

13TH ANNUAL CEU SEMINAR

Friday, November 7, 2025

7:45am – 5:00pm PST



7:45am-8:00am

Welcome

8:00am-12:15pm | Morning Sessions

“Reimagining Practice: Shaping the Future in the Age of AI”

Join us for a revealing session about the future of architectural and design practice in the age of AI. This interactive session includes presentations, a case study and a panel discussion.

Digital Ethics by Design and the Architects’ Role in Responsible AI

Wellbe Bartsma, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C | Associate, Gensler

As artificial intelligence becomes deeply woven into architectural practice, architects face a renewed call to balance technological progress with human responsibility. This session explores how digital integrity can guide innovation while safeguarding health, safety, and welfare in the age of AI. Drawing from the AIA Strategic Council’s Digital Architecture Study Group findings, participants will examine how AI influences design equity, authorship, data security, and environmental stewardship. Through case studies and frameworks developed within AIA’s AI Resolution, the session will invite attendees to reflect on their evolving role in shaping a thoughtful, human-centered digital future. Participants will gain insight into how AI affects firm operations, contracts, and professional liability while learning to uphold trust, transparency, and wellbeing across both digital and physical environments.

Your Model Is a Junk Drawer: The Critical Need for Curated 3D Data in AEC

John Derkach, AIA, NCARB | CEO, BAYA

In the AEC industry, our BIM models are often treated like digital junk drawers, crammed with inconsistent data, unused families, and chaotic parameters. This digital clutter isn't just an inconvenience; it actively undermines project efficiency, leads to costly errors during construction, and cripples our ability to leverage data for analytics, facility management, and AI. Poor data hygiene can result in design conflicts, unsafe construction sequencing, and compromised building performance that directly affect occupant safety and long-term maintenance. This session will dissect the “junk drawer” or bad data problem, revealing how un-curated information sabotages not only efficiency but also life safety, code compliance, and facility resilience. We will provide a clear framework for establishing robust data standards and curation processes. Discover how to transform your models from cluttered repositories into structured, high-value assets, unlocking their true potential and paving the way for a data-driven future in AEC.

A Practical, Purposeful, and Private Approach to AI Adoption

Niknaz Aftahi, LEED AP BD+C | CEO & Founder, aec + tech

Aaron Vorwerk, AIA, NCARB, EIT, LEED AP BD+C | AEC Practice Leader, Architects + Owners, Egnyte

AI is all the rage in today's AEC firms, but many jump into the deep end without regard for the security and veracity of their source data. Further, many firms still define design technology and information technology teams separately—despite their sharing critical data. In this session, we will highlight the risks of inadequate preparation for AI, provide guidelines for establishing a digital foundation, and discuss how (ironically) AI tools behind the scenes can be used to organize and clean a firm's data in preparation for the popular AI-powered end user tools of today and tomorrow.

Case Study: How to Save \$4.5 Million with AI

Stjepan Mikulić | Founder & CEO, AI in AEC

Learn about a real and practical AI implementation case study at a 250-person interior design firm, where Stjepan Mikulić, the founder of AI in AEC, helped the company save \$4.5 million through optimizing their technology. You'll learn the 9-step AI implementation process every firm can use to adopt AI, and what surprising apps and processes the firm implemented to achieve this result.

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Moderated by Wellbe Bartsma, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

12:15pm-12:45pm

Break for lunch

12:45pm-2:45pm | Afternoon Session 1

"Top Ten Issues in a Set of Architectural Plans"

Allen Burris | Assistant Manager of Plans Examination, Clark County

Mike Clifford | Plans Examiner, City of Las Vegas

This two-hour course explores ten of the most common and consequential errors found in architectural plan sets. Each issue, from incomplete code analysis to missing accessibility features, is examined for its practical, legal, and safety implications. The course provides insight into how these recurring problems affect life safety, energy compliance, egress, and usability in the safe built environment. Participants will gain tools and context to recognize and resolve these issues during design and documentation, resulting in safer, more compliant, and more efficient projects.

2:45pm-3:00pm

Break

3:00pm-5:00pm | Afternoon Session 2

"Innovative Pathways to Low-Carbon, Healthy Construction"

Kirsten Stasio | CEO, Nevada Clean Energy Fund

Amory Lovins | Cofounder and Chairman Emeritus, Rocky Mountain Institute

This session explores financed pathways and material strategies for clean building construction, highlighting how organizations can access funding and select materials that directly support human health, safety, reduced costs, and environmental welfare. Attendees will learn about innovative financing models, best practices in selecting clean and low-carbon construction materials, and programs that make these projects feasible. Emphasis will be placed on how material choices influence indoor air quality, occupant well-being, structural safety, and environmental equity, while design innovation and funding mechanisms ensure these solutions are accessible and scalable. Real-world examples will offer actionable strategies to reduce embodied carbon, protect occupant health, and create resilient buildings.