

## INTELLIGENT CHOICES

### Solar Decathlon

Sept. 29-Oct. 19, 2005, Competition, Oct. 12  
This competition is based on 18 collegiate teams around the world, designing and building houses that demonstrate the advantages of a solar lifestyle. The teams move their houses to Washington, DC, where they construct a solar village on the National Mall and compete in 10 different contests, including how well the solar homes perform in providing energy for space heating and cooling and hot water. The village is open to the public Oct. 7-16, with the exception of Oct. 12, when the judging takes place.

[www.eere.energy.gov/solar\\_decathlon](http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar_decathlon)

### 4th Annual Leadership Summit on Sustainable Design

Nov. 5-7, 2005

Fairmont Hotel and de Young Museum  
San Francisco

Co-hosted by: University of California,  
Berkeley and Design Futures Council

The Leadership Summit on Sustainable Design, "New Markets-New Solutions," is nearing the 100-delegate capacity. This year's program will focus on leading the business of sustainable design and will enlist some of the best minds in the world to discuss foresight, innovation, and leadership success strategies. The summit is by invitation only to executive-level management of architectural, engineering and design firms. Speakers include such notables as William McDonough, Sarah Susanka, Art Gensler, David Gottfried, Richard Farson, and others. Our two exciting venues will include the historic Fairmont San Francisco Hotel and the new de Young Museum by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Herzog and de Meuron.

The summit of 100 delegates is nearly at capacity. For information on obtaining an invitation, contact [sboling@di.net](mailto:sboling@di.net).

### Residential Design 2006

April 5-6, 2006

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston  
The Boston Society of Architects' Build Boston convention and trade show focuses on residential design and construction and features seminars on such topics as sustainable products, green design, and smart growth.

800-996-3863; 800-544-1898

[www.buildboston.com/rd](http://www.buildboston.com/rd)

### WorldFuture 2006: Creating Global Strategies for Humanity's Future

July 28-30, 2006, Professional Members Forum, July 31

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel  
Toronto, ON

Contact: World Future Society

800-989-8274; 301-656-8274

[www.wfs.org](http://www.wfs.org); [sechard@wfs.org](mailto:sechard@wfs.org)

## Wasting Opportunities: Planning for Waste Process Flow

I have worked with hundreds of facilities to improve operational efficiencies and increase recycling. Often, we are asked to provide solutions on waste stream issues *after* a building has been completed. The following situations could have been averted at the design phase if the design process included a discussion with the client, experts from the waste and disposal industry, and the client's employees whose job it is to manage daily waste stream issues.

A designer plays an integral role in assessing the client's needs for a facility. Often, the client asks the architect to lump waste and disposal in the plans. But just as architects and designers have great expertise in their fields, the waste industry has its, too, with a niche into the world of waste, recycling, and what most refer to as "garbage."

Garbage is big business. Proper handling makes a company efficient and boosts a good-neighbor image. Poor handling can be an unruly expense and can lead to bad publicity.

As waste and recycling consultants, we handle everything coming out the back of the client's facility that is not a deliverable service or product. One consistent aspect of design we encounter is lack of planning of the waste process flow. Poor planning by the architectural team hinders the client's ability to meet its mission. Often, we find ourselves working around the design rather than using it as a resource.

Poor design affects space, time, labor, and costs for the life of the

building. A design that takes into account how and where waste and recycling is handled will prove efficient and meet the client's goals.

Square footage, population, and usage must all be considered. Whether designing an office building, an educational institution, or a hospital, the answer is not just to build the largest-possible dock for garbage pick-up.

One school we visited was designed with inadequate space for handling food waste. This was not an antiquated school where needs are expected to change throughout the life of the building; it was new and modern. Whenever there was an issue that reassigned the janitorial staff from regular duties, the waste odor permeated the site and affected the students' ability to learn.

At hospitals, waste and recycling handling takes on an even greater role because of the sensitivity and urgency of the mission. When designed properly, multiple waste streams can be handled efficiently, while meeting the high aesthetics of a hospital. However, when designed poorly, the waste process flow can create health hazards.

Combining the design team's and waste experts' knowledge ultimately adds value to the final product. Instead of a waste issue that has not been thoughtfully incorporated into the initial design process, the client receives value-added efficiency up front, earning the design team the reputation of providing intelligent design.

**Pete Lobin** is president of Solid Waste Solutions Corp., Evanston, Ill.