



Thursday Sep 30, 3:00pm-4:20pm

Keynote: Modern Design Lessons for Hot & Humid Climates

Presenter: Z Smith PHD, FAIA, LEED FELLOW, WELL AP

Moderator: Jim Nicolow, FAIA, LEED Fellow

Modern systems for comfort are great, but we've left something valuable behind in the move towards sealed buildings that strive to maintain one temperature, humidity, and light level. We can make everyone's experience richer—and help along the path towards carbon neutrality—by incorporating ideas developed over centuries using shade, breezes, and water to offer more choices, more sociability, and more delight.

This talk will focus on built work and provocative proposals that blur the hard line between “indoor” and “outdoor”, that offer variety and choice, while achieving exceptional energy performance, especially remarkable in hot humid climates.

These strategies mesh perfectly with what's been learned about enhancing cognitive performance by improving indoor air quality, and with what we now know about minimizing the airborne spread of diseases like coronavirus.

These strategies help make buildings and communities more resilient, and work at scales ranging from individual homes to large office and academic buildings— whether our budgets are ample or modest. We can move past the debate between 'passive' vs 'active' systems towards a 'smart' architecture.