

## 2010 Building Communities Conference Course Descriptions

**All sessions are confirmed but subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.**

### Legend:

**HSW – Health Safety Welfare**

**SD – Sustainable Design**

**LUH – Learning Unit Hour**

**PDH – Program Development Hour (Engineers)**

### Thursday, 16 September 2010

#### **00T Tour of Rural Architecture - El Rancho Grande: A Tour of Rural Architecture Along the Lower Río Grande Border**

**Tour Guides – Stephen Fox and Mario Sanchez, Ph.D., HSW, SD, 7 LUH / PDH**

This tour will lead participants to a variety of sites in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties that describe the evolution of rural architecture along the lower Río Grande border in the 19th and 20th centuries. Tour goers will examine the history and culture of the lower Río Grande border as materialized in its rural architecture, analyze critical issues effecting the preservation of rural architecture along the lower border, evaluate the relevance of current preservation efforts to non-urban circumstances, and compare and contrast historical changes to the economy of ranching and farming as reflected in the rural architecture of the lower border.

**The bus will leave the South Padre Island Convention Centre at 8 a.m. No breakfast will be served; most hotels include breakfast in their rates so please have breakfast before you arrive. The weather will be hot and probably quite dry, and you will do some walking – please pack your comfortable shoes, cool clothing, and a hat. Sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, and lots of beverages will be provided.**

### Friday, 17 September 2010

**8 – 9:30 a.m.**

#### **01A TEXAS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS - Don't Play in the Gray Areas**

**Presenters - Doug and Teresa Darr, AIA - HSW, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This program will review the application of the Texas Accessibility Standards emphasizing the sections that are misunderstood, controversial, or where the interpretation has changed over time. Discussion will focus on designing to avoid problems with compliance once the project has been constructed.

**9:45 – 11:15 a.m.**

#### **01B Building a Culture of CRAFT in an e-World**

**Presenter – Andrew Vernooy, AIA - 1.5 LUH / PDH**

CRAFT--What does Craft mean in contemporary architecture, engineering and construction? Why is it even more important today than in the past? How do we define the economics of craft?

- The ability to build a culture of craft in the disciplines of architecture, engineering and construction
- The ability to define craft to our clients
- The ability to represent craft to our communities
- The ability to identify specific opportunities for craft in the 21st century

## **02B Smart Growth for Designers: What You Need to Know from The Smart Growth Manual**

**Presenter – Jeff Speck, HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

A comprehensive overview of Smart Growth, particularly as it pertains to the work of practicing designers. We will explore Smart Growth over the full range of scales from the Region to the Building, evaluate alternative design projects in terms of their Smart Growth performance, consider the relationship between transportation and land use, contrast Smart Growth planning with conventional sprawl planning.

## **02C Failure of Architecture Business Model & How to Fix It: [Transforming Architecture](#)**

**Presenters - Karen Pitsley, AIA & John. L Herman, Jr.**

We can take back our profession! Why did the number of registered architects drop from 230,000 to 189,000 in one year? We have an unprecedented opportunity to redesign the business of architecture. Are your profits where you want them to be? Bring your concerns and ideas for this interactive seminar.

**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

## **06A Keynote Address - Planning by Design: A Revisionist History of Planning**

**Presenter – Jeff Speck - HSW, SD, 1 LUH / PDH**

A history of the planning profession that focuses on its relationship to physical design will examine a history of the planning profession, compare alternative approaches to city planning, consider the role of architects and other design professionals in city planning, and determine the appropriate role of design in current city planning activity.

**1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

## **05A Daylighting**

**Presenter - Jefferey F. Knox - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

Daylight is free energy and can be introduced to buildings to greatly reduce a building's energy consumption – that is if it is done properly. Done improperly the introduction of daylight can become disastrous not only from an energy standpoint, but also from an occupant comfort standpoint. This seminar will address the issues related to designing an optimum daylight delivery system. It will help you understand the process of designing a day lighted building and help you to avoid the day lighting pitfalls that can turn your well intentioned building into the world's largest 'Easy Bake Oven'.

## **03B From Theory to Practice: Key New Urban Projects**

**Presenter – Jeff Speck - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

A review of a full range of New Urban designs at every scale. Participants will examine New Urban plans for new towns, new villages, suburban retrofit, urban infill, and buildings, compare new

Urban theory to practice, analyze the design elements that characterize successful urban design projects, and consider the impacts of today's economy on project typology.

### **03C The Future of Higher Education in Texas and the Rio Grande Valley**

**Presenter – Bill Reeves, AIA**

Public university systems have been in a building boom over the last 10 years to keep pace with the growing population in Texas (including the Rio Grande Valley), along with the priority that the Texas Legislature has placed on funding new facilities to serve them. In a down economy with little public funding, how are institutions reprioritizing their missions and doing business today? What types of consulting services and skills do campus leaders now need from architects in the profession? How can the profession be more flexible to serve these institutions with their changing focus now, and to prepare for an economic rebound?

**3:30 – 5 p.m.**

### **01D Analysis of Energy Saving Materials & Equipment for Commercial Buildings & Schools**

**Presenter - Jason King, P.E. - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

During this program we will investigate the costs and benefits of various energy saving building materials and technologies for schools and commercial buildings. The analysis will determine the impact of these items on energy consumption and HVAC system sizing. We will compare the different strategies to determine the most beneficial measures an owner can invest in for a favorable economic return. We will also evaluate the longevity of the various opportunities in an overall life cycle analysis.

### **07D Sustainable Seville**

**Presenter – Erick Darbo Diaz, Assoc. AIA - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This workshop will present a four-week design studio conducted in Seville, Spain during the Summer of 2010. It offers a close look at an unparalleled opportunity for a group of students from the LRGV who advanced their knowledge in architecture while engaging local projects, in a design studio environment, at the University of Seville, Superior Technical School of Architecture.

The purpose of this program (in Spain) was to expose students to Spanish culture through architecture. Students were expected to work on a project with local architects while experiencing everyday life in the City of Seville. Throughout the process, students explored local Spanish art, history, design, culture, and even politics in an effort to better understand the project context and to produce effective solutions for their design problem. Not only did their knowledge about architecture grow, but their knowledge and respect for other cultures increased as well.

This workshop introduces an example to local architects, engineers, and contractors a research-based focus on sustainability and design through the students' work in Seville, Spain.

### **03F ICFA AIA 101 An Intro to ICF - How ICF Works, Why to Choose ICF & When to Design with ICF**

**Presenter - Todd Humphreys - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This unique presentation will focus on the selection of ICF's (Insulated Concrete Forms) as a sustainable, energy efficient building envelope system that reduces life cycle environmental impacts, improves overall building performance, and optimizes occupant health, safety and

comfort. Attendees will learn how ICF's work, and when it is most appropriate to incorporate an ICF system in the design of a building facility.

### **Dorf Days Vignettes**

Public screening of Professor Dorf's Insight-Demystifying the ARE Graphic Vignettes with the AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter during the Building Communities Conference at South Padre Island. Watch this celebrated lecture on taking and passing the ARE graphic vignettes. 7 hours of lecture excluding breaks.

- *Session 1, SP&D / PPP Sections, 3 vignettes, Starting at 3:30 pm (1:32 aprox. Time)*

### **Saturday, 18 September 2010**

**8 – 9:30 a.m.**

#### **05D TEXAS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS – Exterior Facilities (Plazas and Parks)**

**Presenters – Doug and Teresa Darr, AIA - HSW, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This program will focus on the application of the Texas Accessibility Standards to different exterior site elements that serve or are associated with plazas, parks, and other exterior gathering places.

#### **01E Energy Efficient Glazing**

**Presenter – Deron Patterson - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

Energy efficient glazing will focus on how to design energy efficient window glazing systems for buildings so that they will meet or exceed the energy code requirements. Participants will explore the fundamental basics of energy dynamics and learn how low emissivity coatings assist designers to achieve energy savings.

#### **EE Engineering Ethics**

**Presenter - Edmundo Gonzalez, P. E., 1.5 PDH**

Engineering ethics situations - a skit illustrating an engineering situation as depicted by some seminar attendees, followed by a discussion of the events and the exploration of an ethical solution. The discussion will also include rules violated according to the Board of Engineers. The object is to discuss the rules of practice in an ethical manner.

**9:45 – 11:15 a.m.**

#### **02D Fellows Forum - Evidence-Based Design**

**Presenter – David H. Watkins, FAIA and D. Kirk Hamilton, FAIA - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH/PDH**

**Michael D. Hovar, AIA, LEED AP, Facilitator**

"One of the giant fallacies of current architectural practice is to treat (research) as proprietary. I see this as toxic to the profession and very short sighted...A willingness to share results, lessons learned, not only advances the profession but shows prospective clients that you can be trusted to be candid." D. Kirk Hamilton, FAIA.

AIA Fellows David H. Watkins and D. Kirk Hamilton, authors of the recently published [Evidence-Based Design for Multiple Building Types](#), will present their case for the importance of empirical research for the benefit of architects and owners.

"Currently there is a foolish notion of competitive edge based on hoarding. Any sort of scientific discipline doesn't work unless there is sharing among practitioners. This leads to higher standards for everyone and a higher quality of work." David H. Watkins, FAIA

With the momentum that sustainability (LEED) has gained in the building industry and with the advent of Building Information Modeling (BIM), architects and engineers find themselves being steamrolled into the future. They are educated as problem solvers relying on a knowledge base, but to design both LEED and BIM are database formula driven regimens that are becoming more and more vital to an a designer's success.

"Until Architects stop expressing themselves in the realm of subjective judgment, until we can point with confidence to credible material with which to reinforce design decisions we will continue to see our roles diminishing." D. Kirk Hamilton, FAIA.

Learn about the advantages of shared research and about the processes & methods for evidence-based design. McAllen Architect Michael D. Hovar, AIA, will facilitate a discussion about the value of measured results and the role they can play in crafting our building environments with a mix of art and science.

### **00K The City Walkable: Ten Steps to a More Vital Community**

**Presenter – Jeff Speck - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

A thorough overview on how to create and remake communities that engender pedestrian activity will examine the four key factors that influence walkability, contrast pedestrian-oriented design with auto-oriented design, examine the characteristics of safe urban and suburban streets, and evaluate buildings for their contribution to street life.

### **02G Civil Engineering in the 21st Century at UTPA**

**Presenter - Blair McDonald, Ph.D., PE, PLS, MASCE - HSW, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

There is worldwide recognition that engineering education must change to meet the needs of the 21st century. The National Academy of Engineering, ASCE and others have ongoing efforts, to identify and establish new directions for engineering education. When introducing a new civil engineering degree program, what can be considered? How many traditions can a new program change? As UTPA and others embark on educating the 21st century engineer, they must answer these questions.

### **Dorf Days Vignettes**

Public screening of Professor Dorf's Insight-Demystifying the ARE Graphic Vignettes with the AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter during the Building Communities Conference at South Padre Island. Watch this celebrated lecture on taking and passing the ARE graphic vignettes. 7 hours of lecture excluding breaks.

- *Session 2, BS / SS / BD&CS / CD&S Sections, 6 vignettes, Starting at 9:30 am (1:32 aprox. time)*

**1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

### **03D Ladrillo y Mezcla / Brick and Mortar Along the Rio Grande**

**Presenter – Manuel Hinojosa, AIA - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

It's hard to imagine how our wet delta soil could change its properties when shaped and then cooked to a hard brick. This once popular building component would be used to create architectural jewels along the banks of the Rio Grande River. During the 19th century, the architecture from Brownsville to Roma would produce an assortment of vernacular styles that would be dominated by this unique brick fabric. This presentation is a sequel to the first brick exploration that was conducted a decade ago.

### **03E TBAE Update 2010**

**Presenters - Cathy L. Hendricks, RID and Scott Gibson - HSW, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners will update design professionals on the latest legal, legislative, and enforcement issues affecting their practice--and have some fun meanwhile. A helpful Question and Answer session will follow.

### **03G Permeable Pavement**

**Presenter - Sean M. Van Delist - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This program provides an overview to permeable pavement as a solution for managing storm water runoff (quantity & quality), mitigating/minimizing tree root intrusion and providing a sustainable streetscaping tool. Attendees will learn how we define permeable paving, examine its technical properties and construct it in various applications. Permeable pavement is considered a best management practice by the EPA and is an ideal solution to building pavements sustainably on LEED and other green building projects. This program will also introduce the basics of pervious concrete and permeable interlocking concrete pavers.

**3:30 – 5 p.m.**

### **06D Bridging the Gap**

**Presenter - Murad Abusalim - HSW, SD, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

Bridging the gap is a concept that crystallizes the collaborative efforts being developed between the Architecture Program at UTB/TSC and various nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and businesses in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV).

This program is divided into two sections. The first section explores a number of projects that have been achieved as part of these collaborative efforts including Revitalization of a downtown Brownsville project, a Harlingen downtown project, and affordable energy efficient housing projects.

The second section focuses on an affordable house project that will be the first of its kind to receive the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in the LRGV. This project is designed and being built in collaboration between the Architecture Program at UTB/TSC and the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB). Project completion date was July 2010.

### **04E Communication Styles**

**Presenter - Shanelle Martin - 1.5 LUH / PDH**

The study of communication styles dates back many years. Over time, it has been refined by such famous psychologists as Carl Jung. Jung's research led him to develop an instrument to measure predominant characteristics of any individual's social style. This course is an adaptation of his work.

Everyone has a communication or social style that they favor. It is simply the style they are most comfortable with and describes how they prefer to give and receive information. It is the style they use most often. Our social styles are a product of our personalities, childhood experiences, learned behaviors, and how we were reinforced for those behaviors in our early days. This session will help you understand your own favorite style and help you to identify the styles of your clients so you can communicate more effectively with them. Once you understand someone's preference for giving and receiving information, it can help you to be a more effective communicator.

The ability to communicate in a way that people can really hear what you are saying is a skill that every professional needs in today's workplace. Not only will it assist you with daily communication challenges, it will make your job easier!

#### **04G Special Inspections Services: Items Observed and Typical Problems**

**Presenter - Peter E. Falletta, P.E. - HSW, 1.5 LUH / PDH**

This program will expose attendees to "special inspections guidelines". They will learn the requirements for these inspections and better understand their importance in architectural design and how these inspections can assist designers in the development of better building facilities.

#### **Dorf Days Vignettes**

Public screening of Professor Dorf's Insight-Demystifying the ARE Graphic Vignettes with the AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter during the Building Communities Conference at South Padre Island. Watch this celebrated lecture on taking and passing the ARE graphic vignettes. 7 hours of lecture excluding breaks.

- *Session 3, SD Section, 2 vignettes, Starting at 3:30 pm (1:56 aprox. time)*