

Collaboration and Continued Action

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The *Extreme Heat: Hot Cities - Adapting to a Hotter World* symposium came from the simplest offer of help. Two years ago, architect Brian Pape, AIA, a member of the AIANY Design for Risk & Reconstruction Committee as well as the Design for Aging Committee, suggested to me that both committees co-organize a program. I live in a northern city because the climate suits me, but summer in New York has been increasingly difficult, and I admit I'm part of a vulnerable age group. We brought the topic of extreme heat to DfRR. While DfRR's programming was more often on visible risks like hurricanes and earthquakes, this invisible threat was intriguing and just as urgent. A briefing by Jeffrey Raven, FAIA, an acknowledged expert on the topic of designing against extreme heat, became the ignition point for DfRR and an ever-increasing number of AIANY committees to embark first on a very well-attended evening program and then the *Extreme Heat: Hot Cities* symposium. Creating that event - with the enthusiastic support of AIANY and the involvement of its staff - sparked collaboration with multiple City agencies and excellent non-profits, all tasked in some way with the safety and well-being of our region's citizens.

We found that many design professionals, scientists, writers, manufacturers, and related organizations were already dedicated to the subject - in fact, many of them became symposium speakers and sponsors. But we also found their

focus was more often on relief and recovery. They were clear on how to help in the wake of a heat wave, but less on such questions as: Why do we let these events happen? How can we avoid such disasters and even more deaths in the future? What needs to change in the way we plan, design, and build - and how? How can we create awareness and galvanize action?

Those questions inspired DfRR to zero in on how to mitigate and/or adapt to the threat of continuous, ever-hotter heat waves in the region. Since extreme heat events (EHEs) seem unavoidable, we asked our sources and speakers: What does the New York design community need to do and how fast can it mobilize to do it?

The symposium content and connections are just a start, and the clock is ticking faster. We have taken a major step, and now we know what we do and don't know to get ahead of the threat. Keep up your own work and activism, and keep us all informed!

A digital copy of this Symposium Summary Report, extended symposium coverage, and a host of related resources can be found at designforrisk.com

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