

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Considering the whole picture

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

This edition includes a couple of what might be called 'contrarian' articles. Over the decades that I've worked in the areas of sustainable design and resilience, I've noticed oftentimes there is a tendency to consider only the positive aspects of what is being promoted as sustainable or resilient. This is often true with products that tout their sustainability in one area, but neglect to discuss those aspects that are not so positive. I like to say that there is no Holy Grail when it comes to building products. There are always positives and negatives associated with each of them, and that's why it's so important to consider the whole picture when making decisions. The articles included here do just that. They point out some of the shortcomings of not looking at the whole picture.

As a reminder, the U.S. EPA is hosting their second in a series of webinars on grant funding for development of Environmental Product Declarations on March 22 at 2:00pm EDT. If you are a product manufacturer, I encourage you to participate to see what support is available. You can [register here](#).

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NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

In biomimicry design, the intent is to learn from nature. I think there is also value in learning from the past. The article below discusses traditional passive (non-electric) cooling methods for hot climates. An important solution when you consider that, according to the article, "the use of air conditioning and electric fans is responsible for nearly 20% of the total electricity used in buildings worldwide." ~Tina

Reimagining air conditioning: Traditional cooling methods for the future

ARCH DAILY

Traditional building solutions tend to work well in their respective contexts, as they have withstood hundreds of years of testing and improvements, and use techniques and materials available locally. Although globalization and the democratization of access to technology have brought more comfort and new opportunities to humanity, it has also led to the homogenization of solutions in the construction sector and a dependence on global supply chains for construction materials and components. The topic of passive cooling solutions for buildings is currently having a resurgence, with an effort to recover ancient techniques used throughout history in locations that have always had to deal with hot climates. [Read more.](#)

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Barcelona firm creates chapel-like health center using traditional brick design

DESIGN BOOM

Barcelona-based Baas Arquitectura has designed Cap Cote, a brick masonry health center resembling a chapel that invites ample lighting and points occupants attention toward the sky. The firm used local craftsmen to construct the building with local materials and traditional building techniques, with materials and wall thickness that provide consistent temperatures throughout the year. Read more [here](#).

Lessons from climate change modeling

STRUCTURE MAGAZINE

In [this article](#) David L. Pierson, S.E. presents a critique of what he calls *Settled Science*, and notes some of the shortcomings of climate change modeling. In particular, he points out the many assumptions in the modeling and the poor performance of climate models historically. He writes, "as a society, we should be concerned about the changing climate and how it might affect us. As engineers, we will be involved in solving problems associated with climate change. But, given the actual state of our knowledge, it is a very reasonable thing to debate how we should spend our limited resources."

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

The next edition of the International Energy Conservation Code will be finalized in 2023 and then published next year. The article below provides a short summary of some of the latest news. ~Tina

Energy codes: The year in review and a look ahead

INSTITUTE FOR MARKET TRANSFORMATION

In [this article](#), Cherylyn Kelley breaks down what's on the horizon for energy codes, from the latest news on the development of 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to state and local adoption of the 2021 IECC.

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

Addressing 2022 supply chain disruptions and alternative building materials

STRUCTURE MAGAZINE

As the construction industry contends with delays and price surges resulting from material shortages, a growing number of designers, contractors, and developers are turning to alternative resources to save money and get the job done in a timelier manner. Swapping cement with other materials that have similar properties and reusing materials that would have otherwise gone to waste, such as those extracted from demolition sites, are examples. Another example of alternate materials used for the construction of homes and offices includes the application of natural materials such as adobe brick, volcanic rock, and rammed earth. These materials are readily available on-site and offer added cooling and heating benefits from the natural insulation they provide. However, while developing alternative materials like these is often tied to sustainability efforts and has been demonstrated to be advantageous during a supply chain crisis, they can also present potential risks. [Read more](#).

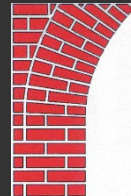
Tool gives insights into manufacturers' energy usage

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

A new tool from Oak Ridge National Laboratory provides a simple solution for manufacturers to track their energy usage. The



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ACME Brick ***

downloadable Visualizing Energy Reporting Information and Financial Implications software is free and allows users to enter all their facilities and utilities to calculate how much energy they're using and greenhouse gas emissions. Read more [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

We don't often include webinars from outside sources, but I thought this one was worth including. Also TMS has opened registration for their Spring Meeting and for their 14th North American Masonry Conference. ~Tina

Resilience: The Forgotten Half of Sustainability

MIT CSHUB

Learn how resilience and sustainability are inseparable in this webinar. Join Aris Papadopoulos and Ipek Bensu Manav on March 22, 11am EST, as they discuss their efforts to assess resilience, a critical component of sustainability. Topics include the importance of quantifying resilience, the Building Resilience Index, and the value of mitigation against extreme climate events. [Register here](#).

TMS Spring business meeting registration open

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS will be hosting its 2023 Spring business and committee meetings, at the Marriott Omaha Downtown Capitol District Hotel on June 9-11, immediately prior to the 14NAMC. Preliminary information on the meetings and a tentative schedule are posted [here](#). If you are planning to attend only the Spring Meetings [click here to register](#). If you plan to attend the 14NAMC, your TMS meeting registration will be included in your [NAMC registration](#).

14th North American Masonry Conference to be held in June

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

The 14th North American Masonry Conference (14NAMC) will be held June 11-14, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska, United States. The conference will be jointly hosted by the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the Nebraska Masonry Alliance (NMA), and will be sponsored by The Masonry Society (TMS). The conference will feature more than 100 technical presentations, several keynote addresses, innovative learning sessions, and student competitions. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

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