



AIANY president's message: Influencing change citywide

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By Tomas Rossant, AIA

AIANY's 2015 "Dialogues from the Edge of Practice" series continues with monthly roundtable conversations on the city's design and policy priorities and contemporary advances in the practice of architecture and corresponding public forums. All 12 themes are ways in which architects are broadening the scope of practice and bringing their unique solving skills to issues previously considered outside their purview.

The February think tank discussion, the second in the series, focused on how the practice and teaching of architecture must undergo a paradigm shift to properly respond to the changing climate and mayor de Blasio's ambitious 80x50 goals. An interdisciplinary group of leaders in sustainability from government, design, construction, engineering, education, media, and finance sectors discussed various approaches and strategies for reducing our buildings' carbon emissions and making New York City more healthy, livable, and efficient for all. Participants primarily focused on four paths for achieving these goals: education, mandates and policy, branding and visioning, and owner interests.

Architects are a large part of the solution to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects. At the correlated public forum, this conversation will continue with additional expert comment and input from the design community and broader public audience. Nilda Mesa, director of the New York City mayor's office of sustainability, will present on the city's plan and spark an exchange between the public and private sectors. Please join us for this exciting event at the Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10th.

March's dialogue, "Edge Business: New Modes of Profit," will examine practitioners who are defining new practice models, new services, and new ways to increase compensation and productivity. By virtue of their talents, training, and experience, architects bring a distinct skill set to the making of buildings. These skills can be successfully applied in other settings where design thinking is appropriate. The roundtable participants will discuss alternatives to traditional practice, including new services that redefine the scope of practices and alternative careers outside of the mainstream profession. This dialogue invites a collection of practitioners exploring alternative value generation strategies to compare approaches and find common themes. The related public program will be on March 30th at the Center for Architecture.

AIANY continues to examine solutions to New York City's most relevant urban design challenges while considering ways in which the practice of architecture must adapt in hopes of informing the de Blasio administration and influencing change citywide.

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