



The American Institute of Architects

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Happy July! As the clouds make way for blue skies, we are welcoming in a Summer that will mark all five Great Lakes at all-time record high water levels. Although water is this year's abundant surplus, could next year be a drought? How do architects advise and design to address the change in our weather patterns?

Anecdotally, in my life as Citizen Architect, I've experienced significant pot-hole damage to my vehicle. Similarly, the building I reside in has exterior tile and mortar that isn't able to handle increased temperature range and occurrence of freeze-thaw cycles. Building HVAC systems are similar in their limitations to react. Heavy rains have basements flooded with storm back-up. Our waterfront properties are struggling to keep up with what seems to be a never-ending onslaught of a rising tide.

Living on the coasts of our continent has always had inherent and often realized risks. Living in Michigan did not. Maybe our great peninsulas are not forlorn, or hurricane torn, however adaptation here is not in binary difference of Puerto Rico, Florida, or even New York. When Americans re-build or re-design, it should be under the lenses of resilience and this new "normal". Our profession has always been on the front lines of "man-vs.-nature" and now, the acuity of the strain on our clients and communities is greater than ever- especially here.

In the spirit of adaptation and resilience, I would like to announce AIA Michigan's Practice Innovation Lab, scheduled Friday, October 25. Our event is modeled on the 2017 AIA Young Architect Forum's groundbreaking event. Here in Michigan, we will focus on creating new business models for the delivery of architecture. Through the lens of contemporary issues, the full day workshop will challenge teams to present solutions-based business pitches. We will be inviting 30 applicants from across our state to participate. Stay-tuned for more information and how to apply.

Enjoy what is looking to be a hot and rainy summer!

Best from Detroit,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Guinta".

Matt Guinta, AIA