

October 23, 2013

Architects Intent on Making Waves

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia's annual conference promises to be a hot bed of dialogue and debate as architects from across the province and throughout the Pacific Northwest explore critical issues of livability, sustainability, affordability and environmental impact, while actively examining the leadership role architects can play in protecting communities and addressing climate change.

The conference takes place October 23-26 at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. Themed *Sea Change: Architecture on the Crest*, it will bring together British Columbia's architecture community for four days of learning, networking, dialogue and the celebration of professional achievement.

Signalling a first-time AIBC collaboration with the American Institute of Architects Northwest & Pacific Region, the conference will also have a distinct international flavour, with both delegates and presenters from Washington, Oregon, and as far afield as Hawaii, Alaska and Japan.

"Architects along the west coast and throughout the Pacific Rim share a lot of common ground," says **AIBC Council President Scott Kemp Architect AIBC**. "It's not only about design sensitivity that reflects geographical and cultural influences, but also the trends and issues that are impacting this part of the world."

That includes the growing concern for environment, sustainability and issues related to climate change. Says Kemp: "We're seeing it around the planet. Our built environment is being increasingly assailed by the forces of nature. Architects are primarily responsible for the built environment. So, too, are we responsible for finding solutions to the problems we are experiencing."

In keeping with the conference theme, a good deal of the conference program will focus on issues related to climate change, including the lead role that architects can play in shaping communities. Another central focus will be the future of the profession itself.

Highlights include:

- **Keynote Address: "Strange Creatures and Creative Achievement: The Personalities of Architects"**
Why do architects have such strange personalities? Or do they? Acclaimed speaker Dr. Brian Little will expound on how personality differences play a pivotal role in the profession of architecture.
Wednesday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday Plenary: Sea Change - Rising Tides**
A stellar panel will consider the threat of rising sea levels and other related environmental impacts, underscoring the lead role that architects and architecture can and should play in matters that are reshaping our communities and threatening our quality of life.
Thursday, October 24, 8:30 a.m.
- **Friday Plenary: Sea Change – The Future of The Profession**
Can architecture be vital again? What does the future hold for the next generation of practitioners? Might global trends and regional issues that are undermining the traditional role of architecture in our communities actually be opportunities for an architectural resurgence?
Friday, October 25, 8:30 a.m.
- **Presidents' Dinner and Awards Gala**
A celebration of architectural excellence featuring the presentation of the annual architectural awards for both the AIBC and the AIA NW&PR.
Friday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the 2013 Conference website at www.aibc.ca/ac2013. For media access, please contact Director of Communications David Wiebe.

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The AIBC is a self-governing body dedicated to excellence in architecture for the benefit of the public, the profession and the environment. For more information about the AIBC, please visit www.aibc.ca.

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