

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.

February 2026 Edition

Editor: Tracey Stawnichy

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Insights into Advancements in Commercial Roofing

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Place: Matrix Hotel

10640 – 100 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3N8

Presented by Doug Rossum

This session will provide essential insights for facility professionals into new and innovative advancements in roofing systems. Attendees will gain an understanding of the increased scrutiny of roofing materials in response to Alberta's demanding climate, the critical importance of rooftop equipment awareness, roof fire classification, and effective risk mitigation practices that help safeguard facilities during construction and throughout the building's lifecycle.

[Insights into Advancements in Commercial Roofing Tickets, Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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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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edmonton@csc.dcc.ca

Meeting Sponsor

\$50 for Individual (personal) Sponsor
 \$250 for Corporate Sponsor

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.

The opinions and comments expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official views of Construction Specifications Canada. Also, appearance of advertisements and new product or service information does not constitute an endorsement of those featured products or services.

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

Hello Edmonton Chapter - hope everyone is doing well!

I am excited to say we have moved away from Eventbrite and MailChimp as our lines of communication, and into Constant Contact. This will allow us to streamline a few items and make it easier for everyone to stay in touch. As we are swapping everything over if you find you are not receiving any event or information from us let the Executive know and we will look into it. All our events, when released, will be hot linked in all our communications to Constant Contact, as well as be available on the website. Our first Lunch and Learn using the platform will be Insights into the Advancements in Commercial Roofing, presented by our own Doug Rossum.

We are currently launching our 2026 Infonet package, with a ton of networking opportunities. This time around we are excited to have Ron Wickman as our guest speaker, to speak to us on Accessible Architecture during dinner, followed by our Lego Architectural Building Competition facilitated by Lego Master Builder Sam Malmberg. This should be an amazing interactive event/trade show, and we hope to see everyone there!

Have a fun February!

Membership in CSC

Doug Rossum, CTR



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)

Sarah Whittal

Interior Designer

S2 Architecture

P: (780) 940-0152

E: s.whittal@s2architecture.com

Josh Breen

Contract Administrator

P: (780) 940-6516

E: josh_breen@hotmail.com

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

Peter Semchuk, CCCA, FCSC, RSW

P: (780) 940-1385

E: semchuk124@gmail.com

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:



MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Andrew Brassington, CTR, Director, Edmonton CSC

What motivated you to join this industry?

Money...lol...just kidding. A bit of that – my summer job during university was as a pool contractor project manager. I learned a lot about construction and since then have always been drawn to it. The tools ended up not being for me so that is why I am in sales.



How long have you been in the industry?

Just over 20 years now.

What's the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

That I am a bit of an anime nerd. Favourite ones include the classics like One Piece, Naruto and FMA. Recently Shangri la Frontier, Solo Leveling, and Jujutsu Kaisen have got my attention.

What's the most interesting project you've been a part of?

Because I'm involved in insulation, it's hard to say.

What is the one thing you'd like to see in the industry in the next 20 years?

I have been gravitating more to the sustainability conversation...building material transparency – it would be neat to be able to walk into a building and be able to see what materials were used to make it, where they came from, etc.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDMONTON

INFONET April 16th

LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE: BUILD NETWORK LEARN COMPETE



3 PM PRODUCT TRADESHOW

4:30 COCKTAIL & APPETIZERS

6 PM DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER

Guest Speaker : Ron Wickman BA, BEDS, M. Arch., AAA, MRAIC

7 PM LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE

Special Guest : Sam Malmberg Groovybones Bricks

8:30 PM JUDGING | SILENT AUCTION

TRADESHOW PARTNER VIP

EXCLUSIVE TO MANUFACTURERS
Premium Tradeshow Booth Placement, 8ft Table,
Exclusive Swag Bags, Seating with our Special Guests

\$2,000
8 TICKETS

TRADESHOW PARTNER

EXCLUSIVE TO MANUFACTURERS
Tradeshow Booth 6ft Table

\$1,500
6 TICKETS

INDUSTRY PARTNER

EXCLUSIVE TO GENERAL CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTS,
DESIGNERS, AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

\$1,200
6 TICKETS



Ron Wickman
BA, BEDS,
M. ARCH., AAA,
MRAIC

"Ron Wickman is an Architect, Author and Activist who specializes in Accessible Architecture. He set up his own Edmonton based practice in 1995, and he specializes in providing consulting services for persons with disabilities and for projects focused on affording individuals with disabilities greater choices for independent movement. Ron is also committed to providing affordable, accessible, adaptable, and healthy housing and has written many articles and two books on accessible design. He has been a guest speaker and participant in numerous sessions involving accessibility, innovative housing, and urban and community planning."

"Sam Malmberg is an artist from Edmonton, Alberta, who uses LEGO bricks as his primary medium. Sam has displayed his original LEGO creations at events across the US and Canada. He gained national recognition as a finalist on LEGO Masters US Season 4, showcasing his creativity and technical skill. A community-focused artist, Sam works in schools and hosts workshops that encourage people to explore their imagination, collaborate with others, and solve problems through building. Sam believes that LEGO is a powerful tool for learning and artistic expression. He continuously strives to engage and inspire others to discover the joy of building."



Sam Malmberg
Groovybones Bricks

LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE: BUILD NETWORK LEARN COMPETE

INFONETSCHEDULE

3 PM PRODUCT TRADESHOW

Enjoy an opportunity to review new materials coming to market, discuss applications and performance, and network with fellow industry partners.

4:30 COCKTAIL & APPETIZERS

6 PM DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER

Guest Speaker : Ron Wickman BA, BEDS, M. Arch., AAA, MRAIC

7 PM LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE

Master LEGO finalist Sam Malmberg will share tips and inspiration before the build begins. Each table will then have one hour to collaborate, design, and construct a structure—meeting a few key design specs. A panel of judges will evaluate the final creations, with prizes awarded to the top three teams.

YOUR TICKETS = YOUR TEAM

*An ideal table would consist of an Architect, Designer, Engineer and Trade Supplier

8:30 PM JUDGING | SILENT AUCTION

Articles of Interest

Most of the World's Largest Wooden Structure The Grand Ring to be Burned as "Chips for Fuel"

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

Photo by Lizzie Crook



The Grand Ring in Osaka will be mostly turned into firewood, its architect Sou Fujimoto has told Dezeen.

Constructed to encircle the site of Expo 2025 Osaka, which ran from April to October, The Grand Ring was the largest wooden structure in the world, with a circumference of two kilometres and covering more than 61,000 square metres.

Demolition already underway

Like other structures built for the expo,

The Grand Ring was designed to be dismantled, though authorities held off on deciding its future until after the fair concluded.

Demolition of The Grand Ring began at the beginning of December, with only a 200m section set to be retained.

Authorities have not yet confirmed the future of The Grand Ring's wood, but Fujimoto expects as much as 70% to be incinerated. Photo by Lizzie Crook



Speaking exclusively to Dezeen, Japanese architect Fujimoto, who master planned the expo as well as designing The Grand Ring, said he expected most of the rest of the wood to be burned.

"Unfortunately now, almost a decision by the political people [has been made about] keeping only 10%, 200m, and then all the rest will be demolished," he said.

"And then maybe 20% could be carefully dismantled and then transported to other places for the second life," he continued.

"But 70%, at least as far as I've heard, they will just demolish and then make it chips for the fuel."

Expo and Osaka authorities have not yet confirmed what will happen to The Grand Ring's dismantled timber. Fujimoto's studio is not involved in the decision-making.

Shortly before the expo closed in October, The Japan Times quoted an official from the city of Suzu as saying that timber from

The Grand Ring would be donated to build public housing as part of the recovery from an earthquake and severe flooding in 2024.

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ran an auction of The Grand Ring's lumber from

17 October to 6 November. The body's Sustainability Action Plan for the expo committed only to reusing building materials "as much as possible".

"Worst thing to do"

Burning the wood from The Grand Ring is "the worst thing to do", Fujimoto said.

"Japanese political people think this is one of the ways to reuse it, but I don't think it is the way you reuse it. But at least so far in Japan, the thinking of the sustainability is a little bit behind the global standards," he continued.

"It's a bit [of a] pity. [There are] still many opinions about how can we keep it or something, maybe discussion is happening, but major political decision has been done, and now the process is going on to dismantle."

This technique enables easy removal and replacement of damaged or weathered pieces, and has been used to build some of Japan's oldest existing buildings, such as temples and shrines.

It also facilitates disassembly of the structure, as well as easy transportation and rebuilding in another location.

Fujimoto said The Grand Ring could stand for up to 100 years with some adaptations and proper maintenance. Photo by Lizzie Crook



Architect hoped the Grand Ring "could stay longer"

Fujimoto said that though he knew the Osaka authorities only intended for the expo site to be temporary, he hoped that by designing The Grand Ring in this way, it might be retained.

"I was hoping, I was expecting, from the very beginning that if the expo was very successful and if people really love it, then this Grand Ring could stay longer, like the Eiffel Tower or like some other few examples of the expo building which is staying longer," he said.

"And that was my attitude from the beginning. Of course, as [a] professional architect, I was following the request from the client, but at the same time I was expecting to go beyond that."

The Grand Ring's structure combines modular modern construction methods with traditional Japanese techniques, such as Nuki joints in which a horizontal beam is slotted through a vertical post.

With a canopy to protect it from the elements and proper maintenance, Fujimoto estimated that The Grand Ring could have stood for "more than 50 or 100 years".

"If they decide to keep it then we need some kind of maintenance or reinforcement, and so it will cost. And then of course it is exposed wood, so we need a kind of maintenance cost yearly, so that is always the difficulty," he said.

"But still I believe it is possible to make it stay longer, for example more than 50 or 100 years, because as you know, in Japan we have several really long-lasting wooden constructions – some of them are more than 1,000 years [old]."

Fujimoto said that he disagreed with the policy of making the expo structures temporary.

Only 200m of the two-kilometer structure will be left in place. Photo by Lizzie Crook



"I feel it's a bit [of a] pity that they decided at the very beginning that the whole site should be temporarily built and then, after the expo, dismantling everything, or relocation of everything, and then make another development on that site," he said. "That is not really a smart way to make that kind of a large development."

"But anyway, they decided to do that," he added. "And then my role was, anyway, to make, of course, great things for the expo."

The Grand Ring was recently selected by Dezeen deputy editor Cajsja Carlson as her favourite building of 2025.

Dezeen has approached The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition for comment.

Unconventional Playgrounds: Built from Junk, Shaped by Concrete, Freed by Play

Sourced from: <https://www.archdaily.com> / Valentina Diaz

What if the best kind of play isn't the safest? For decades, cities have built playgrounds to be clean, colorful, and easy to supervise. Yet these spaces – designed more for adult peace of mind than for children's curiosity – often strip away what makes play truly transformative: risk, unpredictability, and self-direction. Rising safety standards, shrinking public space, and the commercialization of play equipment have only further narrowed the possibilities for children's independent exploration. From a junkyard in 1940s Copenhagen to the concrete landscapes of postwar Amsterdam, a handful of architects, planners, and activists have challenged the idea that play must be neat and controlled. Their unconventional playgrounds – made of loose parts, raw materials, and abstract forms – gave children the freedom to build, demolish, explore, and get dirty.

Copenhagen, 1943 – Play in the Shadow of War

In a residential neighborhood in Emdrup, landscape architect Carl Theodor Sørensen turned a vacant lot into what became known as a "junk playground." Instead of swings and slides, children found loose materials like wood, ropes, tires, and sticks. Sørensen had already observed that children often ignored his carefully designed play equipment in favor of improvised materials – objects they could use and transform themselves.

His experiment emerged in the wartime context of scarcity, when metal and manufactured equipment were hard to come by, but also in a moment when European planners were beginning to talk about children's needs while re-building cities. The Emdrup site suggested that limited resources could be a strength, fostering a form of play that was creative, hands-on, and collaborative.

This model was groundbreaking because it offered no fixed structures, only the possibility to build, demolish, and rebuild. The playground was not a finished product – it was an open process.

Lady Allen – Planning for Play

A few years later, British landscape designer and activist Lady Allen of Hurtwood visited Emdrup and began championing the idea in the UK. She argued that conventional playgrounds were tidy, over-managed, and unchallenging for children. Drawing from her background in social reform, she positioned adventurous play as essential for developing resilience, cooperation, and problem-solving skills.

Her advocacy resonated with emerging theories in developmental psychology from figures like Jean Piaget and Maria Montessori, who emphasized the importance of self-directed, hands-on learning. Lady Allen maintained that the small physical risks of adventurous play were far outweighed by its long-term benefits to children's confidence and emotional health. Her campaigns reframed play as a fundamental right, not a decorative amenity, and pushed against designs that prioritized adult control over children's self-expression.

Amsterdam — Mulder and Van Eyck's City of Play

Meanwhile, in postwar Netherlands, urban planner Jakoba Mulder promoted the creation of micro-playgrounds in vacant lots, sidewalks, and small gaps throughout Amsterdam. Her vision was clear: any resident could propose that a disused urban space be turned into a children's play area. Inspired by the value of unstructured play, Mulder favored minimal design interventions that gave children full authorship over how they used the space. It was an urban policy on a child scale.

Working alongside Mulder, architect Aldo van Eyck translated this vision into a distinctive architectural language. Between 1947 and 1978, he designed hundreds of playgrounds across the city, turning empty plots, street corners, and leftover spaces into interconnected micro-worlds. His vocabulary of simple geometric forms – low climbing domes, stepping stones, sandpits – was deliberately abstract, inviting multiple interpretations.

Van Eyck designed hundreds of site-specific playgrounds across Amsterdam between 1947 and 1978, creating a connected network of play woven into the city's streetscape. He deliberately eschewed fences, allowing the spaces to blend into their surroundings and enabling children to move fluidly between play and daily urban life. Many of these playgrounds were installed in vacant postwar lots, transforming bomb-damaged or neglected spaces into vibrant social nodes. In doing so, Van Eyck's work became an act of urban recovery, where children's play was not just accommodated but placed at the heart of rebuilding community life.

Brutalist Playgrounds – Rough Concrete, Boundless Play

In the 1950s and 60s in the UK, a series of playgrounds emerged that used concrete, massive abstract forms, and bold architectural gestures – designs that decades later would be reinterpreted in the 2015 exhibition *The Brutalist Playground* by Assemble and Simon Terrill.

These structures, often part of social housing estates, resembled ruins or bombed-out cityscapes. Yet children embraced them: their warmth in the sun, the echo of footsteps in hollow cavities, the tactile grip of rough surfaces. They became arenas for climbing, hiding, and inventing rules – a form of unscripted play that was physical, social, and deeply tied to the imagination.

Contemporary Adventure Playgrounds – Risk in a Regulated Age

Adult presence, even with good intentions, can sometimes limit authentic play. That's why many contemporary adventure playgrounds restrict parental involvement. In some cases, parents sign a waiver and leave children in the care of trained playworkers whose role is to support, not direct, activity.

This model, found in countries like Japan, Germany, the UK, and the US, persists despite modern legal and insurance pressures. In many cities, liability concerns and standardized safety codes have all but eliminated such spaces. Those that survive often rely on strong community advocacy and creative navigation of regulations.

Contemporary examples include Kolle 37 (Berlin), Hanegi Playpark (Tokyo), The Yard (New York), and Land at Plas Madoc (Wales). Each of these offers children space to make decisions, take risks, get dirty, and fail – experiences increasingly rare in urban childhoods.

Why This Matters Now

In an era where playgrounds are increasingly hygienic, colorful, certified, and adult-monitored, perhaps we should ask: what have we lost? What gets left behind when we prioritize safety over exploration, cleanliness over creativity, and order over spontaneity?

The right to play is not just the right to enter a designated area. It might instead be the right to risk, uncertainty, mess, and unfinishedness. The history of unconventional playgrounds shows that freedom in design can emerge from scarcity, social reform, and a willingness to see the city through a child's eyes.

How Leaders can Harness Productivity to Unlock Creativity

Sourced from: <https://www.fastcompany.com> / Tony Martignetti and Cliff Goldmacher

Most business leaders view themselves primarily as “productive” rather than “creative.” Productivity is often associated with measurable outcomes, such as efficiency, consistency, and task completion. Creativity, by contrast, is frequently perceived as spontaneous, unpredictable, and elusive. Yet, productivity and creativity are not at odds. In fact, they reinforce each other powerfully.

Leaders who successfully integrate productive habits with creative practices can unlock new levels of innovation, effectiveness, and personal fulfillment. A global Adobe survey found that 75% of professionals report growing pressure to be productive rather than creative at work, while only 25% believe they're living up to their creative potential. This “creativity gap” reveals a systemic imbalance: leaders may be achieving efficiency, but they're underperforming on innovation.

Productivity Without Creativity Leads to Stagnation

Many leaders find themselves trapped in cycles of productivity: checking off tasks, hitting deadlines, and running efficient meetings. However, overemphasizing productivity metrics at the expense of creativity can lead to stagnation, disengagement, and missed opportunities for innovation. According to Gallup, disengagement costs the global economy \$8.8 trillion annually. And disengaged leaders set the tone for disengaged teams. In our work with executives, we often hear the same lament: “I’m getting things done, but I don’t feel like I am getting anywhere.” The problem isn’t a lack of effort. It’s that productivity without creativity produces motion without momentum.

Creativity Needs Discipline

The myth of creativity is that it arrives in spontaneous bursts of inspiration. In reality, creativity flourishes when it rests on a foundation of discipline. Cliff knows this from his dual roles. As a songwriter, he leans on courage, openness, and uncertainty. As a recording engineer, he thrives on precision, technical structure, and predictable workflow. Each role strengthens the other. The order of the studio makes space for creative leaps in songwriting. The risks of songwriting push him to keep the studio at peak performance.

Similarly, in my own work, I've seen how structure creates room for insight. In leadership workshops, I utilize tools like the Illuminated Cube—a reflective exercise that provides a framework for individuals to surface their hidden strengths. The structure isn't the end; it's the container that makes creativity possible.

As organizational psychologist Adam Grant points out, productivity isn't about more output; it's about quality output. And quality often comes from pairing disciplined focus with creative risk-taking. In Grant's view, a disciplined focus allows individuals to produce fewer, higher-quality ideas that have a greater overall impact. Disciplined practice also builds the resilience needed to navigate creative challenges and maintain consistency.

Your Spaces Matter, Too

Leaders often underestimate the impact of their environment. But organized spaces – both physical and mental – make breakthroughs more likely. Cliff's recording studio is a model of meticulous organization. Everything is in its place, technically reliable, and ready to go. That structure frees him to explore ideas in songwriting, knowing the foundations won't fail. He also maintains a daily haiku practice – a tiny ritual that trains his creative muscles consistently over time.

Small practices like these work for leaders too: quick journaling, five-minute brainstorms, reflective pauses before meetings. These micro-habits signal to the brain: This is a space where creativity belongs.

Kate O'Neill, founder of KO Insights, employs similar strategies, using structured prompts and systematic reminders to maintain consistent creative output amidst demanding productivity schedules. This disciplined consistency allows O'Neill to seamlessly integrate creativity into her everyday activities, resulting in more impactful and innovative work.

Incorporating small, consistent creative rituals into daily routines can significantly improve leadership effectiveness. Activities like quick journaling, brief brainstorming sessions, or reflective writing help leaders systematically foster creativity, encouraging long-term innovation and adaptability.

The Creative-Productive Zone

The biggest shift is identity. Too many leaders see themselves as either “productive” or “creative.” But the most impactful leaders integrate both. For me, this came from reconciling two identities: The strategist and the artist. For years, I thought of them as separate worlds. However, when I began blending artistic practices – such as visual thinking, storytelling, and pattern-making – into my leadership development work, my impact expanded. Creativity didn't dilute my productivity; it deepened it.

Cliff's path illustrates the same lesson. His creativity as a songwriter is inseparable from the technical precision of his engineering work. Together, they create a rhythm of freedom within structure. This integration is what we call the creative-productive zone: a state where structure supports exploration and exploration fuels progress.

How to Harness Productivity and Creativity Together

Bringing productivity and creativity into balance doesn't happen by accident; it requires intention. The good news is that you don't need sweeping overhauls to start. Often, it's the smallest shifts in routine and mindset that unlock the most significant breakthroughs. By making space for both discipline and imagination, leaders create the conditions where innovation feels less like a gamble and more like a habit. Here are four practical ways leaders can start today:

1. Build Creative Rituals into Routine. Add small, repeatable practices – a haiku, a sketch, a reflective question – that keep your creative muscles strong.
2. Organize for Freedom. Create reliable structures (clear processes, tidy workspaces, predictable rhythms) so your mind is free to take risks.
3. Alternate Modes. Design your calendar with intentional blocks for both focused execution and open exploration. Don't try to do both at once.
4. Audit Your Balance. Ask: Am I measuring only outputs? Where am I creating space for ideas, not just tasks?

The future of leadership isn't choosing between productivity and creativity. It's mastering both. When you create the structures that support your craft and the rituals that spark your imagination, you don't just get things done, you create things worth doing.

The leaders who thrive will be those who can deliver results and inspire, who can hit deadlines and spark breakthroughs. In a world overflowing with efficiency, it's the capacity to generate meaning and originality that sets you apart. Productivity makes you reliable; creativity makes you unforgettable. The challenge and the opportunity lie in embracing both with equal intention.

Yellow No More: Butterdome Makeover to Renew Pavilion in Green and Gold

Sourced from: <https://www.msn.com> / CBC/Radio-Canada

Rendering of the renewed Butterdome shows the new exterior, including a lighting feature that will wind around the 70,000-square-foot building.
© University of Alberta



The University of Alberta's central sports pavilion – commonly called the Butterdome – is getting a makeover that will see it shed its iconic yellow exterior, the university and Alberta government announced Wednesday.

With a \$27-million grant from the province, its exterior will be refreshed in green and gold to reflect the university's colours and the surrounding river valley's fall foliage, a news release says.

The renovation to the North Campus building on 87th Avenue includes a lighting feature, inspired by the curves of the North Saskatchewan River, that will wind across the new exterior

Todd Gilchrist, vice-president of university services, operations and finance, said the Butterdome has been a home for athletic tournaments and special events.

"From celebrating high school graduations to hosting the annual craft sale and even serving as a safe space during a provincial crisis, it has consistently brought people together," Gilchrist said in the release.

Key reasons for the renovation are safety and modernizing the building, he said.

"The existing panels are rusting, they're leaking. The membranes that exist within the existing building are failing. And so you get weather transfer, cold transfer, pipes freeze, they burst, they leak, et cetera. So the sustainability piece was a big component."

The rooftop will be covered in solar panels, estimated to generate about 1,000 megawatt hours per year, Gilchrist added.

The new exterior will have square contours, replacing the curved design on the current building, which is a safety hazard, he said.

"Ice and snow come off it every year and the university has to put in place safety scaffolding. You can see some of it out there today and that is to protect pedestrian traffic," Gilchrist said.

Built in 1983 for the Universiade Games, the 70,000-square-foot complex houses a seven-lane, 200-metre track, long jump and pole vaulting areas, an indoor soccer field, four basketball courts, four volleyball courts, four tennis courts and four badminton courts.

Myles McDougall, Alberta's minister of advanced education, said the grant will modernize the building, improving safety and extending its life while respecting its history and iconic design.

"The Butterdome is one of Edmonton's most recognizable campus landmarks and a place where students, families and communities have come together for more than four decades," McDougall said in the release.

"By upgrading this facility with sustainable features and a renewed exterior, we are ensuring it continues to serve the University of Alberta and the wider community for generations to come."

Student Savannah Doyle was at the Butterdome Wednesday when she got a look at a rendering of the future design.

"I think it looks really nice," she told CBC News. "It matches the U of A colours, so I think it'll fit the school really nicely."

Helena Hantek also looked at the concept photo and said she thinks it'll look nicer and match the campus.

"I think it looks less tacky than the bright yellow we have right now," Hantek said.

The university is preparing the worksite and closing sidewalks, with the project expected to be completed in fall 2027.



ASSOCIATION LINKS

- **Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA)**
www.acsa-safety.org
- **Alberta Building Envelope Council North (ABEC)**
www.abecnorth.org
- **Building Information Modeling (BIM) Forum**
<https://bimforum.org>
- **BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI)**
<https://www.buildingsmart.org/>
- **Biomimicry Guild**
<https://biomimicry.net/>
- **Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC)**
www.cagbc.org
- **CCDC Documents**
ccdc.org
- **Architecture 2030**
www.architecture2030.org
- **BuildingSMART Alliance** (Canada Chapter of BuildingSMART)
<https://www.buildingsmart.org/community/chapter-directory/buildingsmart-canada/>
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e586baa3/RRu60BvuAUu1ebSszKcZw?u=http://www.buildingsmartcanada.ca/>
- **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>
- **International Construction Information Society (ICIS)** www.icis.org

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...

The Executive

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