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FORUM 2001 integrates the annual conferences of the American Solar Energy Society, the 26th National Passive Solar Conference, the AIA's COTE Symposium, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Solar Energy Conference, and SOLTECH 2001.

Keynote speakers at Forum 2001 will be Sam Wyly, a pioneering entrepreneur who will discuss marketing "green" electricity by converting utility monopolies to free markets and architect Ed Mazria of Mazria Riskin Odems Inc., an internationally recognized expert in climate-responsive design.

Earth Day Events Nationwide

All over the country, architects will be spreading the word about their many and varied approaches to sustainable design.

Earth Day New York, actually scheduled for May 1-2, will focus on environmentally responsible solutions to anticipated electricity shortages; financial incentives that underwrite energy efficiency, renewables, and resource conservation; and programs and tools available to help achieve high-performance buildings.

Acknowledging the importance of considering a building's entire life cycle in the energy calculation, Earth Day New York, subtitled, "Buildings, Economics & the Environment," will offer workshops in two separate tracks, one for designers and developers, and the other for building owners and managers. The emphasis will be on how saving energy and protecting the environment can also be financially beneficial.

A continent away from that metropolis, architecture students at the University of Oregon are planning a conference with a different theme. "Fostering Environmental Literacy," the seventh annual Eco-Design Arts Conference will look at the role of designers

Montana State University's Remote Studio will learn about relationships between building and ecology through a design/build project.

Photo: Lori Ryker



The Remote Studio reminds students why it's important to keep hands off the natural environment even while constructing human habitat.

Photo: Lori Ryker



Miller/Hull designed the new 170,000-square-foot (15,800-square-meter) Patagonia Distribution Center and Office Facility in Reno, Nevada.

Photo: David Wakely Photography

Conference will look at the role of designers in nurturing relationships between people and their global ecosystems.

Their conference activities will include a design charrette, lectures on the principles of sustainable architectural and landscape design, and workshops on alternative building technologies such as bamboo construction and small-scale photovoltaics.

One of several keynote speakers will be Lori Ryker, from Montana State University, who will describe The Remote Studio. As its director, her goal is to teach architecture students how creative acts can be inspired by first-hand experiences in the natural world.

A demonstration "Green Builder" house in Austin by the CMPBS was built of compressed-earth block walls. To the right are cisterns to collect rainwater.

Photo: Paul Bardagjy

Following the lead of the Rural Studio of Samuel Mockbee, the Remote Studio immerses students in the Montana wild lands where they explore ecological design through a design/build project for a client.

Click on thumbnail images
to view full-size pictures.

The Greening of Seattle

Architects in Seattle will celebrate with their "What Makes it Green?" conference on sustainability. The AIA Seattle COTE and the City of Seattle will cosponsor an exhibition of regional "green" buildings and seminars focusing on sustainability in building industry practices.

Keynote speaker Pliny Fisk III, director of the Center For Maximum Potential Building Systems (CMPBS) in Austin, Texas, will talk about "Architecture as if the Future Mattered."

CMPBS is a an architecture firm that specializes in open building systems incorporating life cycle design and ecologically balanced land use master planning. They also develop sustainable guidelines and policies, educational materials, and environmental benchmarking tools.

Fisk will present three built CMPBS projects that demonstrate how a building can