

How Architects Can Improve America's Infrastructure

This is a pivotal moment for our nation's infrastructure, and one group of experts can help us rebuild to succeed: Architects.

In the wake of the election, updating the infrastructure of the United States is vital for the country—and the world. The global built environment accounts for about 40% of annual fossil-fuel carbon-dioxide emissions (CO₂). Simultaneously, the American economy and infrastructure (schools, civic buildings, hospitals) need to be rebuilt.

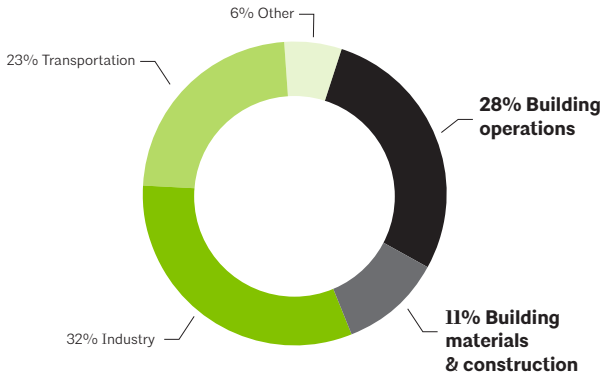
Infrastructure is the foundation of our society, and it's both crumbling and contributing to global warming.

Yet there is a solution: Architects.

Here's how they're drawing on principles like The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Framework for Design Excellence to help government leaders navigate the complexities of designing new infrastructure to improve the economy and the environment.

40% of global CO₂ emissions come from buildings

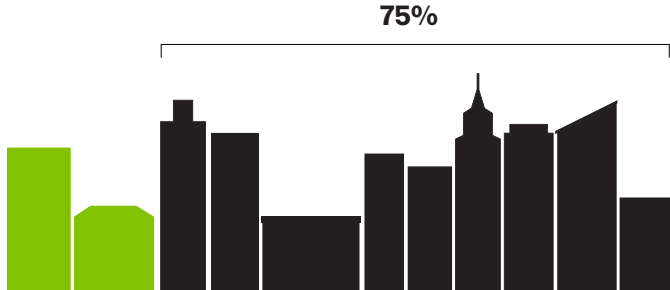
In 2003, architect Ed Mazria, FAIA, discovered that the built environment contributes almost half the world's CO₂. The good news? Architects can help reduce this number to zero.



Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, 2018 Global Status Report; IEA

75% of existing buildings must be renovated to meet 2050 emission standards

Recently, architects Julie Hiromoto, AIA, and Carl Elefante, FAIA, testified before Congress about how the United States needs to reduce building energy consumption. This includes retrofitting 54 billion square feet of existing commercial and institutional building stock.



Money saved by investing in infrastructure now

Using AIA principles, architects can help the nation's leaders pinpoint the right codes and grants to reduce costs and protect the environment.



Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2019 Report

The new Congress must act urgently to fund an infrastructure package that boosts the economy and addresses climate change, and architects need to be a part of the strategy. Working with architects is a winning solution, and it's time for political leaders to meet the moment.

Visit blueprintforbetter.org for more information or contact Kara Kempfski at karakempfski@aia.org.



The American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architecture profession. With 95,000+ members and 200+ local, state, and national chapters, AIA is the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals in the world. We enhance members' careers, their practice, and the architecture profession to drive positive change.