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Designed-to-Engage...Made-to-Last

Face to Face Connections

We were thrilled to welcome so many of our old (not aging) friends and hopefully new friends into our office on February 29th for our **Art + Arch** evening. There's a long tradition in my office to support the community and local artists. As president of the DC Preservation League in the early 2000s, I was involved with the Downtown Artists Coalition and its efforts to keep artists in the 900 Block of F Street. Through those connections, we have had the honor to feature art and custom furniture in our offices since 2008, and many of our projects include local art installations. We are proud of these collaborations and excited about bringing people back together by showing creative artwork with a sense of resilience, reuse, and sustainability. To sustain the arts and culture in our great city, we thank so many of you who came to our office and purchased work. We are grateful for the many people who helped us make the event successful. More on that a bit later.



We can no longer take for granted being able to socially connect with the design and construction community. The pandemic disabused us of that. We need to make spaces safe, healthy, and equitable. Meeting face-to-face has its challenges. Not only the communicable disease variety, but also communication - listening and seeing eye-to-eye. *Supercommunicators*, a book by Charles Duhigg noted in this newsletter, is an insightful read (or listen) that may help us all understand each other and work together to make society better. We strive to incorporate the seven dimensions of wellness: mental, physical, social, financial, spiritual,

environmental, and vocational into the way we operate BELL Architects and how we embrace each project we produce. These dimensions are interdependent and influence each other. When one dimension of our well-being is out of balance, the other dimensions are affected.

Thank you for a quarter century of trust and friendship. Let's get together again and often to creatively continue to make this place the best it can be.

Cheers,



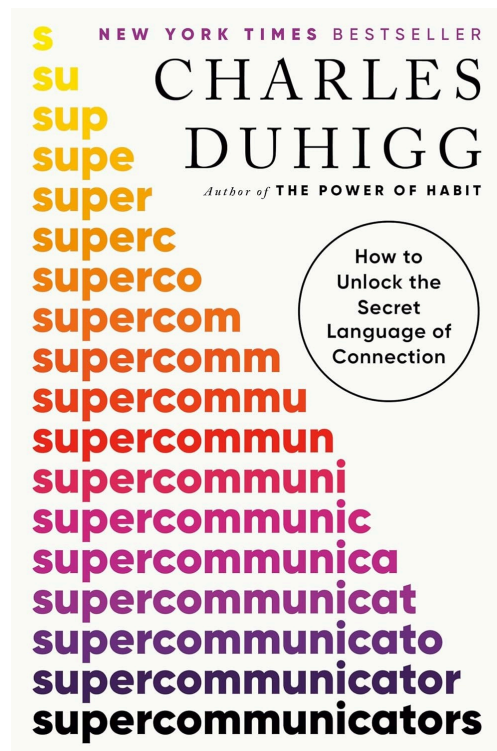
T. David Bell, FAIA, LEED AP
Principal

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We look forward to hosting [AIA National Conference](#) attendees to our office on June 6th from 6 - 8:30 pm for Open Studio Night. Please save the date, and be sure to **[register here](#)**. As architects and citizens of Washington, DC, we have the

opportunity and a responsibility to help people with informed choices towards better physical and mental health outcomes. Liberty and self-determination are critical to an individual's well-being. In the twenty-first century, there should be no disenfranchised citizens in a democratic nation, certainly not in its capital city. I encourage all those out-of-town visitors to recognize the injustice behind "Taxation without Representation". Maybe Duhigg's book will help.



Supercommunicators: How to Unlock the Secret Language of Connection
by Charles Duhigg

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER •

From the author of *The Power of Habit*, a fascinating exploration of what makes conversations work—and how we can all learn to be super communicators at work and in life.

Communication is a superpower and the best communicators understand that whenever we speak, we're actually participating in one of three conversations: practical (What's this really about?), emotional (How do we feel?), and social (Who are we?). If you don't know what kind of conversation you're having, you're unlikely to connect.

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Washington, DC



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Here are a few highlights from our show. Special thanks to Donna McCullough who did a phenomenal job curating the show, as well as participating as an artist. [The Hill Center](#) was our non-profit recipient for the show and they handled all of the sales for us as well. Thirty percent of the 6K in sales was donated to The Hill Center, and we plan to resume the annual tradition of this show.

The show included work by artists Nina Tao, Andrea Finch, Jane Pettit, Erwin Timmers, Mary Opasik, Joan Dreyer, John Henderson, Larry Fischer Alexandra N Sherman, and Donna McCullough. Following the sustainability theme, the exhibition featured art with materials ranging from recycled dishes and reclaimed textiles to repurposed tools and x-rays.

We hope you will join us next year!

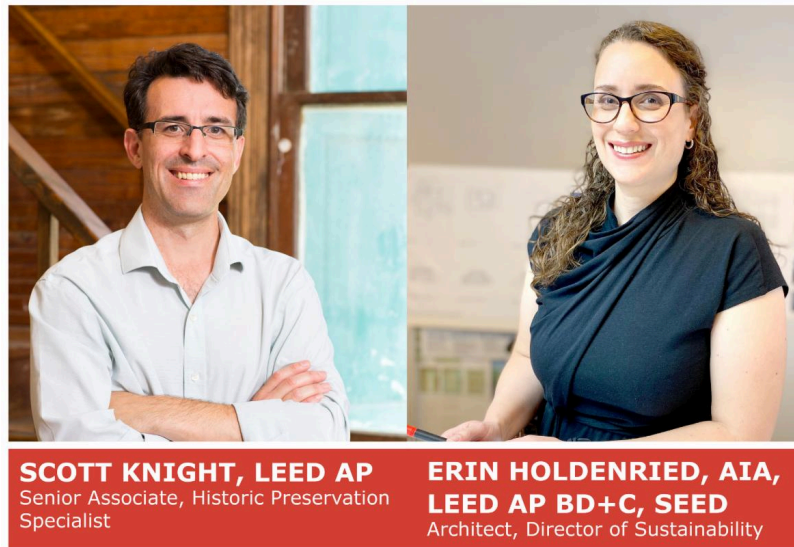




Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital in Washington, DC, is a campus for the arts and cultural enrichment. BELL served as architect for the renovation of the historic (c.1865), National Register-listed Old Naval Hospital property, completed in 2012.

NeoCon

June 10-12, 2024



SCOTT KNIGHT, LEED AP
Senior Associate, Historic Preservation
Specialist

**ERIN HOLDENRIED, AIA,
LEED AP BD+C, SEED**
Architect, Director of Sustainability

Economic & Sustainable Benefits of Saving Historic Spaces

Presented by: Scott Knight, LEED AP and Erin Holdenried, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, SEED of BELL Architects, PC

This seminar will showcase the benefits of saving historic buildings from an economic, sustainable and wellness standpoint and as a means to involve and empower the community to achieve successful results for all stakeholders. From five case studies, participants will take away specific strategies and technical advice to extend the physical AND functional life of a historic building addition/renovation, breathing new life to the

building in service the community. Input from the community can completely change the direction of a project and set the tone for the community's major investment while preventing a project from going in directions that will prove less cost effective. This seminar highlights multiple approaches to working with communities in order to maximize the wellness design and extend the purposeful life of the building. By working with the community, teams can anticipate challenges and uncover creative solutions that in the end produce a more intuitive design that can lead to less costs, better health and a happier community. Participants in this seminar will gain an understanding of how working with the community improves the quality of a design, saves the important historic fabric, while providing a brighter connection between the past and future.

Virtual CEU Session, available June 10 - September 13, 2024 [More details](#)

Register



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