

# **Transforming Healthcare Through Biophilic and Sustainable Design: A Case Study of Penn Medicine Radnor**

**Presenter: Jason Cole**

*Additional Presenters:*

1. Radhna Saxena, [radhna.saxena@atelierten.com](mailto:radhna.saxena@atelierten.com)

## **Presenter Biographies and Experience:**

Jason Cole is a Senior Associate at Ballinger, an integrated design practice. He brings a strong commitment to high-quality design and sustainability. His expertise encompasses interior and exterior architecture, and he is continuously exploring technology that helps communicate design concepts, through virtual reality, data visualization, or hand sketches. Radhna is a sustainability Specialist at Atelier Ten.

With a decade of experience, her expertise lies in climate responsive architecture. Since joining the practice in 2004, Jason has applied his extensive knowledge of healthcare environments to improve the patient, visitor, and caregiver experience at institutions including Penn Medicine, Inova Health System, and New York-Presbyterian. He spoke at AIA AAH Summer Leadership Summit 2022.

## **Abstract:**

The Penn Medicine Radnor building exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to healthcare design, transforming an outdated suburban office park into a regenerative, biophilic, and sustainable ambulatory care campus. Designed by Ballinger, this 250,000 SF award winning facility integrates architecture and nature. The design blends interior and exterior spaces, connecting patients to natural light and panoramic views. With native meadows, rain gardens and bird safe glass, the project embodies a holistic commitment to environmental stewardship. The case study invites attendees to delve into the collaborative design process, highlighting how user engagement and biophilic design informed each phase. Participants will learn how evidence-based design principles were applied to optimize staff workflows, minimize travel distances, and enhance wayfinding. They will see how immersive VR/AR tools allowed healthcare providers to engage with the design early on, ensuring functionality and comfort. It will highlight sustainable design strategies that contributed to the LEED Gold certification.

Overall, attendees will gain insight into the benefits of a nature-centric approach to healthcare environments.