

Shifting Our Collective Mindset

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This session focuses attention on asking the right questions that unleash the hidden potential of a design team. The session is designed to be highly interactive, serving as a fractal of a design charrette, encouraging participants to take the time to consider their "core purpose" and how connecting with core purpose can help dissolve perceived limitations. Throughout this session, participants will become increasingly aware of the critical value of open questioning in the design process.

After almost a decade of experience with green building assessment and rating systems, such as LEED®, we still understand amazingly little about some fundamental questions. The following "fundamental questions" will initiate exchanges with the session's participants:

- Can buildings and human development participate in a healthy manner with the place they inhabit?
- What does it take to sustain the performance of a green building and its relationships with natural and social systems over time?
- What design and project delivery approaches have the most potential for creating buildings that stretch towards their ultimate potential, moving beyond sustainability to catalyze restorative and regenerative ecologic relationships?
- How can the activities in the building and the community become aligned in a way that greater understanding of the important connections with health are addressed on a larger scale than the site alone?
- What are the systems of problems we are engaged in addressing?
- What additional resources and expertise are needed to help us answer these questions as we select sites, and design our buildings?
- What is motivating your exploration of these issues? In other words, why bother?

This session will empower participants to discuss and debate these questions and raise others while exploring the implications for actual projects.

The foundation of the session rests on the idea that people must be ready to question before they will listen to an answer; questioning at deeper levels opens up a world of possibilities.