

Resilience Panel

Panel Moderator: Silda Wall Spitzer

Thomas Knittel, Design Partner, McLennan Design

Nicholas Rajkovich, PhD, AIA, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo

Terry Brennan, President, Camroden Associates, Inc.

Tedd Benson, Founder, Bensonwood

Frank Dixon, Global System Change

ABSTRACT

Panelists recognize that social and economic needs and functions should drive performance goals set for buildings and physical infrastructure systems. Planning and implementing prioritized measures to improve the performance of the built environment can strengthen resilience, especially by improving a community's ability to quickly restore vital services.

BIOGRAPHIES

Thomas Knittel is the design partner of McLennan Design, an architectural, planning and consulting practiced focused on net-zero, low carbon and living buildings. His past projects in the U.S, Asia, Brazil, Middle East and Haiti explore connections between people, place and ecology. He has used biomimicry—the 'technology transfer' of natural systems to solve human problems—to inspire and inform the design process. Knittel holds a Masters from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, is a certified biomimicry professional, studied at SCI-Arc, and has received over 30 design awards across a broad range of building types. He donates his time as the design leader for The William Jefferson Clinton Children's Center in Port au Prince (currently under construction), a new family learning center and orphanage funded by the USGBC designed to LEED Platinum and net-zero standards, a project he began at HOK and continues in his new firm. He is a registered architect in multiple states and a member of NCARB.

Nicholas B. Rajkovich, PhD, AIA is an Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo in the Department of Architecture. His research investigates the intersection of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and adaptation to climate change in buildings and communities. Prior to earning a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, he was a Senior Program Engineer at the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company Customer Energy Efficiency Department. At PG&E, he was responsible for coordinating a new Zero Net Energy Pilot Program. He has a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University.

Terry Brennan is a building scientist and educator. He is the owner of Camroden Associates, Inc., a small consulting and research firm located in Westmoreland, NY. He trained in physics

and environmental science. He presented testimony to the Institute of Medicine committee on Committee on the Effect of Climate Change on Indoor Air Quality and Public Health. He is otherwise old and done a lot of stuff.

Tedd Benson, author and Bensonwood founder, has championed high-performance, sustainable home and public buildings with an emphasis on innovation and craftsmanship since 1973. Bensonwood's search for a new and better way to build resulted in the founding of a new company, Unity Homes, focused on making healthy, high-performance homes more affordable. Unity Homes was honored as one of Building Green's "Top 10 Products for 2016." A frequent presenter, Tedd spoke at the 2015 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in Washington DC, with a talk entitled, "Making Sustainable Homes the New Normal."

Frank Dixon oversaw the sustainability analysis and rating of the world's 2,000 largest companies for many years as the Managing Director of Research at Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, formerly the largest corporate sustainability research firm in the world. Institutional investors used Innovest research to develop high-performing socially responsible investing products. Extensive corporate sustainability experience made it clear that flawed systems compel all companies to degrade the environment and society. Frank Dixon developed the TCR® approach to provide a practical and profitable way for companies and investors to engage in system change. Following Innovest, he provided sustainability and system change consulting to companies in the US and Europe. Most recently, he wrote the Global System Change series of books. Using a whole system approach, the books identify the major economic, political and social system changes needed to achieve sustainability and real prosperity. Frank Dixon has an MBA from the Harvard Business School.