

PRESS RELEASE

**LOS ANGELES, June 11, 2008** - Sustainable Dialogues III symposium at A+D Museum. Following Sustainable Dialogues I, a symposium held in Bangkok in June 2007, and Sustainable Dialogues II, held in Panama in November 2007, Sustainable Dialogues III will bring together individuals from the former panels to meet various architects and planners in the United States. The goal is to bring together the most critical voices of individuals from Asia and Latin America, who have contributed to new dialogues between catastrophic events, ecology and the role of design in reconstruction efforts, with US planners and architects contending with local issues of similar nature. The 2007 symposiums played a central role in establishing an impressive network of people from around the globe. In this sense, disasters have provided a new opportunity for American architects and planners to meet and converse with people from various metropolitan locales to work together in developing new alternative urban planning strategies.

Sustainable Dialogues III, to take place on June 28, 2008 at A+D Architecture and Design Museum in Los Angeles will bring together the most critical individuals working in Asia, Latin America and the United States to continue this unprecedented forum of architects, planners and environmentalists discussing the reconstruction effort currently underway in Southeast Asia following the tsunami, Panama following the return of the Panama Canal to Panama, and New Orleans and the Gulf Coast following Katrina. The Asian participants play a critical role in this dialogue by bringing years of experience in working on the reconstruction following the tsunami as well as new research concerning global warming, rising waters and Southeast Asian coastal cities. The South American participants bring a unique perspective on "reconstruction" with the various concerns for ecology in the planning efforts of Panama following the return of the canal. The American participants include a long list of people who have been devoted to the reconstruction efforts in New Orleans over the past two years. This is a unique opportunity to bring people from different experiences together to engage in an international dialogue on disasters, reorganization of territories, ecology and on new strategies for developing sustainable planning. Sustainable Dialogues III will provide a forum and help foster an exchange of ideas between Americans architects and planners and individuals working around the world.



## SYMPOSIUM

Sustainable Dialogues III: Disaster, Reconstruction and Design

June 28, 2008 at A+D Architecture and Design Museum > Los Angeles

From the catastrophic impact of the tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, to the relinquishing of control of the Panama Canal by the U.S. to Panama, an incredible outpouring of international response from architects and environmentalist has resulted in a wide-range of alternative sustainable design strategies and proposals. These devastating global political and ecological upheavals emerging in the 21st century, that are resulting in massive reconfigurations of urban and natural territories, have given rise to new collaborative efforts by innovative architects and experts on sustainability, design, and planning from around the world that are working to develop new strategies relevant for the planning processes currently underway in New Orleans, Southeast Asia, Panama and many other places.

What role should sustainable architecture and urban design play in the on-going process of recovery, reconstruction and planning for the future? Given the range of catastrophic events currently unfolding around the globe, this symposium will consider the larger context of environmental changes in ecological patterns, ranging from tsunamis to hurricanes to the reunification of formerly politically divided urban territories. What impact do these processes have on the reorganization of the natural and man-made landscapes and the role the design community can play in initiating changes? The importance of collective thought and action, drawn from various regions of the globe, mark the emergence of new strategies for imagining the reconstruction of the contemporary city as an alternative and sustainable form of urbanism.

Symposium Organizers: Anthony Fontenot and Christian Ditlev Bruun

Symposium Sponsors: U.S. Department of State  
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