

Healthy buildings and healthy people

A'17

AIA
Conference
on Architecture
2017

A'17 Conference on Architecture 2017 and its 16,000 attendees received former First Lady **Michelle Obama** on her first post-White House speaking engagement in Orlando, Florida last month. According to AIA, "Obama praised the efforts of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects on the design of Obama Presidential Library Project on the south side of Chicago and reinforced the need for all professions to embrace fresh, diverse voices from all walks of life, especially a profession as important as architecture". Also at the broader conference, issues such as social impact of architecture practice and the urgency of healthy buildings for healthy people were presented by outstanding keynote speakers during three days of conference, to name a few: Pritzker Prize winner Architect **Alejandro Aravena**, Perkins+Will Human Experience Lab neuroscientist **Dr. Eve Edelstein** and Harvard Business School professor and social psychologist **Amy Cuddy**.



Photo Credit: AIA



Michelle Obama at A'17 AIA Conference in Orlando, Florida. Photo Credit AIA

"The built environment has profound effects on human health and the world around us. At their best, our buildings and communities are powerful promoters of health and well-being. At their worst, they contribute to some of the key public health concerns of modern society, from asthma to cancer to obesity." **Mahesh Ramanujam**, current USGBC President and CEO, during Expo in Beijing, China- March 28, 2014

Changes that matter to architects the most include AIA Contract Document E204™ – 2017, **Sustainable Projects Exhibit** launched during A'17 conference. The Exhibit effects a significant shift in the current manner of thinking about, and contracting for, green building. Additionally prepare yourself for new metrics that introduce new trends such as fostering good health into design, allowing occupants to make positive lifestyle choices such as exercising, healthy eating and exposing the environment to natural light. During her presentation, Dr. Eve Edelstein announced that advances were made in measuring the influence of design on health and wellbeing in the built environment. "I have an audacious goal. I want to change the way we think about design. I want to change the way we apply research-rich data in our process, because with this knowledge we can change our clients' lives." said Edelstein. Diverse sessions held during the A'17 conference suggested a combined approach of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED**) green building rating system and WELL Building Standard (**WELL**) as an integrated process for health, wellness, and human experience in buildings. According to U.S. Green Building Council (**USGBC**), "after almost twenty years and with 59,000 LEED certified sustainable buildings recognized world wide, the latest LEED version contributes positively to their communities and the planet. LEED v4, launched in 2013, introduced new impact categories on climate change, human health, water resources, biodiversity, green economy, community and natural resources". WELL, launched in 2014 by International WELL Building Institute (**IWBI**), is the first building standard to focus exclusively on the health and wellness of the people in buildings. The good news is that IWBI has joined forces with Green Business Certification Inc. (**GBCI**), the same organization which administers LEED certification, to provide third-party certification for WELL – helping to ensure that WELL and LEED work together efficiently to promote healthy buildings for healthy people.

WELL CERTIFIED DISTRICT IN TAMPA: The 53-acre redevelopment in downtown Tampa by the real estate company SPP, will be the first district-wide application of the WELL Building Standard, the world's first building standard focused exclusively on human health and wellness.



Photo credit: USGBC+ media

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) "We spend 90% of our time indoors and sitting is the new smoking. In 2014, an evidence-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring building performance features that impact health and well-being was released. The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) focuses on seven concepts: Air, Water, Nourishment, Light, Fitness, Comfort and Mind; while using design, construction, behavior, operations, and policies to drive measurement and verification. WELL provides a path to increase health and productivity, because where we work, play, and live matters!" said Jennifer Berthelot-Jelovic, President & CEO of A Sustainable Production (**ASAP**); a woman owned, fullservice, global sustainability and wellness consulting firm based in Los Angeles, CA. Visit <https://www.wellcertified.com/>

USGBC FLORIDA chapter

"Getting involved with the USGBC is a great way to network, meet people in the same industry and learn about sustainability and the built environment. Becoming an Emerging Professional (EP) member of the USGBC Florida has many great benefits. We offer various events throughout the year, from monthly webinars, building tours, educational panels, networking events to community service projects we have something for everyone." said Sarah Mason, Chair of the USGBC Florida Gulf Coast Region, Tampa Bay Branch. Visit <https://usgbcflorida.org/>



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She serves as an active member of U.S. Green Building Council LEED FACULTY Program and instructor for "LEED Certification and Green Sustainability" course at Everglades University Tampa campus.