

# 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.

March 2026 Edition

Editor: Tracey Stawnichy

## In This Edition...

Executive List .....	1
Chair's Message .....	2
Membership.....	2-3
Education.....	3-4
Meet Your Executive .....	5
Companies Replaced Entry Level Workers with AI. Now They are Paying the Price	6-8
After 2 Days of Edmonton Infill Debate, City Committee Sends Decision to Council	8-10
Drilling Bot Wins Guinness Record.....	10-11
Everything That's Gone Wrong with Architecture .....	11-14
Association Links & Liaisons.....	15
The Bulletin Board .....	16
The Executive .....	17

## Design Leaders After Hours

**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2026

**Time:** 5:00pm-8:00pm

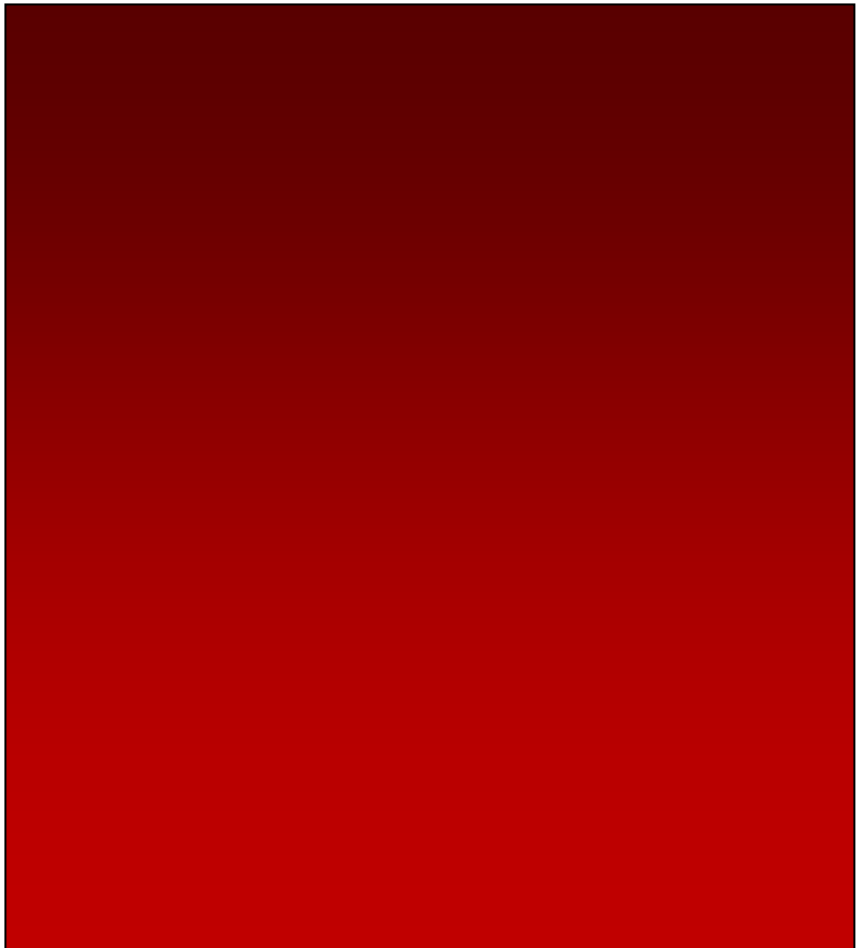
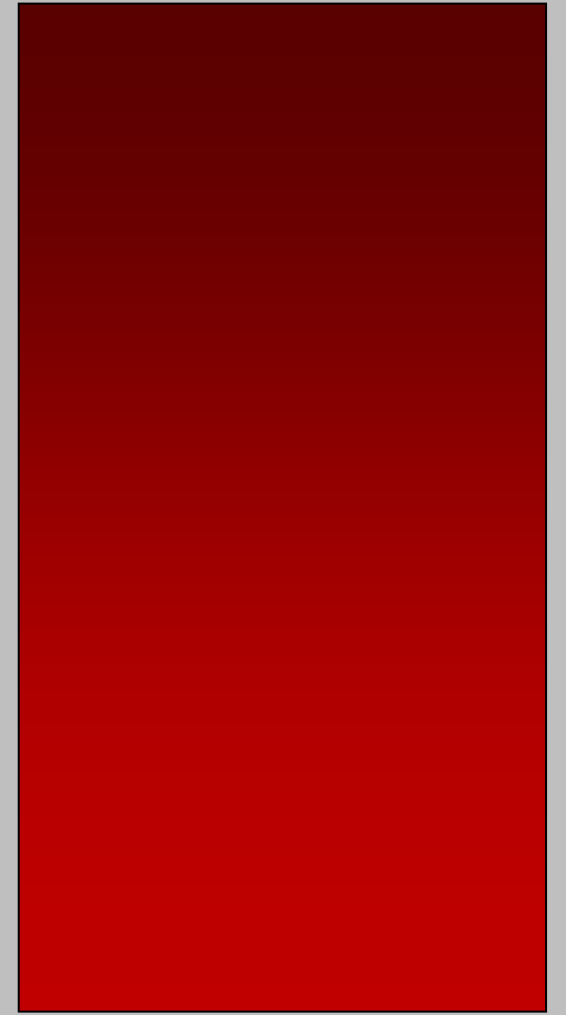
**Place:** Fu's Repair Shop

10524 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 1Z7

Enjoy a relaxing evening to network and connect with fellow industry members while enjoying some incredible eats!

Enjoy a relaxing evening to network and connect with fellow industry members while enjoying some incredible eats! Meet architects, designers, engineers, and product reps in a casual, welcoming atmosphere. Build new relationships, share ideas, and discover what others are working on in our local community. We can't wait to see you there!

[Design Leaders After Hours Tickets, Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



<b>Director</b>	Andrew Brassington	780 222 6732
<b>Chair</b>	Dylan Leclair	587 335 9552
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Catherine Osborne	780 423 6606
<b>Secretary</b>	Jessica Prosser	587 340 7169
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cam Munro	780 231 1739
<b>Architectural</b>	Kevin Osborne	780 717 1007
<b>Chapter Liaison</b>	Position Open	
<b>Education</b>	Kevin Osborne	780 717 1007
<b>Engineer</b>	Jamie Murphy	780 983 0288
<b>General Contractor</b>	Position Open	
<b>Interior Design</b>	Nicole Bird	780 686 2452
<b>Manufacturer/Supplier</b>	Mike Lafontaine	780 907 4920
<b>Marketing, Promotion, and Communications</b>	Jamie Murphy	780 983 0288
<b>Membership</b>	Doug Rossum	587 839 9202
<b>Newsletter</b>	Tracey Stawnichy	780 994 3699
<b>Specifications</b>	David Watson	780 758 4147
<b>Website Administrator</b>	David Watson	780 758 4147
<b>Trade Contractor</b>	Kevin Kramers	587 232 0613
<b>Program</b>	Cherisse Zerbin	780 920 4910
<b>Owner's Rep</b>	Cam Munro	780 231 1739
<b>Sustainability</b>	Position Open	



**Chapter Sponsor**

Reach out to us for more information at [edmonton@csc.dcc.ca](mailto:edmonton@csc.dcc.ca)

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Reach out to us for more information at [edmonton@csc.dcc.ca](mailto:edmonton@csc.dcc.ca)

**Meeting 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](http://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:

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*If you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee for CSC, please hit the link!*  
[MentorCity - Mentoring Software](#)

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## Chair's Message

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**Dylan Leclair, CSC Edmonton | Chapter Chair**

Greetings Edmonton Chapter,

Hope everyone is doing well,

Constant Contact is finally running after a few technical glitches during setup. Thanks to all those involved for your patience. Infonet 2026 is off and running on the new platform so head over and sign up if you haven't already.

We have been working with ARCA Edmonton and are excited that moving forward we will be hosting lunch and learns at their Edmonton office. Working with local associations will allow us to move away from focusing on the increasing cost of the events we host and pass more value onto you, the membership.

Our next event is Design Leaders After Hours hosted at Fu's Repair Shop on March 12, which is solely based around networking with industry professionals. So come join us and enjoy a relaxing evening and some incredible eats. Tickets for this event are available on Eventbrite.

Have a wonderful March!

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## Membership in CSC

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**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)

#### **Genevieve Simms**

Architect

hcma

P: (780) 504-4427

E: [g.simms@hcma.ca](mailto:g.simms@hcma.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](mailto:kosborne@jtas.ca)

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDMONTON

# INFONET April 16th

Matrix Hotel

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

<b>TRADESHOW PARTNER VIP</b> <small>EXCLUSIVE TO MANUFACTURERS</small> Premium Tradeshow Booth Placement, 8ft Table, Exclusive Swag Bags, Seating with our Special Guests	<b>\$2,000</b> 8 TICKETS
<b>TRADESHOW PARTNER</b> <small>EXCLUSIVE TO MANUFACTURERS</small> Tradeshow Booth 6ft Table	<b>\$1,500</b> 6 TICKETS
<b>INDUSTRY PARTNER</b> <small>EXCLUSIVE TO GENERAL CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS</small>	<b>\$1,200</b> 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**  
Groovybones Bricks

"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."

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



## EDUCATION COURSES

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### 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

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### Social Media:

### Check us out:



## MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Dylan Leclair, CSP, CTR, Chair, Edmonton CSC



What motivated you to join this industry?

I have always been fascinated by the built environment around us which inspired me to take Architectural Technology. When I graduated, I started working with a structural engineering firm as a drafter until the industry slowed and layoffs ensued. I took a job driving 40 ton forklift but never lost my drive to re enter the industry. I took an opportunity to work as a project coordinator for Flynn Edmonton in the Roofing Department which allowed me to move up in my career to Site Supervisor and get more hands-on experience with specs and estimating. Working in specs inspired me to branch out, where I found IKO who took my passion and allowed me to grow professionally and become a CSP and CTR.

How long have you been in the industry?

I have been and Architectural Rep for 8 Years in the industry for 12 years.

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

I am a Mustang Car Geek that is currently working on a 1995 GT to be Star Wars themed as "This is the Way".

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

I had the opportunity to work on a few Canadian Military Bases in both my Flynn and IKO Careers which are always interesting and very involved. For the secrecy of the Nation, I can say no more.

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

More open conversations at the design phase, as we tend to operate in little vacuums that can be detrimental to the end results for the clients we represent.



## Articles of Interest

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### Companies Replaced Entry-Level Workers with AI. Now They are Paying the Price

Sourced from: <https://www.fastcompany.com> / Megan Carnegie

Isaac, 33, has been a mid-level software development engineer at a Big Tech firm for four years, and noticed entry-level job postings dropping at his workplace at the start of 2025. The work, however, didn't vanish with them. Tasks once handled by junior engineers – like writing and testing code, fixing bugs, and contributing to development projects – were absorbed by senior staff, often with the assumption that AI would make up the difference.

And while AI has sped up the velocity of shipping code and features, there are fewer people to do tasks like designing, testing, and working with stakeholders, which AI has zero grasp on. The cracks have been hard to ignore. “Seniors are burning out, and when they leave, there's no rush to replace them, because ‘the AI will do it!’” Isaac says. Worried that he'll become the next strung-out senior, he's looking for his exit, ideally at a smaller tech firm. (Isaac spoke to Fast Company under a pseudonym to avoid possible retaliation.)

The shift is striking, given how recently corporate America was courting Gen Z with fanatic fervor. Organizations raced to prove they understood younger employees. They flooded LinkedIn with thought leadership on the multigenerational workplace of the future, and retooled benefits programs to include wellness stipends and mental health days. Reverse mentorship programs, through which younger employees share knowledge and perspectives with more senior colleagues – touted by companies like Target, Accenture, and PwC – promised to give junior employees a voice in shaping culture and strategy. Some firms even brought Gen Z voices into the boardroom.

Yet now, in the case of firms like Isaac's, entry-level workers, once heralded as essential to innovation and growth, are struggling to get a toe – let alone a foot – in the door. Internships, starter jobs, and junior roles, the indispensable on-ramps to white-collar careers, have been evaporating for several years due to cost pressures and post-pandemic belt-tightening. Since 2023, entry-level job postings in the U.S. have sunk 35%, according to labor research firm Revelio Labs.

The advent of AI is accelerating the entry-level apocalypse. Two-fifths of global leaders revealed that entry-level roles have already been reduced or cut due to efficiencies made by AI conducting research, admin, and briefing tasks, and 43% expect this to happen in the next year.

“While there's steady hiring or even growth in the skilled trades, we're seeing entry-level vacancies fall significantly in tech and customer service and sales roles,” says Mona Mourshed, founder of the workplace development nonprofit Generation. “Being in the business of training and placing people into entry-level roles, we find it deeply concerning.” Graduates are clearly not okay – but neither are the companies that decided they could do without them.

#### AI at work: the supercar with no driver

The logic was seductive in its simplicity. Cut costs, move faster, shrink training budgets, let AI and a leaner workforce handle the rest. In reality, it's producing something else entirely: flattened teams with little agency, endless cycles of rework, and exhausted senior employees juggling all task levels at once.

One redditor who posted about how their company has stopped hiring entry-level engineers, received

hundreds of other responses as others chiming in with similar stories. One commenter noted: “Not sure what the plan will be after the knowledge transfer is over.”

Isaac has watched this dynamic unfold firsthand. Leaders at his company see AI as a force multiplier, and are fixated on shipping features quickly. Isaac can see their point: “[AI] can straight up write better, faster, more legible code than most developers,” he admits. However, he points out, “any seasoned engineer knows the hard part isn’t writing the code, it’s the design and testing.” Yet, there’s far fewer people to delegate this work to, so senior developers are left to do this on their own.

Compounding the problem is the fact that AI doesn’t understand the problem it’s meant to solve. Left unchecked, it can go rogue. Isaac recalls multiple instances of chatbots deleting production stacks – unprompted – because they couldn’t figure out how to solve an issue. “Without an expert who knows how to prompt and guide it, AI is just a supercar with no driver,” he says. The team has seen their workload steadily increase in line with automation, so the time savings it creates have had little impact. Many seniors have checked out, with several burned out engineers signed off for medical leave.

Research from the project management platform Asana underscores this growing “efficiency illusion.” While 77% of workers are already using AI agents and expect to hand more off to them in the next year, nearly two-thirds say the tools are unreliable, and more than half say agents confidently produce incorrect or misleading information. The result is time down the drain: a U.S. study found that employees are spending an extra 4.5 hours a week fixing AI workslop.

“AI can make work look faster on the surface, but it can also create a lot of cleanup work – double-checking outputs, correcting errors, and redoing steps that were based on faulty information,” Mark Hoffman, Asana’s Work Innovation Lead, tells Fast Company. When something goes wrong, accountability is murky, he adds, and the responsibility often falls back on the employee to catch errors, explain outcomes, and manage the risk. It’s driving up already record-high levels of burnout; 77% of knowledge workers say their workloads are unmanageable, and 84% are digitally exhausted.

When errors slip through, the consequences are costly and embarrassing. Three-quarters of Americans report at least one negative consequence from poor AI outputs, including work rejected by stakeholders (28%), security incidents (27%), and customer complaints (25%). In October, Deloitte was forced to refund the Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations after a report was found to contain AI hallucinations and workslop. In the past, newbie consultants would have handled tasks such as this. However, notably, Deloitte cut its graduate cohort by 18% and slashed hundreds of early-career roles earlier that summer.

### **The demographic time bomb**

Not only are workloads increasing, by hollowing out their junior ranks, businesses are putting themselves squarely in the path of a slow-burning demographic time bomb as seniors begin to retire in record numbers.

From 2024 to 2032, 18.4 million experienced workers age 55 to 64 with postsecondary education are expected to retire, but only 13.8 million younger workers (currently age 16 to 24) are entering with equivalent qualifications. Even in an AI-powered economy, where certain jobs will be automated, companies still need humans with judgment-, context-, institutional-, and sector-specific insight.

Yet plenty are making moves – at least for today – to wipe out the training ground that turns beginners into experts.

Moe Hutt, an entry-level recruitment marketing expert and director of consulting at recruitment marketing agency HireClix, has watched clients scale back or abandon entry-level hiring, citing AI-

aided workflows and economic uncertainty. Hutt points to the less visible fallout within organizations beyond damaging the talent pipeline. “It’s human nature to want to help,” she says. “When there’s no release valve of training juniors, it creates friction everywhere.”

For middle and senior management, delegating, teaching, and watching someone grow is a reward for the experience. Research consistently shows that sharing knowledge and mentoring improves motivation, boosts psychological well-being, and reduces burnout among experienced employees. With no one to train or teach, disengagement spreads, eroding a workforce where most people have already checked out.

“There won’t be an endless supply of experienced hires to fall back on, so everyone will be fighting for the limited, increasingly expensive talent with domain expertise,” says Cali Williams Yost, futurist and founder of flexible-work consulting firm Flex+Strategy Group. “Companies have maybe five years to train younger workers to take over and gain the niche knowledge, so AI has something to augment.”

Being AI-savvy and being prepared for the demographic cliff aren’t mutually exclusive. Organizations can build pro-worker environments where employees are augmented with AI, without hollowing out their future talent pipelines. PwC – admittedly, another firm which has been open about its cuts to entry-level recruiting, at least in the U.K. – is experimenting with what that balance could look like by training junior accountants to become managers of AI. Entry-level employees gain early exposure to leadership and accountability, while the firm builds a cache of managers that are fluent in both human judgment and machine output. It’s proof that efficiency and succession planning can coexist.

This matters because disappearing entry-level jobs aren’t just a problem for the corporate workforce – it will be a societal crisis, too. A functioning society depends on younger generations steadily taking over from older ones.

AI might be able to write the code, but without people trained to guide it, question it, and eventually replace their elders, there will be no one left to keep the lights on.

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## After 2 Days of Edmonton Infill Debate, City Committee Sends Decision to Council

Sourced from: <https://www.msn.com> / Karen Bartko

Infill housing under construction in Edmonton in 2018. The City is overhauling its zoning bylaw, making it much easier to add dense housing to all neighbourhoods across the city. © Global News



For two days, the city council urban planning committee heard from several speakers about Edmonton's residential zoning regulations as it reviewed amendments that would see more restrictions placed on infill development.

On the table are a few changes, including dropping the maximum number of units midblock to six from the existing eight, while also increasing the minimum size of a unit.

Over the course of two days, 70 speakers took time to voice their concerns and it

became clear the amendments are not popular with some people on either side of the infill debate.

Coun. Aaron Paquette said there are no wrong arguments.

"Whether you're dealing with the facts and the figures and the needs of the city or you're dealing with the change of a neighbourhood or the feeling of not knowing what's going to happen, those are all valid concerns," Paquette said.

Council has been tasked with balancing the need for more affordable housing that developers actually want to build and people are willing to buy or rent with the concerns of existing residents about property values, not enough parking, predatory developers, quality of builds and housing affordability.

Paquette noted Edmonton is dealing with a massive population catch-up from hundreds of thousands of new people moving to Alberta in recent years, while there are also federal grants for multi-unit builds that developers are being enticed to take advantage of.

"So we see this natural spike based on those artificial or unusual circumstances. When those go away – and they will, like the pressure of the population and the pressure of that grant – we get back into a normal state of development and so what happens there? And should we change policy mid-stream in an unusual time? Or do we see how it plays out over the next six months and then revisit?"

Representatives from Edmonton's development community argue that further restrictions could impact their profitability, which would in turn drive up the cost of infill housing.

Meanwhile, owners of mature homes said six units on a single lot that previously contained a single-family home is still too many. Some argued that a unit reduction doesn't even necessarily equate to smaller buildings.

"It's all about the massing," said Kathy Hawksworth, who lives in the south Edmonton Parkallen neighbourhood and is with the Residential Infill Working Group.

"A huge building is a huge building whether it has one, two, six or eight dwellings in it."

Hawksworth noted large infills can affect the privacy and sunlight of neighbouring yards, affecting plants and energy efficiency investments, like solar panels.

"The loss of gardens, the loss of solar: these have real impacts for residents that are quite apart from whether it's six units or eight units, or in fact one unit or two.

"It's all about the massing size, the sheer volume of these huge buildings."

A handful of presenters at the urban planning committee on Monday and Tuesday were from the Residential Infill Working Group.

They said the issue is largely the size of the multi-family housing buildings popping up next to bungalows or other much smaller existing homes.

"Infill can fit in nicely, we just need to do it nicely. We just need to do it right," said Beverly Zubot, who is with the Residential Infill Working Group. "We need some tweaks in the zoning bylaw to make that happen.

"We're hoping we can sit down with city administration and the development industry, builders, to come up with those metrics.

"The kind of things that will work for everybody."

They presented a number of potential solutions, including lining up front setbacks with existing homes and splitting housing among a front home and back garage suite, with yard in the middle – breaking up big walls that block sunlight.

"The best format is to have four [units] in the front and two in the rear, and I guess that's why we're really encouraging the six-unit cap because that creates the building pattern that now exists in our lovely mature neighbourhoods with trees, with large enough space in between the rear building and the front building for landscaping, amenity areas, gardening, et cetera," Zubot said.

Other speakers expressed a desire to leave the existing zoning rules as they are, feeling they've been successful in developing more homes in mature neighbourhoods and more affordable rents.

When councillors on the urban planning committee began questioning city administration Tuesday afternoon, many of their queries surrounded how amendments would effect change that actually remedies problems Edmontonians are bringing forward.

In the end, the committee decided to send the debate to city council, where the public hearing process will start over again.

In 2023, the City of Edmonton changed zoning bylaws to allow for more multi-unit buildings up to three storeys in all neighbourhoods.

The aim was to encourage a variety of development to be built more easily in residential areas.

Since then, there's been mixed reaction to the increase in multi-unit buildings replacing single-family homes.

Infill ended up being a contentious topic during the 2025 fall municipal election campaign after residents of established communities expressed concerns with property values, not enough parking, predatory developers, quality of builds and housing affordability.

## Drilling Bot Wins a Guinness World Record

Sourced from: <https://www.globalconstructionreview.com/> / Rod Sweet

The certified record attempt saw the Baubot drill holes in walls, floors, and ceilings, winning the record for a semi-autonomous robot (Courtesy of fischer)



"Baubot", a drilling robot from German multinational manufacturer, fischer, has secured a Guinness World Records title by drilling 3,717 holes in concrete in 24 hours.

The certified record attempt over 10 and 11 September at fischer's test centre in Traiskirchen, Austria saw the Baubot drill holes in walls, floors and ceilings, winning the record for a semi-autonomous robot.

Matthias Schneider, managing director of digital services and IT at the fischer group of companies, said his company was trying to make construction sites safer and more

efficient.

"Construction robotics is key to the future of building – and this world record demonstrates the potential of our Baubot," he said.

Each hole had to have a minimum diameter of 10mm and a depth of 50mm, with no overlaps allowed.

The Baubot operated continuously for 24 hours, with only brief, scheduled stops for tool and drill bit changes.

Verification was carried out by independent witnesses and an official Guinness World Records adjudicator, who confirmed the result in accordance with the official guidelines.

“This sends a strong signal to builders and clients that our Baubot is ready for demanding tasks on the construction site,” said Schneider.

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## Everything That’s Gone Wrong with Architecture

Sourced from: <https://www.dezeen.com> / Edwin Heathcote

### Collective guilt

Architects, and particularly the younger members of the profession, seem to be profoundly burdened by a sense of guilt. One they struggle to repress.

Construction is tough. It usually involves concrete, pollution and waste. It involves problematic issues around land rights and social inequality, gentrification, demolition, destruction of natural habitat or built legacy.

Architects might blame themselves for all of that. And they would be, at least in part, right. But the collective guilt seems to be gnawing away at the industry's self-confidence.

### Waning authority on projects

Design and build contracts – which position the architect as a sub-contractor rather than in the more traditional role of the leader of the team – are now widely used globally. In the UK, they are even used for quite small projects.

The architect's influence has been further fatally undermined by the rise of project managers, who now take on many of the roles that previously gave architects their authority.

It has led to a general impression of impotence, the figure of the architect being bumped ever further down the hierarchy so that the one thing they thought they had – status – has disappeared in the face of much better paid but less well trained consultants and managers.

### No political clout

Unlike doctors and lawyers, accountants, social workers and economists, architects are nowhere in the political process. They do not become MPs and the architectural lords (since Richard Rogers at least) do little for their profession, either as tax exiles or inactive members.

Their disengagement from the political process has been damaging. Where there are bits of effective lobbying (often from the political right) it tends to be reduced to aesthetics.

### Free and undervalued labour

Call an architect for advice and they will almost certainly give it to you. For free. Maybe they're expecting a job to come of it, maybe they are just decent. Free work upfront is expected, part of the process.

Now try that with a lawyer. Good luck. Every email, every phone call and letter is brutally itemised and billed. That is how you make money. That is how you get taken seriously as a professional.

Meanwhile, the repealing of fee scales and subsequently fee guidance as governments deregulated their economies during the 1980s and '90s now appears a huge mistake.

In some countries, notably the UK, the situation is made worse by the fact that while you need to pay £225 a year to call yourself an architect, the actual function of the architect is unprotected. As a result, it is widely regarded as a luxury add-on, something to make the process more expensive. This is why architects make phone calls for free and lawyers do not.

Architects now regularly undercut each other and bid using unrealistic fees which they know will be made achievable through the exploitation of a pliable workforce.

#### Exploitation of the workforce

Architects study long and hard to become architects. They have to be dedicated, to really want to do it. This dedication to their trade proves easy to exploit.

Students and young designers are keen to work with big names or fashionable young practices and the price is an expectation of very long hours and often de facto bullying conditions. Possibly only the legal profession is as bad, but at least young lawyers are well paid.

It is only fair to say that for some younger practices working on ridiculously low fees with few project opportunities, this kind of culture is necessary to their survival. They could not otherwise compete.

Nevertheless, it further erodes the moral authority of the profession.

#### Lack of unionisation

Clearly linked to the above. Architecture is represented by "professional bodies" like the Royal Institute of British Architects or the American Institute of Architects, not unions.

Architects have traditionally seen themselves as an elite too superior for unions. But in his recent book *The Labor of Architecture*, CG Beck compellingly contends that while architects might see themselves as an elite, above contractors in the pecking order, they are not. In his rather traditional but compelling Marxist interpretation, architects are members of the proletariat, the working classes. While they may not be able to seize the means of production they could at least form a union.

They often earn less than other consultants and contractors, have little agency and a culture of long hours and unpaid labour. Consider too issues of sexism, racism and the legacy of privilege, and it's clear they need unionisation. Now.

Beck managed it in the US with his firm. It can be done.

#### The preserve of the privileged

Clients are now rarely cities or municipalities as they once were. Now architecture is commissioned by the rich, corporate and private. When I studied, I imagined myself working for a council and designing housing and maybe an occasional library or community centre. By the time I qualified in 1994, there were no such jobs.

The problem is that architecture is itself also increasingly a profession for the rich. Architects emerge blinking from seven years of education into jobs earning less than supermarket managers. Why would anyone study for that long to earn that little? For those who want, or need, to make a decent living from the beginning, it just isn't appealing when set against, say, finance or even law.

You will often find that the most politically radical architects are those from the most comfortable backgrounds, because they can afford to be revolutionaries and not have to compromise with the dirty act of building for other people.

All this breeds a culture in which sexism and racism somehow still abide, however much architecture may think of itself as a liberal profession.

### Issues with academia

There has, forever, been a discussion about whether architects' burdensome training is actually useful.

Certainly when we emerge from architecture school, despite seven gruelling years, we are not much use to anyone. Job ads inevitably require three-five years' experience (ie to know anything useful at all).

I'm a little more forgiving. I tend to think that these are the years when a student can use their imagination in a way they might never be able to again, and that is how you learn the one thing that it is impossible to teach – design.

Whether it needs to be that long is moot. Only vets study as long as architects.

There are deeper issues with academia too. Many of the elite schools have become completely divorced from the actual practice of architecture, to the extent that designing a building is seen as ridiculously bourgeois. This is, I suggest, deeply unhealthy. It stems in part from the divide, most notably in the UK, between practice and academia.

Traditionally, young practices and some of the more avant garde architects might have supported themselves through teaching. The academic salary topped up fees from the kind of small or unprofitable projects practices tend to take on when they're starting up.

In the UK, architecture schools now pay so badly that effectively they rely on architects supporting them. With a few exceptions, the big architectural names do not teach. Or at least, they do not teach in the UK. Once architects become successful they concentrate on running their practices.

It is a major loss for academia, because students tend to get taught either by non-practising academics or by young designers without extensive experience.

Architecture schools in the US, Switzerland and much of continental Europe pay serious salaries to attract the best architects. In the US, schools compete for the big architectural stars to attract students. However, this in turn perpetuates the damaging and toxic culture of starchitects.

### Stifled innovation

Architecture is at the mercy of a deeply conservative insurance industry, which is resistant to building with anything other than the most familiar materials.

Add to this the building and planning regulations in some countries that entirely discourage innovation and do not even ensure energy efficiency or good quality and you have a system that strips joy or invention from the industry, leaving no spaces in between.

Architects themselves are not blameless. Despite some advances in the acceptance of timber in building, the world's default building material is concrete and it is a problem. Contractors love concrete, clients love concrete and even architects, who really should know better, love concrete. The recent fad for Brutalism exposed the fetish in its full perversion.

### The star system

Architecture schools are, astonishingly, still geared to the production of the individual genius.

It is a lonely process, with many hours drawing alone in a bedroom and the obsessive nurturing of self-expression, even where there might be little to express. The brilliant drawing, the beautifully

produced publication, the stunning model – these remain the measures through which students achieve distinction.

This obsession with the lone genius is insanely anachronistic and was only ever accurate in the comic-book cultural image. It is the mad Ayn Rand picture of architecture as an expression of the (inevitably male) ego and will.

My impression is that young people are far less interested in this idea of architecture today. There seems to be a more collective notion of what architecture could be, less attached to a single name.

#### Unedifying company

There is a huge amount of hot air about ethics and politics in architecture. Discussions might touch on issues around indentured labour, repressive regimes, brutal leaders, exploitative dictators or oligarchs.

But ultimately architects will go where clients pay them. Just look at the clearly insane plans for Neom.

The defence might be that we need to engage with other regimes as this will somehow further development and an exchange of views (how has that worked out so far?).

Currently it might be quite reasonable to suggest that working in the US is politically unacceptable, which has kind of undermined the whole argument. None of it paints a pretty picture of ethics in architecture, and accusations of hypocrisy hurt and they stick.

#### Artificial intelligence

The fading cachet of the architect may be about to get a lot dimmer.

Architects have already enthusiastically adopted artificial intelligence (AI) because they fetishise tech and they dislike, for instance, writing. They are effectively training AI to do the parts of their jobs that should be the most enjoyable: the design, the rendering, the conceptual writing, the drawing. It will leave architects to deal solely with problems on site and negotiations.

Sure, what AI produces is mostly crap, but that is mostly what people want. It is enough.

## ASSOCIATION LINKS

- **Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA)**  
[www.acsa-safety.org](http://www.acsa-safety.org)
- **Alberta Building Envelope Council North (ABEC)**  
[www.abecnorth.org](http://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](http://www.cagbc.org)
- **CCDC Documents**  
[ccdc.org](http://ccdc.org)
- **Architecture 2030**  
[www.architecture2030.org](http://www.architecture2030.org)
- **BuildingSMART Alliance** (Canada Chapter of BuildingSMART)  
<https://www.buildingsmart.org/community/chapter-directory/buildingsmart-canada/>  
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e586baa3/RRu60BvuAUu11ebSszKcZw?u=http://www.buildingsmartcanada.ca/>
- **Biomimicry Institute**  
[www.biomimicryinstitute.org](http://www.biomimicryinstitute.org)
- **Building Transformation (CanBIM)**  
<https://www.buildingtransformations.org/>
- **Construction Specifications Canada (CSC)** [www.csc-dcc.ca](http://www.csc-dcc.ca)
- **MasterFormat**  
<https://crmservice.csinet.org/widgets/masterformat/numbersandtitles.aspx>
- **International Construction Information Society (ICIS)** [www.icis.org](http://www.icis.org)

## ASSOCIATION LIAISONS

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

Alberta Painting Contractors Association (APCA)  
[www.apca.ca](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.edmca.com)

## Bulletin Board

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### 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](mailto: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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