the edmonton Specifier

Construction Specifications Canada is an organization representing diverse interests in the construction industry and related professions. It is dedicated to improving the quality and flow of information between these interests, whether in the form of specifications, contract administration or marketing.

December 2025 Edition

Editor: Tracey Stawnichy

In This Edition...

A SPEC-Tacular Holiday Hangout

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025
Time: 5:00pm – 11:30pm
Place: Rosario's Pizza & Pub
11715 – 108 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 1B8

Join the CSC Edmonton Chapter for a SPEC-tacular holiday hangout! Your ticket gets you festive snacks and one drink ticket. Stick around, karaoke *sleighs* at 9:00pm! Prizes for the best holiday tunes and ugliest sweaters!

A Spec-tacular Holiday Hangout Tickets, Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite

Director	Andrew Brassington	780 222 6732
Chair	Dylan Leclair	587 335 9552
Vice-Chair	Catherine Osborne	780 423 6606
Secretary	Jessica Prosser	587 340 7169
Treasurer	Cam Munro	780 231 1739
Architectural	Kevin Osborne	780 717 1007
Chapter Liaison	Position Open	
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Engineer	Jamie Murphy	780 983 0288
General Contractor	Position Open	
Interior Design	Nicole Bird	780 686 2452
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Sustainability	Position Open	

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Reach out to us for more information at
edmonton@csc.dcc.ca

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Meeting Sponsor

$50 for Individual (personal) Sponsor
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact any member of the Executive, attend one of our Chapter Meetings, send your name and address to CSC Edmonton Chapter, PO Box 35093 Mid Town PO. Edmonton, AB T5J 0B7, or go to edmonton.csc-dcc.ca for additional contact information.

GOALS OF CSC

Construction Specifications Canada is a multi-disciplinary non-profit association dedicated to the improvement of communication, contract documentation, and technical information in the Construction Industry. CSC is a national Association with Chapters in most major Canadian Cities.

To this end, CSC pursues the study of systems and procedures that will improve the coordination and dissemination of information relevant to the construction process.
We seek to enhance the quality of the design and management aspects of the construction activity through programs of publication, education, and professional development, believing that by so doing, we can contribute best to the efficiency and effectiveness of the construction industry as a whole.

OBJECTIVES OF CSC

To foster the interest of those who are engaged in or who are affected by the compilation or use any forms of specifications for the construction industry.

To publish literature pertaining to the construction industry.

To engage in activities to improve procedures and techniques related to the construction industry.

2026 Building & Hardware Showcase

IDA INTERIOR DESIGNERS OF ALBERTA

CSC Supply-Build Canada
Formerly the Western Retail Lumber Association

Day 2 – Architect, Designer & Dealer Networking Breakfast

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for Sustainable Interiors

Design smarter. Build greener. Lead with transparency.

Thursday, January 22 @ 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Edmonton Expo Centre | Room 108

The future of interiors is sustainable—and it starts with the choices we make today. As demand for environmentally responsible spaces grows, architects and designers are being asked to deliver more than beauty and function. They need solutions that meet climate goals, align with green building standards, and satisfy client expectations.

This session gives you the tools to make it happen. You'll learn how to integrate **Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)** into your material selection process—from flooring and wall coverings to ceilings, furniture, and beyond.

Through real-world examples and case studies, **Dr. Shiva Zargar** will walk you through how to:

- Interpret environmental indicators within EPDs.
- Evaluate trade-offs in material performance, aesthetics, and impact.
- Make informed, transparent product decisions for both commercial and residential interiors.
- Understand the process of developing, verifying, and approving an EPD with a program operator.

Whether you're designing a hotel lobby, a healthcare facility, or a residential interior, this session delivers the practical knowledge you need to **elevate your sustainability practice.**

About Dr. Shiva Zargar

Founder & Director of Science and LCA, Build Neutral

Dr. Shiva Zargar is a life cycle assessment (LCA) scientist and accredited EPD verifier with more than a decade of experience helping businesses navigate complex environmental challenges. As the founder of Build Neutral, she combines data-driven solutions with practical insight to guide organizations toward sustainable success.

Her background includes:

- PhD in Sustainable Bioeconomy from the University of British Columbia (UBC), supported by the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.
- Two master's degrees in renewable energies and environmental impact assessment.
- Over 10 years of applied research and consulting across industrial ecology, environmental modelling, and techno-economic analysis.

Dr. Zargar has contributed to international conferences and publications, and her mission is clear: **to empower businesses through the lens of life cycle thinking.**

Architects Badge: $79.00
Register Today!

Announcements:

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee for CSC, please hit the link!
MentorCity - Mentoring Software

Chair's Message

Dylan Leclair, CSC Edmonton | Chapter Chair

Let it snow Edmonton Chapter!

We are moving into the Holiday Season so I will make my message short and sweet. There is still time to SIGN UP FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY ON DECEMBER 4 at ROSARIOS we are looking forward to seeing you there! We will be hosting all our education offerings starting in January so if you are interested, more info will follow.

I would like to take a moment to announce that Dave Lawrence is stepping out of the role of Membership. Dave, I personally want to thank you for your guidance and mentorship over the last couple years; it has meant the world to me. You have kept us inspired on our journeys with CSC and shown us all what we can accomplish and do as a team. With that I would like to welcome Doug Rossum from Enercorp who will be taking over our membership position. Doug will have some big shoes to fill but he has the right energy to help us grow as a Chapter and we look forward to working with him!

With another year almost in the bag, thank you to you the membership for the year of fun we have had. We are looking forward to next year as we have so much more in store.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Membership in CSC

Dave Lawrence

In the construction industry's fast-paced environment, the need for and value of Construction Specifications Canada is greater than ever. CSC brings together individuals from all segments of the construction industry. All who have a vested interest in Canada's largest industry are invited to join CSC. When you join CSC, you become part of the only association that brings together professionals from all aspects of the construction industry.

DESIGN TEAM

CSC offers members of the Design Team the opportunity to meet with other members and exchange information. It also affords you the chance to help improve technology and its management, and the means to improve ways in which your ideals are translated into clear, concise, and complete documentation.

BUILDING TEAM

If you are a member of the Building Team, CSC offers you the opportunity to become involved in formulating specifications. Your valuable input into the programs can help generate time and cost savings, as well as improve performance.

SUPPLY TEAM

The multi-disciplinary composition of CSC allows members of the Supply Team to meet with other members of the construction team. CSC programs in data filing and information retrieval are geared to present convenient and concise information on your products for proper evaluation and specification.

THE STUDENT

If you are a student of architecture, engineering, or construction technology, CSC will provide you with a greater exposure to, and a better understanding of, the construction industry, giving you an excellent opportunity if you plan a career in the construction field.

People and Places – Welcome to new and past CSC Edmonton Chapter Members!

Fresh Faces (New Members)

Stacey Walsh
Estimator, United Roofing Edmonton Inc.
21104 – 107 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5S 1X2
P: (780) 271-2753
E: stacey@unitedroofing.ca

Yes, We've Moved (Contact / Mailing Address Update)

None this month.

Previous Members Re-Joining / Re-Activated

None this month.

CSC Education:

Kevin Osborne, CET

Principles of Construction Documentation

The PCD course is an introductory course that will enable the student to have a better understanding of construction documentation (specifications, drawings, and schedules), products, bidding procedures, and contracts**. It is also a prerequisite to all the other CSC education courses.**

Specifier 1

Specifier 1 is an intermediate level course that will take the individual beyond the concepts previously introduced in the PCD Course. Although some of the same topics are included, the depth of comprehension and explanation exceed that of the PCD course. The Specifier 1 is a prerequisite for the Certified Specification Practitioner (CSP) designation from CSC. Successful completion of the course may be credited toward the experience component requirements for the Registered Specification Writer (RSW) designation.

Technical Representative

The TR course provides a better understanding of contract documents and bidding procedures, product representation, professionalism, and ethics, and will provide a new depth of understanding and explanation of concepts beyond what was previously introduced in the PCD course. The course is designed for the individual involved in the supply section of the construction industry, such as manufacturer representatives, agents, or distributors of products. The student will have successfully completed the PCD course.

Contact Kevin for all your education needs. kosborne@jtas.ca

EDUCATION COURSES

Upcoming Classes:

Principals of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Jan 5, 2026
Specifier – Feb 27, 2026
Construction Contract Administration (CCA) – March 6, 2026
Technical Representative (TR) – TBD

Upcoming Classes Online:

Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Jan 5, 2026
Construction Contract Administrator (CCA) – March 6, 2026
Specifier – Feb 27, 2026
Technical Representative (TR) – March 6, 2026

Upcoming Virtual Classes:

Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Jan 9, 2026
Construction Contract Administration (CCA) – March 6, 2026
Specifier (SP) – Feb 27, 2026
Technical Representative (TR) – March 6, 2026

Social Media:

Check us out:

Articles of Interest

The Work Day is Becoming Infinite. Microsoft Warns it's Time to Set New Boundaries

Sourced from: https://www.fastcompany.com

The 9-to-5 is fading, replaced by a fragmented cycle of early logins, late-night pings, and weekend catch-up. Microsoft's latest Work Trend Index shows the "infinite workday" is no longer an edge case. It's the norm for many knowledge workers.

Unfortunately, it seems the pandemic-era "triple peak" work pattern – morning, afternoon, and an evening spike – has stuck. After-hours activity is rising. Meetings after 8 p.m. are up 16% year over year, and by 10 p.m. nearly one-third of active workers are back in their inboxes.

Weekends are not off-limits: Among those working weekends, about 20% say they check email before noon on Saturday and Sunday. During the week, prime focus windows are being eaten alive. Half of meetings land between 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.—the very hours when many people are naturally sharpest.

What feels like productivity is quietly fueling burnout, chaos, and replaceability

The risk is fatigue and focus. When communication never sleeps, neither does context-switching, a leading cause of mental exhaustion. Microsoft's telemetry finds employees are interrupted, on average, every two minutes during core work hours – adding hundreds of pings a day among heavy-communication users. It's no surprise that nearly half of employees (48%) and more than half of leaders (52%) say work feels chaotic and fragmented.

Samantha Madhosingh, a leadership consultant and executive coach with a background as a psychologist, says the issue is exacerbated by "flexi-working" while working remotely and trying to do it all. She says remote working "makes it difficult for folks to have the strong structure and boundaries around their workday. And I see people really struggling. They're struggling to remain organized, to stay focused, and to not burn out."

At Lifehack Method, we've seen this up close as we coach busy professionals to reclaim their time and do meaningful, fulfilling work. When new clients arrive, most are drowning in what feels like "normal" work like an overflowing inbox, constant notifications, and a booked-up calendar. We'll ask them, "When's the last time you had two uninterrupted hours to do your actual job?" The answer is usually nervous laughter. But when they start putting up strategic boundaries, the turnaround is dramatic.

Here's how to set new boundaries around the infinite workday so that you can not only survive but thrive.

What Frontier Firms do differently

Some 53% of leaders say productivity must climb, yet 80% of the global workforce reports lacking the time or energy to do their jobs. That mismatch – rising demand versus human bandwidth – creates a capacity gap that organizations are racing to close.

Microsoft's "Frontier Firms," which are early adopters deploying AI across the org, report better sentiment and headroom: 71% of workers at these firms say their company is thriving (versus 37% globally), and 55% say they can take on more work (versus 20% globally). Many leaders plan to upskill existing employees (47%) and use AI as digital labor (45%).

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella repeatedly posted on LinkedIn in August 2025 highlighting new AI tools that free people from drudgery and give them more time for high-impact work. He wrote that GPT-5 integrated into Microsoft 365 Copilot has become part of his “everyday workflow,” adding a layer of intelligence across apps, and praised the new =COPILOT() function in Excel that lets users “analyze, generate content, and brainstorm directly in the grid.”

But AI is only part of the fix. It can automate tasks, but it can’t make your choices for you. Your scarcest asset isn’t talent – it’s time. Go a month without clear goals or let each week fray into constant notifications, and you quietly become easier to replace. That’s because reactive work, jumping at every @mention or ping, keeps you busy without moving the needle.

Push back on norms for big results

Teams that tame the infinite workday reject the “normal” flow of work and actively redesign their calendars. For example, Shopify periodically purges calendars of recurring meetings with more than two people. Meta and Clorox have meeting-free days. Dropbox has core collaboration hours, a four-hour block of synchronous time across its workforce that relieves the pressure of all-day meetings and lets employees decline meetings outside this window. GitLab runs on asynchronous workflows (a favorite trick here at Lifehack Method) to reduce urgency and alleviate stress.

If you’re not in a position to flip the switch company-wide, here are some individual power moves:

Swap meetings for screencasts. Most 30-minute info-transfer meetings could have been an email, or at least a shorter meeting. Record a Loom or Clipchamp, send it off, and let people listen at 1.5x speed. Boom – you just gifted yourself and your team back half an hour.

Trade 1:1s for weekly office hours. You become more accessible, employees get a pressure valve for urgent problems, and you solve a pile of small issues in two to five minutes instead of bloating everyone’s calendar with half-hour blocks. The best leaders use office hours as a speed bump. If someone really needs a private 1:1, they’ll earn that time after showing up in office hours first.

Set a “win-win” communication policy. Uncertainty kills productivity. People don’t need instant replies, they need predictable ones. Instead of winging it (aka defaulting to chaos), publish a simple rule: “I check email at 9 a.m., 12 p.m., and 3 p.m.,” or “I don’t take meetings on Mondays because I’m with clients.” The magic is in the head-nodding clarity. People stop expecting and start respecting.

Close the floodgates. There should be moments when people can reach you and moments when they can’t. Otherwise, you’re drowning 24/7. The best way to enforce those on/off cycles? Plan your week in advance. If you don’t, the week will make a (bad) plan for you. Which leads to the next suggestion:

Make weekly planning a ritual, not a wish. Pros don’t win with fancy hacks, they win by doing the boring basics consistently. Thousands of our clients at Lifehack Method use weekly planning as their “tip of the spear.” If you want to win the week, you’ve got to plan the week.

Prioritize your physical and mental health, before it’s too late. Madhosingh warns that “work cannot take over your entire day and life. For a lot of people, that’s what ends up happening. They don’t know when to stop. Ultimately, your brain or your body will shut you down... People end up really physically ill and sick because they’re not taking care of themselves.”

The infinite workday isn’t your destiny

If you don’t set boundaries, your tools will set them for you, and they’ll always choose “chaos.” That’s why the most competitive professionals and companies in 2026 won’t be the ones who can stay logged in the longest. They’ll be the ones who deliberately carve out time for deep work, compress

their collaboration windows, and enlist AI to strip away drudgery.

The infinite workday is real, but it's not inevitable. You can either accept it as the new default, or treat it as the wake-up call it is. Leaders who redesign their calendars, enforce boundaries, and invest in human focus will not only outlast the chaos, they'll outperform it.

How Architecture Fees Got So Low

Sourced from: https//www.dezeen.com / Nat Barker

In many countries architects are fed up. They feel underpaid, overworked and disrespected.

That was the finding of a major survey Dezeen conducted a year ago, and it echoes other studies that have attempted to gauge worker wellbeing in the profession.

At the core of the issue is a simple fact: most architecture studios struggle to make much money from the work they do.

"It is a real problem, and it's a real problem for the majority of practices," said Peter Farrall, a senior lecturer at the University of Liverpool who co-wrote the Good Practice Guide on fees for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

"There's no question that fees are under massive pressure," he told Dezeen.

"You can only afford to pay decent salaries and provide good working conditions if you have put forward the right fee."

"Architecture is a weak profession"

Farrall was talking about the UK architecture profession, but the phenomenon is international.

"It's just definitely the case that architecture is a weak profession, in the US particularly," said Yale University professor Peggy Deamer, whose research focuses on architecture as a form of labour.

"People accept low wages because they know the firms they want to work for have low fees. That's a common dynamic I've heard from students, which I think is tragic."

The Fees Bureau, a division of Mirza & Nacey Research, has been compiling business data on architecture since the 1990s.

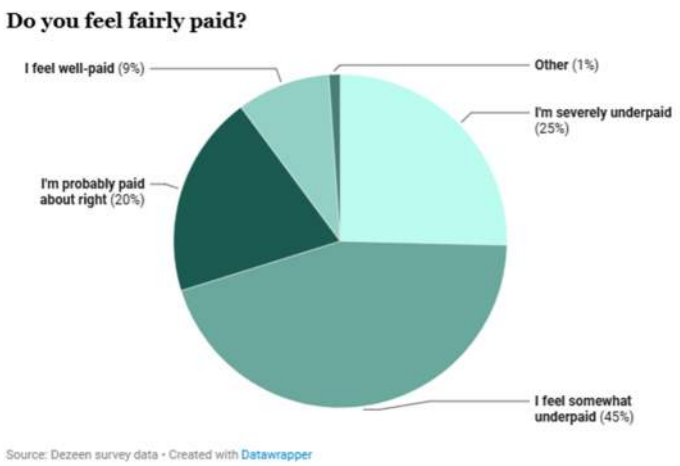
According to the bureau's Architects Fees Index, in the UK, fees have actually grown 48 per cent since 2000, adjusting for building-costs inflation.

But these rising revenues have struggled to keep pace with wider inflation, ballooning insurance premiums and increasing responsibilities and complexities on projects – meaning margins have got tighter and tighter.

The Fees Bureau recently published research showing that in the UK, architects' average annual salaries are now £13,000 lower than those of chartered surveyors.

Earlier this year, the bureau also produced the first ever Europe-wide study of the architecture profession for the Architects' Council of Europe.

It found that, with a few notable exceptions such as Germany, Denmark and Switzerland, concerns about low earnings are affecting studios across the continent.



Dezeen research previously found that most architects feel underpaid

"They are all saying that they're underpaid for what they're expected to deliver – the responsibilities they have, the length of the training, everything," Mirza & Nacey Research director Vince Nacey told Dezeen.

From an architect's point of view it's a sorry state of affairs, but how did it come about? And can anything be done?

"Race to the bottom"

Several decades ago, architects and their clients had little choice about the fees they agreed. They were set according to scales determined by professional bodies.

"A lot of older architects have happy memories of when there used to be an RIBA fee scale, which everybody was meant to work to then," explained Farrall.

"And then, of course, Mrs Thatcher got rid of that because she thought it was restrictive."

As governments pushed to liberalize markets in the late 20th century, they passed new competition laws, also known as antitrust laws.

Architects' bodies came under pressure to drop fee scales. Under Margaret Thatcher as prime minister, the UK Government took action against the RIBA in 1982 and its fee framework became advisory-only.

A decade later, it was watered down again to become merely loose guidance based on survey data. By 2009, the RIBA had stopped publishing information on fees altogether.

Similarly, in the US the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was sued twice by the federal government – once in 1972 and again in 1990 – over the issue of fee schedules.

"It's seen by the Department of Justice as collusion, and so you cannot mention fees or wages at any AIA meeting at all," said Deamer.

"This is where a weak profession comes into play," she added. "The Department of Justice went after all the professions in the '70s – didn't just go after architecture – but other professions found a way around those."

In the absence of overarching fee guidance, architecture fees became subject to secretive and often cutthroat bidding processes in which undercutting is rife.

"This lack of oversight fosters a rather inevitable race to the bottom as practices seek to win work," said Mark Tuff, a partner at London- and Zurich-based architecture studio Sergison Bates.

"Without any common parameters, there is not much to limit that race."

Tuff shares Deamer's frustration that other professions, such as law, appear to have done a better job than architecture of protecting fees in the push for competitive markets.

He also points out that two of the main outliers on architecture fees – Switzerland and Germany – still have forms of "oversight" in place.

The Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects publishes guidance on "standard fees", while Germany still has a government-approved fee schedule known as the HOAI.

Though the HOAI is under review after the European Court of Justice ruled that it breaches EU law in 2019, Tuff said the schedule "still persists as a starting point for discussions with clients on levels of fee".

"We're not driven by profit"

Of course, the end of fee schedules theoretically opened the possibility for architects' fees to go up as well as down.

But, as Nacey delicately puts it, the ability to negotiate fees "may have left the architects in a position that they're not at their strongest".

Deamer is more robust. "I think we're kind of laughed at by developers," she said. "It's the first place where they save money. If they say no to certain fees for one architect, they'll find someone else willing to do it."

Farrall agrees that a lack of business acumen has harmed many architects' ability to command strong fees.

"Architects are passionate about design, they're not quite so keen on running the business," he said.

"That really isn't the way we were all brought up, as it were, at college. We're not driven by profit as many other professions are, actually."

Farrall has even heard of studios offering fees at a loss to win particularly prestigious or award-worthy projects.

The picture for architects has arguably not been helped by increasingly cash-strapped public bodies seeking to save money on construction projects, and wily private-sector clients being eager to benefit from the efficiencies enabled by Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology.

Architects charge clients in three main ways – as an hourly rate, as a lump sum agreed in advance, or as a percentage of the total cost of the project.

The latter is most common, as it tends to be clients' preferred approach.

"They can compare one architect with another very easily," explained Farrall. "They've got a sense of what the last 20-storey building cost them and what they paid in fees, and they feel they can do a deal."

But percentage fees can present a problem for architecture studios.

"There isn't a direct relationship between the resources needed to deliver the project and the fee that's being charged," said Farrall.

"Delivering a project is really difficult. Stuff comes out of the woodwork and inevitably the goalposts change."

A concerning number of architecture practices, he said, especially smaller ones, don't have provisions in place for discussing additional fees in this situation. They can therefore find themselves losing money on a project as the hours rack up.

If clients insist on a percentage fee, Farrall recommends that studios start by working out how much a project is likely to cost them taking account of the risks, add some margin for profit, and then convert that figure into a percentage "with quite a few caveats".

"If everybody was putting forward a fee which was properly viable and sustainable and allowed them to pay their staff properly and not require staff to take up the bumps when things go wrong and they're

having to do unpaid overtime, then fees would be a little bit more rational," he argued.

In countries including the UK, small studios – which make up a large proportion of the architecture profession and mostly work on small residential projects – are facing a particularly difficult environment.

"There is very intense downward pressure on fees from those outside the profession – people calling themselves 'architectural services'," RIBA head of research Adrian Malleson told Dezeen.

"I suspect most people don't know the difference between an architect and someone who provides architectural services, but the difference is very important."

"I think they're struggling with the fact that there's so much competition, and the fact that a lot of people may only use an architect once in their lifetime and probably don't know what distinguishes an architect from an architectural designer," agreed Nacey.

"We've done this to ourselves"

That arguably feeds into a wider concern for architects.

"A lot of it comes back to communication of value," said Malleson. "Quantifying the value of design and making the value of design apparent to clients is a challenge, and it has been a longstanding challenge."

"To deliver really good design requires an awful lot of effort, and even when people are on sensible fees, those fees don't necessarily reflect the amount of care that's needed to deliver buildings of that quality," added Farrall.

"And I still think we undervalue the skills and expertise we have."

Deamer is of the view that architecture has lost respect by confining its focus to "the aesthetic dimension".

"My whole position is that we've done this to ourselves," she said. "We shouldn't sit here saying, 'oh my god, the public doesn't understand us, the media doesn't get us,'" she said. "We've done this to ourselves."

"In Switzerland architecture is very much seen as part of their craft – it's like watchmaking – and it's much more respected and better paid," Deamer continued.

"Same with Germany, where architecture is really understood to be more of an engineering technical feat, there's more respect for it."

It's a problem without easy answers, and there is little consensus on ways to drive up architecture fees.

Malleson suggests that fee mechanisms could shift to reflect the value of appointing a good architect by being pegged to outcomes such as thermal performance and water tightness, but admits this is "a long way off".

As well as calling for unionization, Deamer makes a proposal that will likely prove controversial among architects: abolishing licensing of the profession, so that it is no longer a protected term.

"If we were not a licensed profession, we would enter into the marketplace in a normal way and be able to claim our expertise in a more honest fashion," she argued.

Other architects may be more likely to call for greater regulation rather than less – for the mandatory involvement of registered architects in construction projects. The Architects' Journal recently reported

that the UK Government is considering such a step.

At the very least, it's common to hear complaints that professional bodies are not doing more to find ways of protecting fees without falling foul of competition laws.

Asked about this by Dezeen, the RIBA said it is "working to find a way" to provide clients with "direct advice on architects' fees".

A spokesperson for the ACE said it is currently undertaking a survey that it hopes will allow it to analyze the impact of varying fee practices across different countries.

"This evidence-based approach seeks to identify good practices that promote fair fees within the framework of competition law, and to provide a balanced foundation for future policy discussions," the body said.

The AIA emphasized the rigidity of the US's competition laws.

"While AIA cannot set fee minimums or guidelines due to federal antitrust laws, we can and do actively advocate for fairer conditions that support the financial health of the profession," it told Dezeen.

Barcelona's Sagrada Familia Becomes the World's Tallest Church

Sourced from: https://canada.constructconnect.com / The Canadian Press

SHUTTERSTOCK – Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica became the world's tallest church. The masterwork of architect Antoni Gaudi now rises to 162.91 meters above the city.

Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica became the world's tallest church on Oct. 30 after a part of its central tower was lifted into place.

The masterwork of architect Antoni Gaudí now rises to 162.91 metres above the city, the church said in a statement. That barely beats out the tip of the spire of Germany's Ulmer Münster, which tops out at 161.53 metres.

The Ulmer Münster, a Gothic Lutheran church built between 1543 and 1890, has held the title of the world's tallest church. That bragging right now gets passed to its Spanish rival. Even though the Sagrada Familia does not claim the title, the numbers are there to compare: it is now just over a metre taller than the church in southern Germany.

And the Sagrada Familia is still growing. The central "Tower of Jesus Christ" that is rising from the top of the church will reach 172 metres when it is completed in the coming months.

A crane placed the first part of the tower on top of the nave on the morning of Oct. 30.

The first stone of the Sagrada Familia was placed in 1882, but Gaudí never expected it to be completed in his lifetime. Only one of its multiple towers was finished when he died.

Work has sped up over recent decades as the basilica became a major international tourist attraction with people around the world enthralled by Gaudí's unique aesthetic that combines Catholic symbolism and organic forms.

The money from entrance fees is used to fund the ongoing construction. Last year, 4.9 million people paid to visit it, with 15% of those tourists coming from the United States.

Work on the church's elaborate facades and decorating its interior will continue for several years. It is expected to be completely finished around a decade from now, church officials said earlier this year.

Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the death of Gaudí. The church will hold several events to celebrate his legacy, which includes other stunning buildings in Barcelona and other places in Spain.

How Breathable Should Facades Be? Exploring Permeability and Impermeability in Building Envelopes

Sourced from: https://www.archdaily.com / Maria-Cristina Florian

The main role of architecture is to create structures that protect us from the environment and create spaces that are safe and comfortable for all types of needs and activities. By providing shelter, architecture also shapes the way people interact with their surroundings. Building technologies of the past rarely managed, however, to create a complete separation between us and the outside world.

While impermeability was a desired outcome, the porous building materials available always allowed some water, wind, or outside particles to leak into the interior spaces. In contrast, modern technologies now allow for almost completely impermeable building envelopes, allowing for complete separation between indoors and outdoors, thus relying on engineered systems to regulate temperature, airflow, or humidity. This article explores the differences between these two contrasting approaches, exploring how building facades are equipped to regulate indoor comfort and its environmental impact.

Often in the case of vernacular architecture well-adapted to local climates, this presence of natural elements in our built spaces is exploited and manipulated to become a positive factor that contributes to the comfort of said spaces. One such example is natural ventilation, a passive strategy that uses winds and cross-ventilation to bring fresh outdoor air inside, using it to regulate temperatures, humidity, and air movement.

Even in the absence of such mitigating factors, historical structures built with natural materials such as wood, stone, and adobe tend to be more permeable, allowing water to enter the structure to some degree. This aspect must be taken into consideration especially when rehabilitating historical facades, as adding modern impermeable layers can change the initial balance, running the risk of trapping water inside certain substructures, thus leading to accelerated degradations.

Permeable building envelopes have, however, a range of associated risks, including moisture infiltration, mold growth, and structural degradation. In the search for more resilient strategies, technological advancements allowed for more and more impermeable building designs. Since the rise of modern architectural movements, the predominant design technologies favored impermeable building envelopes that create more stable interior conditions, thus reducing the resources needed to create the desired level of comfort.

This had a significant impact on the energy efficiency of buildings, as reduced thermic and chemical exchanges meant fewer resources needed to create the desired level of comfort. At the opposite end of the traditional envelopes, there are structures following standards such as Passivhaus, which prompt as complete separation as possible. New and perfected building techniques such as advanced insulation materials and airtight construction techniques allow for this type of separation.

In the last few years, passive house standards have developed into an international currency for energy-efficient construction. The system requires advanced thermal performance and air-tight construction to minimize unnecessary loss or gain of heat. To control air quality, moisture, and

temperature, they rely on engineered mechanical systems such as heat recovery ventilation. Together with on-site renewable energy production, this has enabled the building of "positive energy" buildings, producing more energy than they consume.

Such a complex and tight-knit system does come, however, with several challenges. In addition to the high initial costs, a meticulous building process, and constant maintenance, the mechanical systems can be somewhat difficult to adapt to occupant behavior and unaccounted-for climate fluctuations. The dependence on building technologies also raises concerns about the long-term reliability and compatibility with future innovations.

As technologies continue to advance, a balance between permeability and impermeability seems to take shape as an advantageous alternative, integrating passive strategies with active systems to create dynamic, responsive buildings. Beyond reducing energy consumption, buildings must provide healthy, inviting spaces that enhance occupants' quality of life. Passive design strategies such as ample daylighting, natural ventilation, and thermal comfort play a crucial role in promoting occupant health, productivity, and satisfaction. In addition, integrating biophilic design principles, such as incorporating natural materials and vegetation, further fosters a connection with nature and enhances the overall indoor environment.

Among these hybrid approaches, one example is the integration of mixed-mode ventilation systems, which leverage natural airflow supplemented by mechanical ventilation to adapt to varying environmental conditions. Adaptive facades, incorporating movable elements and responsive technologies, further enhance building performance by modulating solar heat gain and daylight penetration. Hybrid designs may also incorporate thermal mass materials, such as concrete, stone, or rammed earth to optimize temperature fluctuations and reduce heating and cooling loads.

Additionally, hybrid passive solar designs combine passive solar principles, such as orientation, shading, and glazing ratios, with supplemental mechanical systems. Buildings using this often feature insulated glazing and thermal mass elements to maximize solar heat gain during the winter, supplemented by mechanical ventilation and shading controls to mitigate overheating in summer. Drawing inspiration from vernacular architecture, designers are also embracing locally sourced materials, traditional craftsmanship, and bioclimatic design solutions, thus contributing to the local culture and heritage while minimizing the carbon footprint.

It is undeniable that passive house standards represent a significant advancement in sustainable building design, offering a new level of energy efficiency and environmental performance. However, to realize their full potential, it's essential to adopt a balanced approach that considers the complex interplay between permeability and impermeability, sustainability impact, occupant comfort, and market acceptance. Taking a page out of traditional and vernacular building techniques has the potential to further enhance both the environmental footprint and comfort and the health, satisfaction, and well-being of occupants.

ASSOCIATION LINKS

- **Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA)**
  www.acsa-safety.org
- **Alberta Building Envelope Council North (ABEC)**
  www.abecnorth.org
- **Architecture 2030**
  www.architecture2030.org
- **BuildingSMART Alliance** (Canada Chapter of BuildingSMART)
  https://www.buildingsmart.org/community/chapter-directory/buildingsmart-canada/

- **Building Information Modeling (BIM) Forum**
  https://bimforum.org/
- **Biomimicry Guild**
  https://biomimicry.net/
- **Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC)**
  www.cagbc.org
- **CCDC Documents**
  ccdc.org
- **International Construction Information Society (ICIS)** www.icis.org

BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI)
https://www.buildingsmart.org/

- **Biomimicry Institute**
  www.biomimicryinstitute.org
- **Building Transformation (CanBIM)**
  https://www.buildingtransformations.org/
- **Construction Specifications Canada (CSC)** www.csc-dcc.ca
- **MasterFormat**
  https://crmservice.csinet.org/widgets/masterformat/numbersandtitles.aspx

ASSOCIATION LIAISONS

Alberta Association of Architects (AAA)
http://www.aaa.ab.ca/

Alberta Painting Contractors Association (APCA)
www.apca.ca

Alberta Wall & Ceiling Association (AWCA)
http://awca.ca

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
http://www.ashrae.org/

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA)
http://www.arcaonline.ca
info@arcaonline.ca

The Canadian Wood Council (CWC)
http://www.cwc.ca

Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA)
http://www.apegga.org/

Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET)
http://www.aset.ab.ca/

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
http://www.bomaedmonton.org/ /
Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA)
http://www.cea.ca/

Edmonton Construction Association
www.edmca.com

Bulletin Board

Message from the Executive:

We in the Executive are looking for creative-minded individuals who can take on a position and follow through with ideas…if this is YOU, send a message to edmonton@csc-dcc.ca and we will be quick to get back to you!

Open Positions Include:

Sustainability
Contractor's Rep

You don't need to be a member of the Committee to come and participate in our monthly Chapter meetings but watch out if you do! You may find yourself holding a position…maybe even as Chapter Chair…

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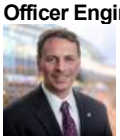
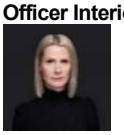
Officer Engineer  Jamie Murphy, RET, P.L. (Eng), CCCA, LEED AP, Principal Read Jones Christoffersen P: 587-745-0266 JMurphy@rjc.ca	**Officer Interior Design**  Nicole Bird, Creative Director RSVP Design Inc. P: 780-686-2452 nicole@rsvpdesign.ca	**Officer Contractor**  Position Open	**Officer Manufacturing**  Mike Lafontaine Expocrete P: 780-962-4010 Mike.Lafontaine@oldcastle.com
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