INSTITUTE FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

June 2024



IBE Turns 30! Save the Date: Sept. 26

2024 marks IBE's 30th anniversary and we hope you'll join the celebration. Mark your calendar for September 26th in the late afternoon/early evening. Join IBE's favorite friends and partners in Fort Collins for a festive, interactive gathering to celebrate this important milestone. Stay tuned for more details. Hope you can make it!

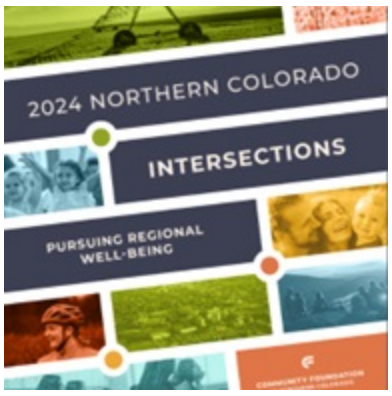
Research

Green Schools & IAQ: Lessons from COVID



While the COVID pandemic is behind us, it still offers important lessons about indoor air quality (IAQ). To help schools best manage future crises like this, IBE partnered with the Center for Green Schools and CSU faculty affiliates, Dr. Ellison Carter (Engineering) and Dr. Sheryl Magzamen (Environmental Health), to study COVID mitigation strategies and outcomes for schools across the U.S. The study compared 300 schools that earned the LEED enhanced IAQ credits to LEED certified schools without enhanced IAQ. The results suggested that achievement of LEED IAQ credits correlated with earlier access to in-person learning during the pandemic, and that community masking was protective against COVID-related school closures. Learn more in *Building and Environment*.

A Systems Approach to NoCo's Wellbeing



While different communities experience common pressures on community wellbeing, each has different capacities to address them. To better understand these dynamics in Northern Colorado, IBE partnered with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado (a community think tank and grantmaking organization) to develop its 2024 Intersections report. Using a

sustainability and health data, IBE designed metrics to guide Community Foundation priorities over the coming year. Read the report and learn how you can support our regional wellbeing.

Lowering Carbon in Concrete



Concrete production is one of the largest contributors to atmospheric carbon, so manufacturers are seeking ways to reduce carbon emissions while maintaining strength and durability. IBE teamed with CSU faculty affiliates, Dr. Rodolfo Valdez-Vasquez (Construction Management) and Dr. Jason Quinn (Mechanical Engineering / CSU Energy Institute), to quantify carbon reduction from Somero, Inc.'s innovative laser floor finishing technology. Using a Life Cycle Assessment, the results demonstrate an important reduction in embodied carbon due to reduced manufacturing emissions and worker transportation. Read the findings in ASC International Conference proceedings.

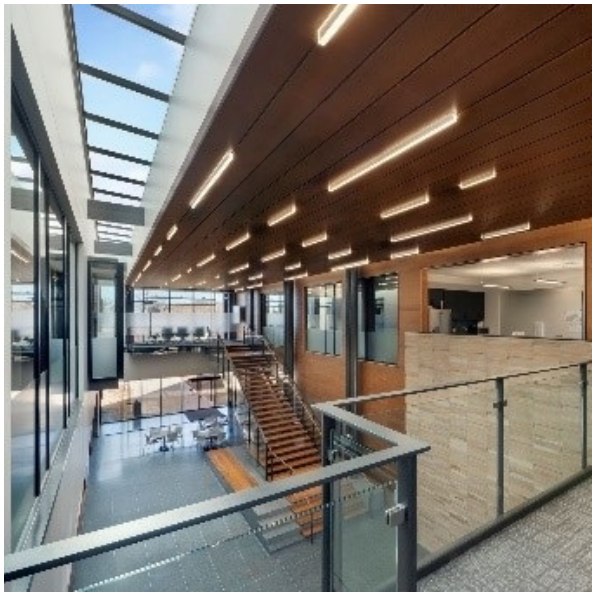
In Our Community

Larimer County's Climate Smart Plan



Climate Smart Future Ready, a living plan centered on equity, informed by a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory, and accompanied by educational videos and a digital progress dashboard. The plan was created through a two-year effort that engaged 50 entities, nearly 100 technical working group members, and countless community members. IBE facilitated the working groups in their co-creation of a plan that reflects community priorities. Explore the plan and get involved.

PRPA Wins Building Innovation Award



Congrats to the Platte River Power Authority for earning an Exceptional Sustainable Technology award from the U.S. Green Building Council Colorado for its new LEED Gold headquarters. Key project features include a rooftop solar array, battery storage, and on-site geothermal pond that facilitates heating and cooling. The building also achieved a zero net carbon footprint through the City of Fort Collins' Green Energy Program. In IBE's role as LEED consultant for the project, we mentored eight student interns, offering real-world experience to jump start their careers. Read more.

Student Perspective: Facilitating Charrettes



During my internship with IBE, I worked alongside Brian Dunbar on the Bohn Farm charrettes, which brought community members, a developer, and City planners to common ground on a contentious new residential development. The resulting plan greatly improved the original design and was more human-scaled and community-minded.

I presented case studies, helped lead breakout groups, and coordinated design exercises. Through the experience, I learned to co-facilitate and properly direct the group's energy. I've grown my confidence in facilitation and professional communication, and learned the complex dynamics of community engagement and city planning processes, which will be immensely valuable for my professional journey in landscape architecture.

Gareth Boys
IBE Student Associate, 2023-24

Meet IBE's Newest Students



Annabelle Bradford Brunschwig
B.S., Interior Architecture & Design



Carla Galvanoni
M.S., Design & Merchandising



Emma Castiblanco
M.S., Horticulture

Invest in Impact

Private donations advance IBE's strategic initiatives in ways our project work cannot: by translating research to practice to guide the entire green building movement forward. Your gift can support student scholarships and stipends and our special programs, such as Lifelong Homes.

Today

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