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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHITECTS PREPARE FOR NEW ENERGY FRONTIER

AIA Columbus launches professional development program with goal
to create carbon-neutral buildings by 2030

COLUMBUS, Ohio – In America today, fossil fuel energy consumption stands at 40 percent, and credible scientists say it will take 10 years to be well on the way toward global greenhouse gas emission reductions in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. Fifty percent of those greenhouse gas emissions can be traced to buildings, but architects are doing something about it.

Nationwide, chapters from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) – including AIA Columbus – are launching the AIA+2030 Professional Series™, a program of the AIA Seattle chapter in collaboration with Architecture 2030®, an independent, non-profit, non-partisan research organization created in 2002 by renowned architect Ed Mazria, BetterBricks and the city of Seattle. The program’s goal is to encourage the global architecture and building sectors to reach the goal of carbon-neutral buildings by 2030.

“The 2030 Challenge® arms architects and allied professionals with the proper tools and training through the AIA+2030 Professional Series™ to create next-generation, super-efficient buildings and skills that will set them apart in the marketplace,” said Gwen Berlekamp, AIA Columbus
executive director, whose organization’s Committee On The Environment (COTE), in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council – Central Ohio Chapter, is offering the AIA+2030 Professional Series™.

The goal of carbon neutral (defined as a building that uses no fossil fuel, greenhouse-gas-emitting energy to operate) by 2030 will be accomplished by implementing innovative sustainable design strategies, generating on-site renewable power, and/or purchasing, to a limited extent, renewable energy credits.

“It is estimated that during the next 30 years, more than three-quarters of the built environment will either be newly built or renovated, thus creating a huge opportunity for the building sector to move toward sustainable design,” Berlekamp said. Approximately 49 percent of the energy consumed is linked to the building sector – residential and commercial – according to industry estimates.

AIA Columbus, which has been granted a license to use, market and distribute the AIA+2030 Professional Series™ in its area, is the only AIA chapter from Ohio launching the program. Other chapters participating include those in Seattle, Houston, Portland, Charlotte, Washington D.C., Idaho, Denver, El Paso and Atlanta.

The program is a 10-part series of intermediate-level professional development courses designed to provide specific ways to make our built environment energy-efficient for architects and allied professionals. Sessions will be held monthly from September 2011 through June 2012 and run for four hours each from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. All sessions will be held at the offices of WD Partners, 7007 Discovery Blvd., Dublin.

More than two dozen firms in AIA Columbus’ 32-county region that have signed on to date, with more added every month.

The courses, approved by the national American Institute of Architects, address items such as waste heat recovery, energy modeling, active solar systems, and a variety of techniques and strategies specific to creating the type of buildings that need to be designed in the future. The 10 specific classes are:


Nov. 11, 2011: Accentuate the Positive: Climate Responsive Design

Dec. 9, 2011: Skins: The Importance of the Thermal Envelope


March 9, 2012: Right-sized: Equipment and Controls for Super-efficient Building Systems

April 13, 2012: Site Power: Renewable Energy Opportunities

May 11, 2012: The Hand-Off + Staying in Shape: Operations, Maintenance + Education

June 8, 2012: Putting It All Together: Achieving 2030 Goals on the Project and at the Office

“Climate Change is real. Architects have solutions, and AIA Columbus is looking forward to working with the design community and beyond to take on the 2030 Challenge®,” Berlekamp said. For more information and to register, visit http://2030.aiacolumbus.org. The cost is $400 for AIA and USGBC members, $200 for AIA associates and students, and $600 for non-members, but is reduced to $350 (members) and $550 (non-members) for those who register by Aug. 26, 2011. Registration is for the entire series only.

The AIA+2030 Professional Series is sponsored in part by Korda Engineering, NBBJ, URS Corporation, Dirtt Environmental Solutions, Tremco Roofing, Turner Construction, Heapy Engineering and KLH Engineers.

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