14th Annual

NSBAIDRD / AIA Nevada
CEU Seminar

Friday, November 6, 2026
07:45a - 5:00p PST

7:45am-8:00am
Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:00am-10:00am | Session 1
The Biological Imperative: Crafting High-Impact Places through Neuroinclusion and Neuroaesthetics
Kay Sargent, FASID, FIIDA, CID, LEED AP, MCR.w, WELL AP | Senior Principal, Director of Thought Leadership, Interiors – HOK

Every second, the human brain is bombarded by 11 million bits of sensory data, yet we consciously process only a fraction. For the 20% of the population that is neurodivergent, this sensory "assault" can lead to cognitive fatigue, decreased productivity, and physical exclusion. Designing high-functioning spaces requires more than just an intuitive eye; it requires a deep understanding of how the brain responds to sound, lighting, thermal comfort, and spatial composition.

This session bridges the gap between art and science by exploring the intersection of Neuroinclusion (sensory management) and Neuroaesthetics (the biological response to beauty and harmony). We will move beyond the "one-size-fits-all" approach to explore a practical framework that addresses how environments shape our emotions, behaviors, and well-being. By intentionally designing for the full spectrum of human neurological diversity, we transform spaces from purely functional shells into intuitive, welcoming experiences where every individual can truly thrive.

10:00am-10:15am
Break

10:15am-12:15pm | Session 2
Designing with Integrity: Professional Ethics and Responsibility in Practice
Coffee Polk, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP | Senior Associate – Cuningham
Michelle Cohn, AIA, NCARB, PMP, ICE-CCP | Assistant Vice President, Programs: Assessments – NCARB

Join us for an interactive session to discuss ethical practice in an evolving design profession. Attendees will review relevant codes of conduct and recent case studies, then analyze how public protection is harmed when ethics and responsibility are forgotten. Attendees will also explore ethical decision-making of using AI and remote work in current practice. You'll leave with practical strategies to apply in your firm for evaluating potential ethical challenges and maintaining responsible control and public protection.

12:15pm-12:45pm
Break for lunch

12:45pm-2:45pm | Session 3
Avoiding Common Accessibility Mistakes
Matt Lescher, CASp, RAS, APAC-BE | Director of Accessibility – TERPconsulting
Kirk Money, RAS | Senior Accessibility Consultant – TERPconsulting

This presentation focuses on the most common mistakes and challenges encountered when designing buildings and surrounding areas to comply with federal and state regulations. There will be a brief overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 2010 as well as any applicable state codes and regulations. The topic of "what happens if you don't comply" will be reviewed including statistics and lawsuits regarding non-compliance.

Case studies are presented for each of the common accessibility mistakes to show attendees what mistakes look like and how to avoid them. Photos and plan drawings are included to illustrate best practices. The most common accessibility mistakes occur in bathrooms, protruding objects, inaccessible routes, and detectable warnings and ramps.

2:45pm-3:00pm
Break

3:00pm-5:00pm | Session 4
In this two-part session, participants will explore emerging approaches to sustainability and regenerative design, learning how these principles can inform architectural practice and the built environment.

2030 and Beyond: Transitioning Toward Net Zero Using Sustainability Action Plans and the AIA Common App for Design Excellence
Daniel Overby, AIA, LEED Fellow, IES, WELL AP | Associate Principal, Director of Sustainability – Browning Day
Sara Bayer, AIA, CPHC, LEED AP | Associate Principal & Director of Sustainability – Magnusson Architecture and Planning
Kristina White | Director of Business Development, GRN Vision Sustainable Design

This moderated panel discussion and presentation by experienced sustainable design professionals will focus on the tools and process for incorporating aspects of the Architecture 2030 Challenge and the AIA Common App for Design Excellence into daily practice. The panelists will review the steps to creating an effective Sustainability Action Plan for small and large firms and how to inject some level of sustainable design into day to day projects with limited budgets. The expert panelists will provide case study examples of projects that have successfully implemented one or more energy conservation measures that have contributed toward reducing emissions, achieving net zero energy; as well as addressing electrification, regenerative design, climate equity, and heat island mitigation.

High Performance Buildings on Any Budget: An Incremental Approach Toward Net Zero Energy and Regenerative Design
Ruddy Rodriguez | GRN Vision Sustainable Design

This presentation explores design strategies and digital tools architects can use to establish building performance targets early in the design process, identifying cost-effective sustainable design strategies that are simple to evaluate and incorporate into everyday buildings. Performance target-setting is one of the easiest interventions an architect can make during early design — it demonstrates leadership, helps the project MEP team optimize building systems, and allows projects to go beyond code minimum toward zero emissions. Simple freeware and online resources are presented, along with the GRN Vision Desktop Companion Guide to Sustainable Design, available free to attendees.

5:00pm
Closing remarks