

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Innovating Construction

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From The Editor

I think it is safe to say that construction 10 years from now will not be the same as it is today. Traditionally the construction industry has been slow to adopt change and incorporate technology. A recent grant announced by the Department of Energy for research and development related to energy-efficient construction, including novel construction techniques, hopes to change that. Many firms aren't waiting for the government to act. Several links in [GREEN BUILDING NEWS](#) below feature innovations in construction that aim to provide lower-cost, sustainable, efficient designs using non-traditional techniques and materials. Reading about these out-of-the-box ideas gets me excited for the opportunities the industry has to solve many of the dilemmas we are faced with today.

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NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

A number of firms are challenging our perceptions of what construction should look like. Read the links below to learn more about several innovative approaches. ~Tina

Turner to launch green building pilot program

BUILDING DESIGN+ CONSTRUCTION

Turner Construction is expanding its sustainable building practices through an 18-month pilot program to monitor energy and water use at 30 projects. The company plans to use data from the program to develop a strategy to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and water usage by 50% by 2030. [Read more.](#)

Energy Dept. to provide up to \$33.5M for energy-efficient construction

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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The Energy Department will allocate up to \$33.5 million toward research and development related to energy-efficient construction techniques and technologies. The funding will cover integrated building retrofits, novel construction technologies and advanced technology integration according to [this article](#).

Robot building block homes in Australia

NCMA.ORG

A company in Australia is providing masonry services via the Hadrian X construction robot with blocks specially-optimized for the automaton's use. The activities are anticipated to generate the first operating revenues from the commercialization of the business's robotic bricklaying tech. To read more, [click here](#).

Biodegradable construction inspires Gaia House project

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER

Gaia House in Italy was designed to provide a biodegradable and structurally efficient baseline for mass-produced buildings. It features a circular concrete foundation and was 3D printed using soil, rice products and hydraulic lime. Read more [here](#).

Boxabl ships foldable material for customizable home assembly

KTNV-TV (Las Vegas)

Inventor Paolo Tiramani has created Boxabl, a foldable building material that can be shipped and assembled into rooms of up to 800 square feet. The units come with walls made of expanded foam over cement panels and are resistant to burns, impacts, bugs and mold, says Boxabl's Galiano Tiramani in [this article](#)

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Model building codes, including "above-code" options like the International Green Construction Code, provide demonstrated, cost-effective means to enable resilient construction, if only states would adopt them. ~Tina

Commentary: Stronger buildings needed as disasters get worse

THE HILL

Any infrastructure bill that emerges in Congress should include requirements for new and renovated structures to comply with modern building codes, write International Code Council board President William Bryant and former Federal Emergency Management Agency Directors R. David Paulison and James Lee Witt. Adherence to modern codes helped mitigate damage from an earthquake in Alaska and Hurricane Michael in Florida, both within the past year, [they write](#).

San Francisco to require commercial buildings to run on renewables

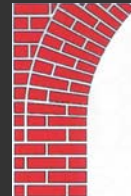
ELECTREK

San Francisco plans to eventually require private commercial buildings within the city to run completely on renewable energy. Commercial buildings over 500,000 square feet must meet the requirement by 2022, buildings over 250,000 square feet have until 2024 and buildings over 50,000 square feet must do so by 2030. Read more [here](#).

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GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

The HPD Collaborative has updated its Open Standard to incorporate supply chain HPDs. For manufacturers with complex supply chains, this new option could greatly simplify their work, but it is dependent upon the participation of suppliers. For suppliers it offers a means to provide their product information in a widely-available but controlled format. It remains to be seen whether or not manufacturers and their supply chains will embrace this new option. ~Tina

Introducing supply chain transparency reporting for HPDs

CSRwire

The Health Product Declaration (HPD) Collaborative [has released](#) HPD Open Standard Version 2.2, the latest update to its industry-leading open standard for transparency and reporting for building product contents and associated health information. The Release of Version 2.2 provides the opportunity for users to review the updated Standard and prepare for full implementation which is planned for Q3 2019. This update introduces a major new feature – the Supplier HPD, a specification and methodology for enabling standard-based ingredient reporting and transparency throughout the building product supply chain.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Register Now for The Masonry Society Spring Meetings

MASONRYSOCIETY.ORG

Registration is now open for the TMS Spring Meetings to be held in Salt Lake City, UT June 14-16, 2019. For more information on the upcoming meeting and TMS Committee activities, check out [this link](#) or listen to a recording of the recent [Virtual Town Hall](#) and review the Presentation pdf.

Registration Open for 13th North American Masonry Conference

TMS

The 13th North American Masonry Conference will be held June 16–19, 2019, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Conference is hosted by Brigham Young University and is the latest in a series of quadrennial conferences sponsored by The Masonry Society. More than 150 papers from more than 20 countries are anticipated to be presented on a wide array of masonry topics. For more information and to register visit the conference [website](#).

Seeking Abstracts for Conference on Durability of Materials

You are invited to submit an abstract for the 15th International Conference on Durability of Building Materials and Components, which will be held June 30 - July 3, 2020 in Barcelona, Spain. Abstracts are sought in the areas of: Building Physics and Durability, Service Life Prediction Methodologies, Durability of Materials, Systems and Components, Sustainability and Durable Construction and more. For more information check out the [conference website](#).

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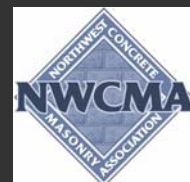
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