



ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • ENVIRONMENTAL • SURVEY



PROJECTS

URBAN BICYCLE PLAN

The [City of Seattle's Bicycle Master Plan](#) is designed to improve safety and create a network of bicycle facilities throughout the city. Otak, as a member of the plan's implementation team, began road striping plans this summer for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) work crews. Working with officials from SDOT, Otak used research from the City of San Francisco and the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to develop a working set of design standards. This phase focuses mainly on the dimensional layout of each road and intersection, as well as the location of the centerline and parking spaces. This project also utilizes cost-saving methods such as using construction crews already on the city payroll and applying paint to existing roadways instead of more costly solutions that might have included full topographic surveys or heavy construction. The city's new system of bike paths will include dedicated off-road trails, on-street bicycle lanes, and shared-use lanes that will locate 95 percent of Seattle's residents within a quarter mile of a bicycle facility. Read more about Seattle bike trails [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER IN KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON-A GREEN LEARNING MONTH





The whole community has come together to bring sustainability to everyone in and around [Kirkland, WA](#). Check out the [online calendar of events](#) to see the many offerings—from an EXPO held at Lake Washington Technical College to an ecological Cascadia Day at Cascadia Community College, and from a downtown street dance to diverse educational sessions. The EXPO will feature as Master of Ceremonies, John Bruce (TV's "While You Were Out"), and a tour of green projects is being organized by the Urban Land Institute. The [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) provided funding to the [Kirkland Chamber of Commerce](#) to help it expand sustainability information to a larger audience. As a member of the Kirkland Chamber, Otak has been a participant in the planning for this event as part of our continuing commitment to the communities in which we have offices. There's still time for your company to participate in the EXPO with a booth or by teaching a seminar; just fill out the appropriate [online form](#).

KING COUNTY INSTALLS PERVIOUS CONCRETE



Installation of pervious concrete sidewalk near Federal Way, Washington

Adam Braun and Jeremy Andrews, engineers-in-training in Otak's Kirkland office, recently attended a pervious concrete demonstration pour in King County, Washington. Hosted by the County's department of transportation, the porous concrete placement in South King County, near Federal Way, is part of an intersection improvement project. The pervious concrete in this project, used for sidewalks, is designed to improve stormwater management along with an onsite bioretention rain garden. For more information [click here](#).

PEOPLE

BJ Montoya - LEED AP



[BJ Montoya](#), an architectural designer in Otak's Seattle office, has been a [LEED Accredited Professional](#) since September 2006. He also walks his environmental talk in his off-hours. Last year, BJ moved into a certified green condominium on Capitol Hill in Seattle. And in July this year, he successfully participated in the City's [One Less Car Challenge](#). This program promotes a "car diet" for a month or getting rid of your car altogether. The City offers incentives such as \$50 of FlexCar use or a discount on membership to the Cascade Bicycle Club. To join BJ, [sign up here](#).

READING

THE WORST AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER



Seattle author, Timothy Egan, chronicles one of the worst environmental disasters in the history of the world, and the most damaging ever seen in the United States. "The Worst Hard Time" is the story of survivors of the [Dust Bowl](#), where 850 million tons of topsoil blew away for ten years off the grassland plains of the American Midwest. To read a review [click here](#). To listen to Egan read excerpts on National Public Radio from his book, [click here](#). To hear audio remembrances from the Living History Farm [click here](#).

RESOURCES

TAKE A WALK

Looking for a new place to live/work? Interested in its walkability? Just type in an address to obtain a "Walk Score" on this [website](#). To see examples of good versus poor walking situations, [click here](#).

GREEN BUILDING GUIDELINES 5TH EDITION PUBLISHED



The [Sustainable Buildings Industry Council](#) (SBIC) has issued the fifth edition of its popular [Green Building Guidelines: Meeting the Demand for Low-Energy, Resource-Efficient Homes](#). The easy-to-read, builder-friendly text provides basic concepts, resources, and design strategies. For the first time, the book includes NAHB's Model Green Home Building Guidelines on a CD-ROM as a resource for local home building associations looking to start a green building program in their area. The new Fifth Edition also features a USGBC LEED for Homes rating system checklist, a discussion of the Whole Building Approach, and expanded acoustics coverage. True to sustainable principles, the book is available as a [download purchase](#). SBIC was a partner in the development of the [Whole Building Design Guide](#) that was the first ever electronic portal for free access to an integrated design approach for creating successful high-performance buildings.

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN?

SMALL OFFICE CAN MAKE BIG COMMITMENT

Otak's [Carbondale office](#), a small office in Colorado, highly values sustainability in the environment as well as in its projects. Carbondale recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, paper (office and news), magazines, and cardboard. The staff is also in the process of starting an organic collection bin in the office that can be taken to a local composting group. They hold lunch hour meetings on sustainability topics such as viewing a proceedings video from last year's [GreenBuild Conference](#). Their cleaning company uses only environmentally-friendly products, and 50 percent of the office bikes to work on a daily basis!

SIDING CHOICES COMPARED: VINYL VERSUS FIBER CEMENT

Connie McCullah, a design-build specialist, compares vinyl siding versus fiber cement siding in The Green Home Guide [here](#).

NEWS

WHAT'S NEWSWORTHY @ OTAK

DINING ON THE YARD



Photo by Carl Young, Director of Communications and Marketing at CCC.

[Cascadia Community College](#) (CCC) in Bothell, WA, took a novel approach to clearing land adjacent to its new green building. A herd of goats was brought in to eat its way through extensive blackberry brambles to make construction access easier for the Center for Global Learning and the Arts. Another, larger herd is coming in to clear yet another area that will be used as the construction lay-down site. It's just one step in the college's wholesale plan for adopting carbon-neutral strategies. Dee Sliney, director of capital projects and auxiliary services at CCC, says that using the goats significantly reduces the use of gas-powered equipment and in-house grounds-crew time. Scheduled for occupancy in Fall 2009, the building will be certified as the first [LEED green building](#) on campus. As the site civil engineer on the project, we'll keep you posted on its progress. For more information on renting goats to clear land in the Seattle area [click here](#).

SEATTLE COMPANIES RECYCLE ORGANICS AND FOOD WASTE



[Green Scene](#) members recycle their organics and food residuals, reducing the amount of waste going into landfills. Companies all over the Seattle area rescue valuable material that would otherwise be wasted in the garbage. These organics are recycled into rich, earth-friendly compost made in [Cedar Grove Composting's](#) state of the art system. Participating restaurants, grocery stores, and hotels are

scattered around town and on the eastside of Lake Washington. Schools, hospitals and corporations are also participating. Puck's, a small luncheon counter in Benaroya Hall, across from our downtown Seattle office, even provides [compostable eating utensils](#) in addition to composting its food waste.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS CELEBRATE GREEN DESIGN, TOO

Commercial and industrial designers are also going green. This year's [International Design Excellence Awards](#) (IDEA) from Business Week magazine reflect this trend by featuring some environmentally-friendly choices. A few examples:



The LEAF is an environmentally responsible task lamp from Herman Miller's. LEAF uses LEDs, which consume 40 percent less energy than compact fluorescent bulbs and last 10 times as long. It contains 37 percent recycled materials, while 95 percent of its material content is recyclable.



Roll n Roll are portable, personal chopsticks that reduce the use of disposable chopsticks, which in turn will lessen the consumption of precious natural resources. They are made of a thin metal slice that can be rolled vertically to form a straw or chopstick, or horizontally into a small cylinder that coils around the wrist like a bracelet.



The Mountain Sneaker uses earth-conscious materials and construction methods and received a Green Index rating (a sustainability rating system that assesses the environmental impact of products) at least 50 percent better than comparable products. The Mountain Sneaker was granted the Backpacker magazine 2007 Green Award.



The Tesla Roadster from [Tesla Motors](#) is a high-performance, electric-powered sports car that achieves the equivalent of 135 mpg. It produces zero emissions and has a 250 mile range on a single charge, as well as 0 to 60 mph in 4.0 seconds. More than 320 people have reserved a car without having driven it (and, in some cases, without having physically seen it), proving that electric vehicles do not have to be slow, boring, or ugly.

To read the article [click here](#).

AN ORGANIC CAR, ALMOST



Reliable Plant magazine reports that students at the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK, have built a car using botanical materials for almost everything except the frame and engine. The open-wheel, single-passenger car features a body made from hemp, tires that began on a potato farm, and brake pads from a cashew tree. Project manager Ben Wood claims the car can get up to 150 mph "given a long straight and a tailwind." Next, Wood hopes, is a race car that is "95 percent biodegradable or recyclable." [Click here](#) to read the article.



COMMENTS SOLICITED ON NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD

The draft national standard for [green home building](#) is available for comment until September 24. The National Association of Home Builders is working with the International Code Council to create the standard, choosing a consensus committee representing a broad spectrum of builders, code and government officials, energy experts, suppliers and industry consultants. The committee hopes to ensure that the standard can be adapted regionally, and that green building practices remain flexible, reflecting the area of the country where the homes are being built. For Public Comment Form [click here](#).



EPA LISTS TOP 25 GREEN POWER PURCHASERS

The Environmental Protection Agency lists the top 25 largest purchases of green power—from solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact hydropower, biomass, and biogas generation—among EPA Green Power Partners. Combined, these purchases amount to 6.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually, which is more than 60 percent of the green power commitments made by all EPA Green Power Partners. To view list [click here](#). For EPA's Green Power Locator [click here](#).



Photo by Wagner Christian

DISCOVER BRILLIANT

An international conference and expo is coming to Seattle this month, September 17-19. [Discover Brilliant](#) features some of the brightest minds in utilities, industry, government, and investments, who address sustainability through the lens of global economics.

FROM THE EDITOR

CHILDREN WITH AN ACTIVE FUTURE IN WHITE CENTER, WASHINGTON



One of the children of White Center, in south Seattle, is happy to have a big field in the improved [White Center Heights Park](#). She drew the picture above to tell us so. Maria is a member of [The Boys and Girls Club Southwest](#) in White Center, and she and the other kids were an integral part of a Starbucks Ultimate Park Makeover for White Center Heights Park.

During public involvement meetings, the children told adults that we should really listen to them because they were the ones who would be using the park. So when the students from the University of Washington landscape architecture design-build program designed [the makeover](#), they considered the kids' needs. Since the park is only about a block from the Boys and Girls Club, the children should have ample opportunity to play there in a much improved facility - and it should be better for their health, too. A study published in the April 2001 [American Journal of Public Health](#) reported that children were 400 percent to 500 percent more likely to be physically active if they were given an attractive place to play and were supervised by adults.

Thanks to a \$550,000 gift from Starbucks Coffee Company's [Neighborhood Parks Program](#) and a week of community volunteer effort, this park has a new life for the entire community-especially the children. It recently received an additional grant from the state of Washington for further improvements.

Otak was an advisor in sustainability and planning for this project, working with King County's Green Tools green building program and major stakeholders including the White Center Community Development Association. For Otak's help on any type of park project [email us](#).

[Robin Rogers](#)

Otak is a member of:



PARTING SHOT by Jim Brinkmeyer, Otak CAD Manager



[Itsukushima-Jinga Shrine](#) on Miyajima Island, Japan