
ECOLOGICAL LITERACY AND THE EDUCATION OF DESIGNERS

Co-chairs: Mary Guzowski, University of Minnesota and
Joyce S. Lee, AIA Committee on the Environment

Key Panelist:

DAVID ORR, PH.D.
Oberlin College

Respondents:

MARVIN ROSENMAN
Ball State University

JAMES WINES
The Pennsylvania State University

Session Summary

MARY GUZOWSKI
University of Minnesota

JOYCE S. LEE
AIA Committee on the Environment

Is it possible that “...all education is environmental education” as proposed by David Orr in *Ecological Literacy*? The “Environment Session” of the 89th Annual Meeting of the ACSA explored the cultural and environmental implications of ecological design literacy. Dr. David Orr, Director of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College presented the following paper, which challenged design educators to broaden their understanding of ecological design education and practice. Professors Marv Rosenman (Ball State) expanded the conversation to include findings from the EASE Project (Educating Architects for a Sustainable Future), while James Wines (Penn State) explored the intersections between ecology and de-

sign aesthetics (based on his recent book entitled *Green Architecture*). The session highlighted the need for ACSA to take leadership in developing an explicit agenda for addressing ecological literacy in design education. It is clear that the design professions need to become more ecologically literate. We need to change the way we design, build, live, and work. We need to prepare students to be leaders and stewards of new methods of thinking and creating. Dr. David Orr and Professors Marv Rosenman and James Wines emphasized that it is time for ACSA and architectural educators to design new models of education that support all of life.