

# aiaVT



*The aiaVT newsletter is published by AIA Vermont,  
the Vermont Chapter of the  
American Institute of Architects.*

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## President's Column - open doors

*lauren davis, assoc. aia  
2007 president aiaVT*

As we head into the fall season I thought I would take this opportunity to update everyone on all the exciting programs we have lined up for the next few months ahead. These and other programs can be found in more detail on our website: [www.aiavt.org](http://www.aiavt.org).

### **Studio Social**

Birdseye Building Company  
October 25  
Richmond, VT

### **CANstructions**

October 19-20, Friday-Saturday  
University Mall

### **Artgate II Competition**

October-submissions deadline

### **2007aiaVT Design Awards**

October 26, Friday- submissions deadline

### **Learning By Design**

November 9, Friday - Student Competition entries due

### **23rd Annual Build Boston**

November 13-15, Tuesday-Thursday  
Seaport World Trade Center, Boston

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**FEATURED ENERGY-EFFICIENT PROJECT:  
ENOSBURG FALLS  
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL  
ENOSBURG FALLS, VERMONT**





Photo: John Hemmelgarn

“We reduced energy usage by over 35% with help from Efficiency Vermont in prioritizing efficiency options and maximizing the impact of the dollars available.”

*John Hemmelgarn, Partner  
Black River Design, Architects*

[www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com)



**aiaVT Design Awards Traveling Exhibition**

November 16-30

Metropolitan Gallery, City Hall, Burlington

Opening reception, Friday November 16th.

**aiaVT Annual Meeting and Design Awards Presentation**

December 6, Thursday

Country Club of Vermont, Waterbury Center, VT

**Traveling Design Awards Show**

January, 2008

Chaplin Hall, Norwich University

**‘New AIA Contract Documents’**

January 17, Thursday

Double Tree Hotel, South Burlington

**AIAVT Advocacy Committee Meets with Efficiency Vermont**

Donna Leban, AIA, LC

Light/Space/Design

aiaVT’s theme for next year, Sustainable Design, will be the topic of many programs and other activities. The aiaVT Advocacy Committee started this theme early with a beneficial meeting with leaders of Efficiency Vermont’s Commercial Buildings Program. Both Efficiency Vermont and aiaVT Advocacy Committee understood the need for Architects and Engineers to have a continuing dialogue on how to improve the impact of sustainable, energy efficient design and efficiency programs.

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## **AIA Contract Documents**

Order your electronic document software  
from the AIA website, [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

You can order paper documents by calling  
AIA New Hampshire, 603-357-2863.

A price list is on line at  
[www.aianh.org/tools/contractdocs.shtml](http://www.aianh.org/tools/contractdocs.shtml)

Attendees included architects who responded to AIA's request to our general membership for those interested in involvement. The Champlain Valley Chapter of ASHRAE and several local engineering firms also were interested in providing valuable input.

The first meeting was devoted to a discussion of our goals in collaborating on Efficiency Vermont Program development. Further collaboration will likely involve a combination of electronic communication, as well as follow-up meetings when there is need.

Besides everyone's airing both our hopes and concerns about Climate Change initiatives, there seemed to be a genuine desire to work together to improve the receptivity for sustainable design. Vermont's adoption of a commercial energy code in 2007 is a largely positive move. However, Professional Engineers and Architects are placed in a negative situation when contractors largely ignore many of the un-enforced code requirements.

This is an area where AIA Vermont's membership must help by contacting legislators, and stating the need for enforcement of the energy code. If you have any ideas that you would like to offer the Advocacy Committee, please feel free to communicate them via e-mail to Donna Leban at [lightspd@comcast.net](mailto:lightspd@comcast.net). If you wish to stay in contact with the committee on this issue, your e-mail address will be added to our distribution list.



Photo Courtesy of Rolf Kielman

## When It's Greener to Build

*Tristan Korthals Altes*

*From the Editors from Environmental Building News - October 2007*

Whether with lightbulbs or buildings, many of us in the green building world are in love with conservation and efficiency. Of course, if the goal is reducing our footprint on the planet, better than doing something efficiently is to not do it at all—whether it's turning on a light or making a building. The mindset of efficiency in the green building movement contains, at its logical extreme, a latent distaste for buildings themselves.

This tension cuts to the core of our mindset as green builders. To get a glimpse of this, let's examine a contrary question: "Is it ever greener to build than to not build?" Purists who believe in leaving the land untouched might reply, "No." But surely this position is too extreme—should we only use existing infrastructure? Should we not have a built environment?

Our architecture, no matter how efficient, will always exact some environmental costs. But concern about resource consumption should be a lens through which we examine buildings, not the definition of green itself. We should also consider our fundamental ethics of building: Why do we build? In what ways is the act of building green?

When there is a need for a building, and the design and construction team remains loyal to the expression of that need, we see ecological and humane buildings rise from the earth. They provide homes that keep our families safe and warm. They contain schools for our children to learn, centers where we can heal, and places to work.

We each have our favorite human-made or wild examples of architecture that affirm the reasons why we work in a creative industry, why we design and build. At the heart of the building process is a crafting of materials, energy, and

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motion that can render us awestruck and in love, as artisans and as occupants. In this way buildings have the power to evoke not only the highest emotions that we are capable of, but they forge a connection between those emotions and the most mundane aspects of life, a connection that nurtures the entire community of life.

Resource efficiency and other green measures express one aspect of that connection, but they are not the whole. We see this in buildings that do everything right according to conventional green measures but that fail to inspire or nurture, often because they honor only one-dimensional values, such as profit, convenience, or efficiency. Perhaps the same buildings would be "greener" if their designers did not undervalue the human need for harmony with both the natural and constructed environments.

When we build with awe for life at the forefront of our process, we inherently build in a way that supports life. Therefore let's adopt a mindset not of being green by doing the least harm, but of being green by honoring our bond with the earth at every step of the building process.



Jim Benney, Executive Director  
National Fenestration Rating Council

## NFRC Creating a New Rating Tool for Architects

*Jim Benney, Executive Director, National Fenestration Rating Council*

The National Fenestration Rating Council is developing a new rating system for the energy performance of commercial fenestration systems. This program, known as the Component Modeling Approach (CMA), benefits architects in many important ways:

- Ensuring that estimates and bids have been done with a validated, standardized methodology for determining energy efficiency.
- Creating a paper trail that ensures that products are provided "as specified."
- Providing a user-friendly online tool to easily see which components can combine to meet an efficiency standard, how changing a component will affect the efficiency of the system and to verify performance.

CMA will build on the success of NFRC's existing Site-Built Program for non-residential fenestration systems. The CMA program will create separate rating libraries for glazing, framing and spacer components. Architects, glazing contractors and specifiers will then combine those ratings to determine a rating for the energy efficiency of the whole product. The rating will appear on a Label Certificate, which will be kept on site for inspection and other purposes.

NFRC is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 that administers an independent rating system for the energy performance of windows, doors and skylights. NFRC is an AIA-registered Continuous Education System (CES) Provider.

CMA is still under development, and NFRC welcomes input and feedback from architects and other stakeholders. For more information, visit the NFRC Web site at [www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org) or call 301-589-1776.

## aiaVT Welcomes

Jay Caroli, AIA of Morrisville

aiaVT is edited by Andrea Murray, AIA. Published views are the author's and not necessarily the views of AIA Vermont or any other organization.

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AIA Vermont reserves the right to edit articles for available space and determine appropriate content prior to inclusion. Submissions must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

## Call for Design Competition Entries

### *Better Buildings by Design Conference Returns to Vermont*

The region's premiere conference on energy efficiency in building design and construction will return to Vermont this winter. The biennial Better Buildings by Design Conference returns to the Sheraton Conference Center in South Burlington on February 13 and 14, 2008. As in past years, a highlight of the conference will be the presentation of Best Integrated Design Solution for Energy Efficiency awards. These awards recognize excellence in energy-conscious building design for commercial, institutional, industrial, and multifamily buildings.

Conference organizer Efficiency Vermont invites design professionals to submit poster entries in two categories: New Construction and Renovation & Retrofit. Projects must be located in Vermont and substantially completed between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2007. The deadline for submissions is December 7, 2007. Award recipients will be notified during the second week of January, 2008.

Awards will be presented and all entries will be displayed at the Better Buildings by Design Conference. Award-winning entries will be featured on [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com) and in a national online website database. Efficiency Vermont also will seek to promote winning entries in trade publications as well as in local and statewide media.

Planning for the Better Buildings by Design 2008 Conference is underway. The two-day gathering is expected to draw more than 1,000 participants, including design and construction professionals, vendors, facility managers, and building owners from throughout the region. The conference will offer valuable workshops about design and construction approaches and technologies that are being used to create today's high-performance buildings. Efficiency Vermont will provide more information about the conference as planning continues.

For competition criteria and other information, contact Efficiency Vermont's Molly Hooker Hatfield at 888-921-5990 ext. 1090, [mhatfield@veic.org](mailto:mhatfield@veic.org) or Mary Jane Poynter at 888-921-5990 ext. 1015, [mpoynter@veic.org](mailto:mpoynter@veic.org).