

Abstract:

BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY
Pushing the Boundaries of Building Green

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By

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Considering the onslaught of human impact on our planetary support systems, the 21st century is faced with enormous design challenges. Having gone too far, the term “sustainability” is not going to be enough to solve these problems. Instead there is a need for more restorative and integrated approaches to our design practice.

The presentation argues that Green design is mainly about minimizing the damage and sustainable design is simply an inflection point between regenerating and degenerating design systems. Sustainable and green design as currently practiced, addresses generalized and planetary issues by limiting the intensity of the damage we cause. Regenerative design on the other hand is local in practice, addressing how we partner and thrive in relationship with the unique social-ecological system of each place.

Through examples – many of which the architect presenting has been personally involved with – the presentation is to bring attention to these issues, pointing towards the possibilities of designing for our common future.

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