AIA Michigan

Hello from Lafayette Park!

I'm writing to you today to discuss the Turquoise Agenda. Since January I've been meeting monthly with my knowledge network group. We've been meeting to discuss sustainability and resilience in the practice of Architecture. Our focus has been on knowledge gaps on the topics of climate action, sustainability, and resilience. We're working towards creating an entry point for Emerging Professionals to learn about and advocate for climate action.

We all know how difficult it is to advocate for sustainability in practice, therefore, it is my aim to provide knowledge on the various ways we can change our practice or design better buildings to provide a better future for generations to come. I'd like to utilize my voice through this channel to share resources, events, and ways to get involved in promoting sustainability in your work environment.

The first link I want to share is to the AIA Sustainability Page where you can read more about The 2030 Commitment, how to incorporate resilience into the design services your firm offers with the AIA Resilience and Adaptation Certification, as well as precedent studies of top performing projects and links to other great research articles.

The second link is to a program tool where you can design, analyze, and even load in HVAC designs to run EnergyPlus simulations. It's called Cove.Tool and it will run energy, daylight, cost, carbon, and water analyses on your building according to current energy code standards. It uses machine learning algorithms to look through thousands of alternatives to find the best solution for your project and budget.

Another tool for direct integration into Revit is Tally by KT Innovations partnered with Autodesk and thinkstep. Typically, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is conducted after construction rather than during the design and planning process when the data could influence design decisions. But Tally aims to do just that, enabling users to quantify a building or material's embodied environmental impacts to land, air, and water systems. This tool allows users to conduct whole building LCA's during the design phase to show how differing design options have different environmental impacts.

Lastly, a final link to a provocative program born of 'The Nature of Cities' 2019 summit in Paris, titled the 'Forum for Radical Imagination on Environmental Cultures' (FRIEC). A global platform for urban ecological art that nurtures humanity's cultural relationships with nature. From their website "We produce place-based multi-sensory storytelling including essays, poetry, books, and films, and collaborative actions and exhibitions. All of our work aims to inspire direct ecological actions in local landscapes."

I hope you can walk away from reading this article with new program knowledge to share with your firm leadership or with organizational support to promote ecological stewardship on a local level. If you have anything you would like me to share with this platform or to bring back to the Turquoise agenda don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Nicole Tischler