

Good Evening!

I am Howard Kaplan and I am here to welcome you on behalf of Architects for a Sustainable Future. We are a group of architects that came together from several different organizations with one primary goal – and that is to make sustainable design **THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS!**

I would like to introduce the other members of the group who are here tonight: **Glen Fellows, John Alejandro, Jim Oschwald and David Knauer, Executive Director of the NM Board of Examiners for Architects. Roger Basarich** was unable to be with us this evening.

We would like to thank our sponsors who made this possible:

- AIA New Mexico
- NM Board of Examiners for Architects
- US Green Building Council – NM Chapter
- University of NM School of Architecture & Planning
- New Energy Economy
- Albuquerque Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

Also in the audience tonight is.....

Tonight is the beginning of what we are confident will be a process to change the fundamental nature of how we design and construct buildings. There is no greater challenge facing us today than the issues of **global warming, climate change** and the **depletion of energy and material resources**. We are racing towards an uncertain future if we do not now take the necessary steps to change the course we are currently on.

While the climate change and energy discussions have mainly focused around the issues of **energy production and vehicle emissions**, it is now known that buildings are far and away the greatest consumers of energy and materials and, to a lesser extent, direct contributors to green house gas emissions through the direct combustion of natural gas and oil in heating and cooling. These two factors taken together amount to about **50% to 55% of all energy consumed in this country as well as in the State of New Mexico**. It is not a great leap to see that significantly increasing the energy efficiency of all buildings will have a tremendous impact on energy consumption and also positively influence energy production and transportation emissions.

It is now time for architects to step up and take control of the process and realize that the actions we take in our day-to-day practice have a profound influence. From the way we design buildings to the materials we specify, architects are making the critical decisions every day that will affect the future. We are in an exciting time of change and our 20th Century love affair with technology has helped bring us to this point. We must abandon the attitude that all things can be solved by throwing technology and money at the problem. **It is design that must lead the way**. We must change the way we approach the design of buildings in such a way that integrating sustainable principles at all levels is the norm. And that technology supports that effort rather than visa versa.

Many things are propelling us in this direction:

The **US green Building Council**, perhaps more than any other group, brought this discussion into the forefront with the introduction of the LEED Rating Systems several years ago. This was the first time anyone sought to quantify and verify what a “green building” is.

The mantle has been taken up by the public sector in many ways.

Last year, here in **New Mexico**, **Governor Richardson** convened the **Climate Change Advisory Group** which is charged to propose policy changes that will enable the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by the year 2050 - Quite an ambitious feat. Those policies are in the process of being formulated and will be presented to the Governor before the end of this year. Several of us here in this room are involved in that effort.

Subsequently, he has signed **Executive Order No.2006-001** outlining LEED and energy reduction standards for State Buildings that are now in effect.

Here in Albuquerque, **Mayor Martin Chavez** has signed an **Executive Order mandating LEED Certification** for all city buildings above 5,000 square feet and this was further enhanced when the **City Council** passed a similar resolution sponsored by now **Council President Martin Heinrich**. All new City projects in design are under this mandate.

This year the **American Institute of Architects** issued a position statement strongly outlining its goals for energy reduction and green building standards that calls for integrate sustainability into the education, licensing and practice of architecture.

And the **National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)** has put sustainable design on the agenda at its regional and national meetings as it relates to how architects are licensed. Hopefully, this weekend will generate ideas that can be brought forward for adoption in the very near future.

We in New Mexico are in the unique position of having been thrust into the center of this discussion by the efforts of our **Governor, Mayor and Ed Mazria** who has, more than anyone else, defined the relationship between buildings and global warming. Other States and organizations are looking to us for leadership and ideas as to how to best do all this. What is happening tonight and tomorrow is just the beginning and I urge you all to take up the challenge and get involved at whatever level works for you.

Now is not too early, as tomorrow may be too late.

Thank you.

Introduce Roger Schluntz, Dean.....