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Lessons from ASHRAE Roundtable on High-Performing Buildings Shared in Video

ATLANTA – Early involvement by all members of the building team is crucial to the success of high-performing buildings, according to panelists in a new video from ASHRAE.

“You can’t operate efficiently if the building hasn’t been designed with that in mind,” said Don Winston, P.E., director of technical services, The Durst Organization, Inc. “The operators will always win in the end. If you don’t design it in a way that it can be operated in accordance with its performance goals, it won’t be....it really goes back to the design process and a level of cooperation. Everyone has to be in on it, including the operations team, from day zero.”

Lessons learned in sustainable design can now be seen via a free online video at www.ashrae.org/roundtable.

The video is a recording of a special roundtable, *High-Performance Buildings: Lessons from the Leaders*, originally presented at ASHRAE’s 2008 Winter Meeting.

The panelists discuss owner motivations, technical challenges, design choices and trade-offs, costs for these projects, and share perspectives about whether the expectations set early in the design process have been met once the buildings are occupied.

The panelists include representatives of New York’s best-known owner/developer firms, along with the engineering designers who bring their projects to reality. Their projects include some of the most sustainable buildings in New York City, such as 4 Times Square, the Chrysler Center, One Bryant Park and the New York Times Headquarters.

“What does high performance mean?,” questions panelist Tom Scarola, director of engineering, Tishman Speyer. “Up until even a few years ago, buildings were designed very prescriptively based on meeting codes, not challenging whether they could perform better. What we do today is called high performance but it is just good and efficient design. It is reasonable to believe that the issue is no longer if it is a high-performance building, the question is how high. Building a high-performance building means never having to say you’re sorry.”

The panelists agree that it is essential that planning for the design, operation and maintenance of high performing buildings start early and involve all members of the building team. They also agree that designers and engineers should strive to incorporate new technologies and design methods.

“Put behind you what’ve done for the last 20 jobs,” suggests panelist Scott Frank, P.E., partner, Jaros Baum & Bolles. “Get in the habit of saying ‘how can we do this differently,’ ask ‘why not’ at every turn, worship the god of common sense, and be sure every decision and recommendation you make is backed up by rigorous engineering.”

Dan Nall P.E., senior vice president/director-advanced technologies, Flack + Kurtz addresses sustainability outside the U.S. market.

“Perhaps the most informative experience I have had is working on projects in the Middle East, where the entire support infrastructure is being built at the same time as the buildings. This provides an opportunity to investigate the relations of multiple buildings to their support infrastructure and the opportunities that exist to create a complex cascading utilization of resources. The answer doesn’t lie in making individual green buildings – it lies in making green cities.”

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Building Performance Highlighted in ASHRAE's 2008 Annual Meeting

ATLANTA – The mountains of Salt Lake City provide the perfect backdrop for scaling the peak of performance at ASHRAE's 2008 Annual Meeting.

"Are you looking to advance your career?" ASHRAE President Kent Peterson said. "Or maybe you're seeking to improve performance of the buildings you design, construct and operate. Either way, ASHRAE's meeting and its focus on building performance is the place for you. Advance your knowledge by taking advantage of ASHRAE's education and technical program. Improve the performance of your buildings by learning how to apply the latest technologies that your fellow members share at the meeting. We hope to see you there."

The meeting takes place June 21-25, Salt Lake City, Utah. To register or for more information, visit www.ashrae.org/saltlake. Most events take place at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

A highlight of the meeting includes Ira Magaziner, chairman of the Clinton Climate Initiative, as technical plenary speaker. The program takes place at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at the Salt Palace Convention Center. Registration is required to attend.

As chair of the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), formed in August 2006, Magaziner oversees the mission of applying the Clinton Foundation's business-oriented approach to the fight against climate change in practical, measurable and significant ways. ASHRAE is a partner in the Initiative.

The ASHRAE technical program, with more than 100 sessions, will focus on benchmarking, establishing a basis for measuring future performance. The program takes place Sunday-Wednesday at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

The ASHRAE Learning Institute will offer two professional development seminars and four short courses, focusing on a range of HVAC&R related topics. The seminars provide guidance on complying with Standards 62.1 and 90.1, while short courses cover topics related to sustainability and energy reduction in buildings.

ASHRAE also will launch its new certification program – high performance building design professional. Candidates who earn the certification will have demonstrated a well-rounded understanding and knowledge of how HVAC&R design is integrated into high-performing buildings to achieve the overall goal of producing a sustainable design. For more information, visit www.ashrae.org/certification.

In addition, ASHRAE president-elect Bill Harrison, president of Trane Arkansas, Little Rock, Ark., will take office as 2008-09 president. Harrison will present his inaugural address at the president's luncheon on Monday, June 23, Maintain to Sustain – Delivering ASHRAE's Sustainability Promise. He will focus on operating buildings to deliver the energy efficiency inherent in their design, including effective commissioning, improved documentation, and programs to educate and certify building operators.

In efforts to leave a "sustainable footprint" in the cities where meetings take place, ASHRAE is launching a new program in Salt Lake to provide technical and financial support for a sustainable project in the cities. Beginning with the Salt Lake meeting, ASHRAE is seeking donations from meeting attendees to go toward supporting a local green project or green enhancement to an existing project. The chosen project for Salt Lake is installation of a solar domestic water heating system at the YWCA of Salt Lake City's Teen Home. The system would help reduce the annual operating costs of the facility and reduce the environmental impact of the current heating system. Donations can be made via the registration form at www.ashrae.org/saltlake.

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ASHRAE Technical Program Focuses on Benchmarking

ATLANTA – Establishing a basis for measuring performance of buildings is the focus of the technical program at ASHRAE's 2008 Annual Meeting.

The meeting, with a theme of Building Performance, takes place June 21-25, Salt Lake City. For more information or to register, visit www.ashrae.org/saltlake.

"The program addresses the many aspects of current HVAC&R systems and ideas for improving them," Mo Hosni, chair of the Program Committee, said. "The challenge in trying to improve systems is to move from theoretical approaches to

practical applications and identify efficient systems and their characteristics that truly work today. To meet this challenge, the program focuses on benchmarking, that is, establishing a basis for measuring performance.”

The program features more than 100 sessions on a wide range of HVAC&R related topics. These include failed moisture management, water conservation in systems, and the recently published *Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 Schools*.

Sessions specific to benchmarking include:

- Seminar 3 – Benchmarking Performance of Ground-Source Heat Pumps in Schools
- Seminar 9 – Benchmarking O&M Costs Using the ASHRAE Interactive Database
- Transactions Session 4 – Why Don't We Achieve the Desired Energy Results in Our Service Water Heating Systems – Toward Benchmarking
- Seminar 16 – Benchmarking TAB for Commissioning
- Forum 5 – How Do You Benchmark Operations and Maintenance
- Seminar 26 – Benchmarking CKV System Performance
- Seminar 28 – Heat Exchanger Benchmark and Performance Analysis Using CFD Methods – Part 1 and 2
- Forum 9 – Benchmarking Energy Use in Hospitals
- Seminar 37 – Climate Optimized Cooling: Improved Energy Efficiency and Better Rating Standards
- Seminar 45 – Issues Update II: Performance-Based Energy Labels for Buildings
- Seminar 46 – Panel of Existing Benchmarking and Metrics Affecting the Data Center
- Seminar 49 – Benchmarking the Sustainability of Mechanical Insulations: Materials Largely Ignored from a Carbon Reduction Standpoint
- Seminar 56 – Benchmarking for Carbon Analysis: Here's What's Coming
- Seminar 61 – New Rules and Tools for Benchmarking California's Commercial Buildings
- Forum 16 – Defining Benchmarking for Energy
- Seminar 67 – Actual Building Energy Performance: Measurement, Benchmarking and Labeling
- Seminar 69 – Benchmarking: New Environmental and Economic Metrics for Evaluating Thermal Energy Storage

Building on ASHRAE's work in green and net-zero buildings, the program's sustainability track addresses using direct digital controls as a tool to commission sustainable buildings, water reuse opportunities and quantifying the environmental impact of buildings with a life-cycle assessment.

The most important part of a building is its occupants. Keeping building occupants comfortable and productive is the goal of programs in the indoor environmental modeling track. These programs include air and contaminant flow, adding simulation of the outdoor, near building zone and indoor contaminant transport modeling.

In all, the technical program includes 74 seminars, 17 forums, 13 transactions sessions and 63 papers.

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ASHRAE Launches Dues Program for Developing Countries

ATLANTA - To encourage membership outside North America, ASHRAE has launched a program that provides a decreased dues structure option for individuals residing in countries categorized as developing countries by the World Bank List of Economies statistics.

The program opens June 1 for new members qualifying for full Member or Associate Member grades. Existing members who are eligible can apply on their membership renewal date for 2009 memberships effective July 1.

For more information, visit www.ashrae.org/membership. The program is applicable to more than 100 countries defined by the World Bank as low-income or lower-middle-income.

“By offering more affordable dues to members in developing countries, ASHRAE is expanding its reach into countries that can contribute to and benefit from the technology and information sharing in the Society,” Kent Peterson, ASHRAE president, said. “This will help in creating a worldwide best practices databank of innovative and successful technologies that can serve the HVAC&R community.”

The cost of the new program is \$90 (USD) per year with benefits to include electronic-only monthly access to the ASHRAE Journal and ASHRAE Insights, and the annual ASHRAE Handbook in CD format. Members in eligible countries also can pay the full membership price of \$165 (USD) and receive full benefits (ASHRAE Journal and Handbook in print). The program is part of ASHRAE's strategic plan, which calls for reaching global goals through increased membership. This reduced fee structure ensures that ASHRAE membership is fiscally feasible for potential members worldwide. A shift in membership benefits for this dues structure enables ASHRAE to offer this program while allowing the Society to remain financially healthy, ensuring many years of continued service to its diverse membership worldwide, according to Peterson.

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ASHRAE Names 15 New Distinguished Lecturers

ATLANTA – ASHRAE has named 15 new Distinguished Lecturers who provide ASHRAE chapters with noted authorities who speak on relevant topics that impact the HVAC&R industry.

This marks the 12th year of the Distinguished Lecturer Program. The new lecturers and their areas of expertise are:

- Roberto Aguilo, Estuido Ing. Aguilo and Asso., Buenos Aires, Argentina – *The Refrigeration Process in the Food Industry; Supermarket Refrigeration Systems and Sustainability; and Refrigerant Flow Control Methods in Industrial Refrigeration.*
- Robert Baker, RGB Group, Ruskin, Fla. – *Green Maintenance Needed to Keep HVAC Systems Green; Standard 180: A New Approach to HVAC System Maintenance; and Excellence in HVAC System Hygiene: a Wise Investment.*
- Dru Crawley, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. – *Advanced Energy Design Guides; Are High Performance Buildings Really Performing?; Future Trends in Buildings and Energy Simulation; Energy Plus, DOE's New Generation Building Energy Simulation Program; and Impacts of Climate Change and Urbanization on Future Building Performance.*
- Gordon Holness, P.E., consulting engineer, Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich. – *Energy Conservation in Existing Buildings; Standard 100-2006, Energy Conservation in Existing Commercial Buildings; ASHRAE and Building Information Modeling: Where Are We at and Where Are We Going?; and Business Management and Operational Metrics for Engineers.*
- K.S. Kannan, Ph.D., P.Eng., Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur – *Code of Practice for Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings; Design Features of Energy Efficient Building Construction in Malaysia; and Malaysia Industrial Energy Efficiency Improvement Project: Experiences and Lessons Learned.*
- Marlene Linders, Philders Group International, Heathrow, Fla. – *Infection Control Risk Assessment 101: Understanding the Basics of Liability and Risk During Health Care Construction; and Preparing for the Unthinkable: Seven Components in Preparing for Business Continuity in the Advent of a Pandemic.*
- Merle McBride, Ph.D., P.E., Owens Corning, Granville, Ohio – *Advanced Energy Design Guides.*
- Tim McGinn, P.Eng., Cohos Evamy, Calgary, Alberta, Canada – *A Green Building Primer; Low-Impact Mechanical Systems; Setting Fees for Profitable Green Building Projects; Participating in the Integrated Design Process; and European Technologies and Their Application in North America.*
- Dan Nall, FAIA, P.E., Flack + Kurtz, New York, N.Y. – *Advanced Energy Design Guides; Thermally Active Floors for Space Conditioning; and Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis for Building Comfort Systems Design.*
- Vincent Sakraida, P.E., Merrick and Co., Denver, Colo. – *Cleanroom Design in 10 Easy Steps; Designing Bio-Containment HVAC Sequence of Operations to Fail; and Mechanical Systems Commissioning Fundamentals.*
- S.A. Sherif, Ph.D., University of Florida, Gainesville – *Ice Fog and Psychrometrics: the Missing Link in Industrial Freezer Design.*
- Kecha Thirakomen, EEC Academy, Bangkok, Thailand – *Stabilizing Chilled Water Distribution; Why the Building has to be Airtight; and Case Study: the New Government Center Project, Bangkok.*
- Silvio Toro, Refrigeraton Engineering Co., Bogota D.C., Colombia – *Construction Characteristics of Refrigerated Spaces; Mid- and Low-Temperature Equipment; Biochemical Refrigerants; Cooling and Freezing Periods of Agricultural Products; Fruit and Vegetable Cold Chain; Ammonia Recirculation Systems, Refrigeration Cycles P-H Diagram; and Energy Saving in Commercial Parallel Refrigeration Systems with LPA Liquid Amplification.*
- Terry Townsend, P.E., Townsend Engineering, Chattanooga, Tenn. – *ASHRAE: Leading the World to an Independent and Sustainable Future; Sustainable Applications That Work; Advanced Energy Conservation and IEQ Design Guidance and Applications; and Building Performance: Tools, Metrics and Protocols for Global Applications.*
- Gildardo Yanez, Refrigerantes Tlalnepantla SA de CV, Mexico City, Mexico – *Ozone Depletion and Global Warming.*

The new lecturers will serve a two-year term beginning in July. There are 61 Distinguished Lecturers for 2008-09.

Please visit www.ashrae.org/DistinguishedLecturers for a complete listing of lecturers and detailed procedures to arrange a lecturer visit. For additional information, contact Rosy Douglas, manager of chapter programs, at rdouglas@ashrae.org or 404-636-8400.