



Sunlight is Life!

The Path to a Sustainable Future

a visual presentation by Steven J. Strong,
President of Solar Design Associates

The last two decades have brought significant changes to the design profession. In the wake of traumatic escalations in energy prices, shortages, embargoes and war along with heightened concerns over pollution, environmental degradation, climate change and resource depletion, awareness of the environmental impact of our work as design professionals has dramatically increased.

The built environment is responsible for a large percentage of energy consumption and architects are responsible for a large percentage of the built environment.

Architects and engineers with vision have come to understand it is no longer the goal of good design to simply create a building that's aesthetically pleasing - buildings must be environmentally responsive as well. Rather than merely using a little less non-renewable fuels and creating less pollution, buildings of the 21st century will rely on renewable resources to produce some and, eventually, all of their own energy.

One of the most promising renewable energy technologies is photovoltaics. Photovoltaics (PV) is a truly elegant means of producing electricity on site, directly from the sun, without concern for energy supply or environmental harm. These solid-state devices simply make electricity out of sunlight, silently with no maintenance, no pollution and no depletion of materials.

There is a growing consensus that distributed photovoltaic systems that provide electricity at the point of use will be the first to reach widespread commercialization. Chief among these distributed applications are PV power systems for individual buildings.

Interest in the building integration of photovoltaics, where the PV elements actually become an integral part of the building, often serving as the exterior weather skin, is growing world-wide. PV specialists and innovative designers in Europe, Japan and the US are now exploring creative ways of incorporating solar electricity into their work. A whole new vernacular of Solar Electric Architecture is beginning to emerge.

Steven will present a highly visual world overview of Solar Electric Architecture using the best built examples of solar-powered residences and commercial-scale buildings from Europe, Japan and the US. These early PV-powered buildings provide a window into the coming new era of environmentally responsive, energy-producing buildings where this elegant, life-affirming technology will become commonplace as an integral part of the built environment.

Sunlight is Life weaves technology, politics and social policy together with humor and compelling graphics to clearly demonstrate that the end of the era of cheap oil is upon us, that renewable energy is ready here and now and, to help define the path to a sustainable future in the post-petroleum world.

This program has been pre-approved by the American Institute of Architects for professional continuing education credits in the Health, Safety and Welfare area.

Bio on Steven Strong:

The program is presented by **Steven J. Strong**. He is **President of Solar Design Associates, Inc.**, a group of Architects and Engineers dedicated to the design of environmentally responsive buildings, and the engineering and integration of renewable energy systems which incorporate the latest in innovative technology.

He founded the firm in 1974 after serving as an energy-systems engineering consultant on the Alaskan pipeline where he became convinced there were easier, less-costly, more environmentally desirable ways to provide comfort and convenience to the consumer than "going to the ends of the earth to extract the last drop of fossil fuel".

Drawing on his background in architecture and engineering, he has earned the firm an international reputation for the pioneering integration of renewable energy systems - especially solar electricity - with environmentally responsive building design.

Over the last 25 years, he has designed dozens of homes and buildings powered by solar electricity. In 1984, working with New England Electric, he completed the world's first PV-powered neighborhood in central Massachusetts. In 1996, he worked with Olympic village architects to power the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta with solar electricity using the world's largest roof-top PV power system. His firm consults to private and public clients and architects in the design of solar-powered buildings as well as to industry on product development for building integration.

He has represented the US on the International Energy Agency's expert working group on Solar Electricity in the Built Environment for the past 8 years and has served as an advisor on energy and environmental issues to 3 Governors, 8 US Senators and 4 presidential candidates as well as a number of electric utilities.

He is the author of The Solar Electric House and Solar Electric Buildings, an Overview of Today's Applications and the editor and contributing author of Photovoltaics in the Built Environment, a Design Guide for Architects and Engineers as well as contributing author to Photovoltaics in Buildings and Building with Photovoltaics.

Articles about him and his work have appeared in some 100 publications including TIME Architecture, Architectural Record, Environmental Design and Construction, World Architecture, Popular Science, Spectrum, Wired, Forbes, New Age, Fortune and Business Week and on television and in energy and environmental documentaries.

Steven received the first 'Inherit the Earth Award' from Connecticut College in 1993 for his 'pioneering work in furthering sustainable energy'. In the spring of 1999, TIME magazine named him an 'Environmental Hero of the Planet'. In the spring of 2001, the American Solar Energy Society honored him with its Charles Greeley Abbot award - for lifetime achievement in advancing solar energy. In the spring of 2003, the Audubon Society named him its 'Environmental Entrepreneur of the Year'.

In the summer of 2002, Steven designed and oversaw the installation of three solar energy systems at the White House in Washington, DC. He has recently completed the design and oversaw the installation of a new 'solar skin' for the US Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

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