



distinguished sustainability lecture series

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Key lecture points from the Distinguished Sustainability Lecture Series

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
December 4, 2014



Bob Fox

Partner
COOKFOX Architects

Bob Fox is one of New York City's most highly respected sustainability leaders, and is the city's foremost authority on green buildings. Bob's distinguished career includes numerous honors for leadership and design excellence, establishing him as an influential voice in the architectural profession, the business community, and in service to the public sector. As a partner at COOKFOX Architects, he led the design of the LEED® Platinum Bank of America Tower at One Bryant Park, a 2.2 million-square-foot building.

In 2006, Bob was named a member of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Advisory Council for the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. The only architect to serve on the Council, he joined other sustainability experts and public policy advisers in guiding the Mayor's ambitious goals for the future of New York City. In 2006, Bob also received a leadership award, the highest honor from the U.S. Green Building Council, for service to the green building community. Among other accolades, he has received the New York City Council's inaugural "Big Green Apple" Award for Environmental Leadership and the first prestigious Urban Visionary Award from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

After founding Fox & Fowle Architects in 1978, Bob guided that firm to a prominent position of national leadership in sustainable high-rise building and urban design. Under his direction, Fox & Fowle completed more than 30 major projects in New York City. Among them was the influential 4 Times Square – Condé Nast Headquarters, which set new standards for energy-efficient high-rise buildings, received the coveted National Honor Award and the Excellence in Design Award from the American Institute of Architects, and has been featured in hundreds of publications worldwide.

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Beginning in 1999, Bob led the team that created the “Green Guidelines” for the Battery Park City Authority in Lower Manhattan. The Authority controls a 92-acre site on the Hudson River and required that these seminal documents be followed for all new residential and commercial construction. A milestone in the field, the Guidelines have resulted in 5 million square feet of LEED Gold and LEED Platinum buildings.

In 2003, Bob Fox joined with Richard Cook to form COOKFOX Architects, a firm devoted to creating beautiful, environmentally responsible high-performance buildings. In addition to designing the Bank of America Tower, COOKFOX was recently honored with multiple awards for a mixed-use project in the South Street Seaport Historic District, including a Housing Design Award from the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter/Boston Society of Architects. In recognition of its overall contribution, in 2006 the firm received the Pillar of New York Award from the Preservation League of New York State, a distinction shared by Peggy & David Rockefeller, Mrs. Vincent Astor, and outgoing Gov. George E. Pataki. Most recently, the firm became the first in both New York City and New York State to earn LEED Platinum certification for its project at 641 Avenue of the Americas, the new COOKFOX Architects “green” office.

Bob’s commitment and insight into green design are reflected in his active board memberships and service to various organizations. A special adviser to Pataki on green development issues for the World Trade Center site, he is currently a member of the President’s Council at The Cooper Union and serves on the advisory boards for the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the Harvard School of Public Health, and the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. Bob was the founding chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council/NY Chapter, and is a member of the prestigious “Green Dream Team” for Interface Corporation. Bob has served on the Advisory Board of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University, and is the former Chair of the Van Alen Institute. He has served as a Board member for De La Salle Academy since 1995. In addition, he is a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Bob has been a guest lecturer at the National Building Museum, the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, the American Institute of Architects, and the United Nations Health and Environment Conference; he has also taught at Cornell University, Yale University, and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Bob’s work has been featured in exhibitions and publications internationally. He received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University and a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Manhattan and the Hudson River Valley.

We are using parts of nature to make us feel better, but we need to understand that we need to be part of it, and live as part of it.

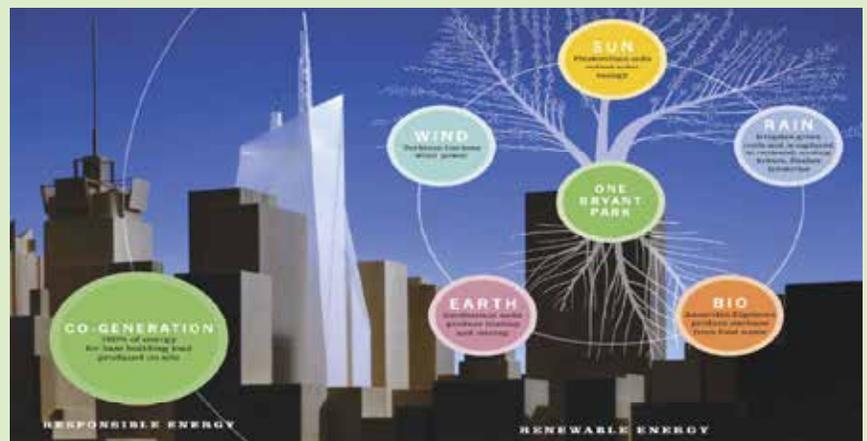


As Vietnam goes through the urbanization phase, and as cities begin to grow, the cities will be producing more and more **CO₂**.

When we start a building project, we think about “What is free?” Sunlight is free, the wind is free, the **thermal value of the earth is free.**

What we are now experiencing because of our impact on this planet is the hottest year since records were kept.

We are seeing that temperatures in the last thousand years have inclined and are now at an **all-time high**. That is being caused by an increase in the levels of CO₂—there’s a direct correlation.



Biophilia is the instinctive bond between nature and humans.



The Bank of America Tower, located at One Bryant Park in New York City, is a LEED® platinum building which uses rain harvesting to collect rainwater, with nearly zero output of stormwater into the city water system. The building also uses on-site co-generation for energy, which provides 67% of the building's total power consumption on a yearly basis—this is **300% more efficient** than tapping into traditional power grids.

Production of ice inside the building at night uses less expensive, off-peak power, and fills **44 tanks** of ice used to cool the building in the summer.

Human resources costs make up **80% of the average commercial operating costs**, so improving the building's work environment design in order to increase productivity by just **1%**—equivalent to **5 minutes a day**—could result in **\$10 million in productivity** gains per year.

Fresh air enters the building and is filtered with a **95%** particulate filter, which is cleaner than most hospitals and results in a healthier work environment.

Air cooling is done through a very low pressure system under the floor. Heat ventilation is beneath the floor as well.

Employees in the building control their own workspace temperature through individual climate controls. Knowing you can control your own environment is a huge plus in health and productivity.

To ensure access to daylight, floor-to-ceiling windows were installed. The ceilings were also made higher—**9 feet and 6 inches**—which is higher than the norm in New York City.

If we have a view of nature, we feel better—incorporating nature into building spaces as well as objects, materials, and patterns that evoke nature can create a valuable human connection with natural environments.