construction materials, greening specifications, and installing vegetative roofs.

February: Jim Schulman, of Community Forklift, discussed locations for donating or purchasing salvaged materials

March: Bryan Arnold, of Chapel Valley Landscape, discussed how to specify and install a green roof

April: Paul Totten discussed criteria for commissioning the building envelope

May: Sandra Leibowitz Earley, of Sustainable Design Consulting, discussed opportunities for specifying green building materials

July: COTE^{dc} toured the green roof at the Human Rights Commission

August: Representatives from Virginia Tech presented their entry for the 2005 Solar Decathlon

October: Bruce Keller, from Kalwall, presented their latest energy-efficient translucent wall panel

November: Elizabeth Floyd discussed opportunities for using bamboo as a construction material

Seminars were not scheduled for June, September, and December in order to allow adequate meeting time to prepare for the Summer Solstice, FoBA, and Green Tie events in those months.

Solar Decathlon

Leader: Hal Bolton

2002 marked the launch of the Solar Decathlon where teams of students from several universities across the nation design and construct a solar home on the National Mall. The next Decathlon is a week long competition that will take place on the National Mall during the week of October 7-16, 2005. Our goal has been to position COTE^{dc} as a green resource for the participants as well as those visiting the competition.

The Solar Decathlon Task Group was formed to coordinate the volunteer efforts for the 2005 Solar Decathlon. The kickoff workshop was held in September 2003, at which time COTE^{dc} was invited to give a talk on design for sustainability. Activities in 2004 included contacting the Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energies Laboratory to coordinate the need for volunteers. Additional contacts were made to the participating universities. Two of the local universities, Maryland and Virginia Tech attended COTE^{dc} meetings and presented concept ideas for the houses. Further contact and coordination will be the focus in 2005 leading up to the Solar Decathlon.

Budget

Treasurer: Hal Bolton

COTE^{dc} began the 2004 year with previous debt generously forgiven by Mary Fitch, Director of the DC Chapter of the AIA. Our fundraising efforts for the year netted \$8,150 through various corporate and private donations.

Our expenses for the year included two events, the Summer Solstice and the Green Tie Affair. (Materials for FoBA were donated.) The total expenses for the Summer Solstice were \$5,327. COTE^{dc}'s contribution for the Green Tie Affair amounted to \$2,000, bringing our total expenses for the year to \$7,327.

Beginning Balance		\$0
Expenses		
Summer Solstice Fete	-\$5,327	
Green Tie Affair	-\$2,000	
		-\$7,327
Income		
Fundraising	\$8,150	
		\$8,150
Ending Balance		\$823



COTEdc pre-meeting happy hour at Dragonfly in Dupont Circle