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PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SBE's Danielle McCartney will be presenting her talk "Planning for Sustainable Communities: Appraising the Rating Tools" which she has prepared for the URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONGRESS (8-10 MARCH



2010, SYDNEY). The presentation will discuss the various aspects that make up a sustainable community and review existing rating tools both here in Australia and overseas. The talk will also give an update on the much anticipated Green Star Communities tool, which is under development by the Green Building Council of Australia.

SBE is also contributing an e-poster on "Planning Sustainable Eco-Resort Developments" to the Congress. E-posters will be available on PCs in a specially designated area within the conference for delegates to access at any time during the proceedings.

More information can be found on the [UDIA website](#).

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BUILDING GREEN SUCCESS

In conjunction with Demetra Giannakopoulos, Special Counsel at Russell Kennedy, Jane Toner, Senior Associate, will present a seminar that will provide an overview of the process for integrating ESD into projects and the legal issues that may be encountered along the way.

The seminar will be held at the Russell Kennedy offices on Tuesday 30th March 2010, 4.45pm for 5pm start. Although the event is free, booking is essential as places are limited. Refer to the [Russell Kennedy website](#) for further details.



ANOTHER SUCCESS - OZQUEST & ARCHITECTS WITHOUT FRONTIERS EXPEDITION TO NEPAL 2009-2010

Returning from annual leave is a good time to impress your colleagues with tales and photos from your exotic journeys.



For the third time, Jane Toner has returned to SBE with stories of her volunteer work in Nepal and the inevitable adventures that accompany that journey. This year Jane led a project team of volunteer "architects in the making" in the design and construction of a kindergarten for the village of Siurung in the Lamjung district (think Annapurna circuit).



Prior to departure the team participated in a series of presentations and workshops to develop the project. Working with the community on site the team learnt more than could be imagined from this extended introduction to the project. The community enthusiastically embraced the project and the team, and working together the rock and mud walls were raised to about a metre above the ground. The villagers of Siurung have been left with the responsibility of finishing the structure and the finances to achieve most of this. The team looks forward to returning one day to see the finished product replete with cheeky children. The project is considered a great success by all involved.

This year OzQuest will be running their tenth mission to Nepal to continue more of that good work. Information on the OzQuest website is yet to be updated with details of this future expedition but inquiries are welcome. Refer to <http://www.ozquest.org/NEPAL/nepal.html> for further details.

MANDATORY DISCLOSURE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

The second half of 2010 will see the introduction of proposed mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency regulations for commercial buildings. When selling or leasing commercial office space over 2,000m², building owners will be required to disclose details on the energy performance and efficiency of the building. This disclosure will require a NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) Energy base building star rating, information on tenancy lighting efficiency and potential energy saving suggestions.



How can we help? Building owners need to start considering these requirements now, as there will be no grace period following the passage of legislation. Our accredited NABERS assessors can provide guidance through this process to both assess current energy performance and explore opportunities for improving energy efficiency. Contact Steve Moller or Karen Hovenga at SBE to prepare your building for mandatory disclosure.

ADOPTING EVIDENCE BASED DESIGN AND SUSTAINABILITY IN BRIEFING

Karen Hovenga of SBE and Marion Place from Health Science Planning Consultants (HSPC) are collaborating to present a paper at the Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) National Congress in July 2010.



Their paper, "Adopting Evidence Based Design and Sustainability in Briefing; a Path to Better Hospitals" will present an overview of sustainability initiatives and opportunities in hospital design which can have a positive impact on multiple fronts. Each example will be demonstrated with regard to legislation, policy, standards, guidelines and research evidence of best practice and / or positive outcomes for

the patient, facility, community and whole of life budget.

When complete, the paper will be available on the SBE website.

BCA 2010 - SECTION J ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROVISIONS

The BCA Section J Energy Efficiency requirements will change from 1 May 2010.

In several areas (e.g. building fabric, glazing) the minimum performance requirements will be raised. In some clauses (e.g. skylights and lighting) the changes will be significant.



The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has advised that these changes are likely to result in energy savings which over time should have a 'payback'. However, designers will need to pay heed to these increased requirements and potentially adapt some of their approaches to design in order to manage cost impacts.

Some of the more obvious changes:

- Higher insulation levels will need to be achieved for dark coloured roofs and walls.
- Skylights will need to have either higher performance glazing or be reduced in size.
- Glazing requirements will be more stringent, potentially resulting in smaller windows, better shading and/or glazing with higher performance.
- Cafés, restaurants and open front shops will need to have self-closing entries, revolving doors or airlocks.
- There has been a general tightening of requirements for air conditioning systems. Variable speed drives and outside air economy cycle will be required in smaller HVAC units and for more building classes.
- Minimum efficiency of fans, pumps and thermal plant will be increased.
- Outside air quantities will be more tightly controlled.
- Energy used for lighting will need to be lower; especially for retail spaces, health care buildings, schools and laboratories.

* Proposed changes are yet to be ratified by the ABCB. Contact Anetta Pizag at SBE for further updates

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