

To help address the current climate emergency, a new way of thinking across the entire architecture, engineering, and construction industry is imperative. Part of the solution will require a holistic approach to design, one in which rather than doing less harm, design can positively contribute through regeneration. How do we adopt a regenerative design mindset and why is it important? HDR asked some of their leaders and here's what they had to say.

ENCOURAGING A GENERATION OF “ARCHITECT-ACTIVISTS”

Thomas Knittel, AIA, Design Director for Sustainability based in Los Angeles

The regenerative design framework represents a promising development in our architecture practice's ambitious vision of fully embracing regenerative design. When used successfully, the framework can have real, practical impacts on our projects. For example, for one project I worked on, it revealed that peak asthma incidences aligned seasonally with harvest seasons and not with the usual contributors (socio-economic factors, urban living, industrial pollutants). As a result, we were able

mixed-mode over operable windows.

Although the regenerative design framework offers a pathway forward, there are barriers to adoption. The framework is highly technical in nature, and like similar frameworks such as

the Living Building Challenge or LEED, it requires a rigorous adherence and an administrative overlay (and cost) to the project and client. We need both imagination and action on this front. We need successful, beautiful examples that inspire us. We need to commit to meeting or exceeding our own stated climate change ambitions.

My hope is that climate change, species eradication, water degradation, and human health concerns will shift architects, clients, and communities toward an 'urgency of now' and a

Doctors take an oath to do no harm, architects don't have as visceral a reminder of our professional responsibility. Nevertheless, we enjoy the privilege of a profession and with that, the responsibility to not just do no harm but to heal the communities that have entrusted in us. We owe it to the public to create designs that deliver recognized value to, and heal, the communities in which we build.

The global climate emergency has put the responsibility of the architect in clearer terms than ever before. Continuing to practice "business as usual" will literally threaten the continuation of our civilization and cause all too predictable human and environmental costs. We must change practice. And the power to change is in our hands, it is in the choices we

And it is not just the right thing to do it is also an opportunity to create long-term value for both our clients and our profession all through regenerative design.

Regenerative design requires both architects and clients to shift mindsets from the narrow and the immediate to the expansive and long term. It requires holistic thinking that utilizes computer analytics and human creativity to see the true life costs of an asset on the capital, operational, environmental, and social sides of the ledger. Regenerative design builds real value for stockholders and stakeholders for our society and our environment. It is about seeing across silos for the win-win opportunities, to build back better.

THE NEW STATUS QUO

Katie Sosnowchik, Communications Principal for Architecture based in Minneapolis

For so long we've talked about designing buildings for zero impact, but regenerative design helps us think about ways

timber where it is available and locally sourced. Large, open



About the Article

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