

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Innovative Masonry

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From The Editor

The last few weeks have been filled with travel for me. A highlight was attending the 13th North American Masonry Conference hosted by The Masonry Society. It is always good to hear about innovations and new research in the masonry industry. The keynote speaker, Peter Roberts, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Spherical Block, LLC, showed us a new masonry system he created. It was fascinating to hear about the process he went through to create something new and his suggestions for the building industry. One of his ideas that I found particularly interesting was the concept of using additive manufacturing (3D printing) to lay down mortar for masonry construction. Can you imagine a time when additive manufacturing works together with masons or other robots to lay masonry? I can! You can check out a [pdf of his presentation](#). Do you have an innovative idea to share? Write me at the email below. I hope to share more innovative ideas in future editions.

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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

I have warned readers about the shortcomings of life cycle assessment (LCA) for some time now. The first article below points out how many LCAs for mass timber neglect important impacts. It is important that users of LCAs take the time to understand the assumptions made and data used in their creation. ~Tina

How Sustainable Is Mass Timber Construction?

YALE ENVIRONMENT 360

As the industry looks to reduce carbon emissions, mass timber is gaining popularity. But questions, including how sustainable the new

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material is, especially how much CO2 the logging, manufacturing and transportation of wood products emits, can lead to perplexing answers on all sides. [Read more.](#)

\$20B Building Energy Retrofit Market

URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

To comply with New York City's Local Law 97, almost 50,000 buildings will have to retrofit in 10 years. If all buildings choose efficiency to comply with LL97, Urban Green Council estimates a \$20B retrofit market opportunity over the next 10 years. John Mandyck discusses the findings on [their blog](#).

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Lots of news in the codes and standards arena. Check out the links below. ~Tina

Timber Proposal Raises Fire Service Concerns

FIRE ENGINEERING

The newly-passed "Tall Mass Timber" code additions to the International Building Code (IBC) 2021 Edition have raised fire safety concerns -- primarily in regards to fire service access. Fighting fires beyond the reach of the tallest aerial apparatuses, fire pump, sprinkler dependency, and more are among the vital questions. To read it in full, [click here](#).

Green Building Initiative Announces Release of Green Globes 2019

THEGBI.ORG

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) has announced the approval by GBI's Board of Directors of ANSI-GBI 01-2019: Green Globes Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings, which was formally approved by ANSI as a consensus document. Advances in the Standard's content include criteria on resilience, life cycle cost analysis, moisture control analysis, health and effectiveness, and many other market advances, such as higher efficiency plumbing fixture specifications and greatly expanded lighting and acoustic comfort sections. [Read more.](#)

UK's BRE Global Modifies Green Certification for US

CONSTRUCTION DIVE

UK-based BRE Global has "Americanized" its global green certification standard as it seeks greater influence in the US. Engineering firm HOK contributed to the updated BREEAM International New Construction standard and piloted it with a handful of clients. Read more [here](#).

Maryland Reverting to Certifiable In Lieu of Certified Green Building

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The Maryland legislature is proposing a watershed revamp of its current mandatory green building requirements for new public school buildings. The crux of the new statute is that new public school buildings (from pre-K through 12 to university dormitories and community college classrooms) no longer need be third party certified as a green building such as LEED, Green Globes or the like. The public is being invited to comment on the proposal. [Click here](#) for more information.

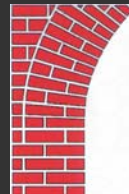
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The article below provides the latest advice on permeable interlocking pavements which are great tools for creating a sustainable building site. Note that despite the title, these pavements can be made of clay or concrete units. ~Tina

Updated FHWA Tech Brief: "Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement"

CONCRETEPAVEMENTS.ORG

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a new Tech Brief titled "Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement" that presents an overview of permeable interlocking concrete pavement (PICP) and its use. General information is provided on PICP composition with a summary of benefits, limitations, and characteristics. Important considerations, such as hydrologic design, structural design, construction, and maintenance, are provided. Learn more [here](#).

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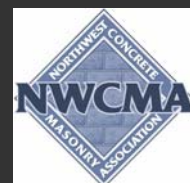
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