

Director of Sustainability at Browning Day - Daniel Overbey | Transcript

00:00:01

Charlie: Welcome to Green Building Matters, the original and most popular podcast focused on the green building movement. Their host is Charlie Cichetti, one of the most credentialed experts in the green building industry and one of the few to be honored as a LEED fellow. Each week Charlie welcomes a green building professional from around the globe to share their war stories, advice and unique insight into how sustained ability is shaping the built environment. Settle in, grab a fresh cup of coffee and get ready to find out why green building matters.

00:00:34

Charlie: Everybody. Welcome to the next episode of the Green Building Matters Podcast. Interview a green building professional somewhere in the world. Coming to us today from Indianapolis, Indiana is Daniel Overbey. We're both LEED Fellows, but he's a licensed architect and he's the director of sustainability at Browning Day, but also a system fessor there locally at Boston University. Daniel happened to have on today how you are doing today.

00:00:59

Daniel: Good Charlie, it's good to be here.

00:01:02

Charlie: I think we're both having a great day, this gonna be high energy and cast, and the point of the podcast is to get into some story-telling and just give everybody a peek into how did you get to where you are and what's next? Take us back to where you grew up and where did you go to school?

00:01:18

Daniel: I grew up in west-central Indiana, in a little town of Clinton, north of Terrace, and studied architecture at Ball State University. It's interesting

that I'm teaching there now. It was never on my radar when I was a student, but I was there. I got my undergrad bachelor of architecture degree and then worked for a summer with Pliny Fiske and gave Tory in Austin, Texas, at the center. The center for maximum potential building systems learned a ton during my time there and then I kept going farther West. I've been there for a couple of years, stayed out in Las Vegas for a while and worked for a really great architecture firm out there. That's where I got to really cut my teeth on sustainability, and gotta take what I was learning in school. I was working in an energy lab out there with Alfredo Finances Gonzales, the director of the Natural Energies Advanced Technologies Laboratory out there. We call it a neat lab, for short, we study energy related issues. I learned how to do energy modeling, study passive solar heating and cooling strategies, and it was really fun to take that and directly apply two projects in the field. While I was finishing up my master's degree and the great recession hit and kicked me out of the desert. I came back home again to Indiana, found myself in Indianapolis, and I've been working at Browning Day ever since, and my predecessor to the director's sustainability role here, Bill Brown, became Indiana University's first director sustainability back in 2009. I came here in February of 2008, when the recession was happening, and he took a job and basically handed me the keys and said here and so on, all the LEED projects at that point and been driving it ever since, and and happily doing so. I've done some really fun things and then along the way I've had this great opportunity to do a little bit of gear switching and teach at my home-made and that's been a special privilege and a pleasure and I've really enjoyed the opportunity to do that. In fact we're doing some really fun things, Charlie. We're working on the Solar Decathlon Challenge. I was at the studio here a bit ago. We've got a couple of teams doing the design challenge and we have a team doing the build challenge for 2023. They're going through some real pro practice related issues right now, figuring out how to make that work.

00:03:39

Charlie: I've seen these Solar Decathlon Challenge and there are some really cool designs, not just net zero, but regenerative. I love what you're doing there with the students. Architecture, you got your underground and you went back to get your masters in architecture. Remind us, though, and we had Gale on the podcast, was joy to be on the podcast. Why architecture, you have some other influence. Growing up, you like building. How did you know architecture?

00:04:04

Daniel: It's a really great question too, so well growing up I worked on some carpentry work with my dad. That was a part-time job. He had off to this side and I've been doing that with him over the weekend and he really was the one who encouraged me to pursue architecture. I applied and then my application was denied, actually I did not go to Ball State originally to study architecture. I could not get in. I tried twice and I figured well that's it for me. I actually thought well if I can't do something. I am curious and I have an interest and I think I could be passionate about it. Maybe I'll do something where I could make some money instead. I actually went there to major in computer science and I was writing plus plus programming and really just set my teeth and two bunch of programming related texts. It's funny all these years later to do energy modeling and some of the technical analytical work that I do now. I did not know back then that that early work in computer science would lay some groundwork for me to have an aptitude to get into some of those technical and modeling, etcetera, later on. I eventually got in. They eventually gave me a shot and I never turned back once I got into the architecture program.

00:05:16

Charlie: I've loved that persistence. I'm going to ask the question because our listeners too, like there's some challenges. Fast forward, look at you now. You connected the dots there and went out west, learning those kinds of designs and sustainability and obviously have made quite the career here the last 14 plus years, even out of our last recession there. Tell us kind about

green buildings, sustainability LEED . When did that first come on the scene for you?

00:05:46

Daniel: When I was finishing up my fifth year in the bachelor program at Ball State I had a landscape architecture class as an elective and I met Professor John Matlock, landscape architect by training, and he told me this was back in 2005. He told me about this new fangled LEED rating system had never heard of it. As a student it was something that seemed interesting. It had this holistic framework and I pursued that and I was curious about it. When I worked my way out west I had a chance to actually work on some LEED projects and it became a back in 2006. I think it was August in 2006 and one of those got on the train relatively early. I know many got on way before that, but I like to think I was somewhat of an early adopter, but it was because of my teachers. I had some great teachers and professor Matlock, but that on my radar and planning helped facilitate that and Windom Kimsey and the folks I worked with and Alfredo. They all sort of cultivated that that pursuit of the technical competencies and the rigor that LEED and other systems prompt us to implement on our projects but was really having important people in my, Charlie that that poured into me at a time when I really needed it and whatever degree I've done anything, it's been because I've had some really great mentors and leaders over the years.

00:07:18

Charlie: I love to ask you about. I'm a big fan of mentor.s Sometimes somebody, somebody you look up to from a distance, could be something that even wrote a book, started a movement, or it could be someone that opens doors for you and gives you encouragement or pushes on you. You've named several, but is there anyone else you want to give little credit to?

00:07:35

Daniel: I'll do that thing, Charlie, where I know. I'll preface this by saying I know some really important people to me, very near and dear important folks are going to hear this and be Dan, you didn't mention me. there's been a lot, but here's a couple that come to mind. I mentioned plenty in Gale, mentioned Wyndham Kinsey, Alfredo, Ananda's Gonzales at Tony Costello, Ball State, Walter Granzig. I've worked with Walter for years. He poured a lot into me over the years, Jonathan Browning Day, and there here's many others I could go through. But there's something to be said, Charlie, about that mentality of mentorship in our profession that there's a continuum. I find myself on any given day a lot of people in my orbit that pour into me and I have opportunities to pour into others. It's a continuum, it's about relationships and it is what puts the life, puts the actual spark into what we do. Day in, day out. Some day going to be really heavy, trying to do sustainability, trying to elevate projects. We have the opportunity and in green building and sustainability, to elevate the human condition and improve the communities in which we serve, help restore ecological systems, but there's also that important quality, our day-to-day existence, of having those relationships and and those folks around you, that that can help support you and that you can point to others.

00:09:14

Charlie: I'm right there with. You have been doing this a while and I could have done it without some encouragement, mentorship along the way. I should continue to look back a little bit. What are some of your proudest accomplishments?

00:09:25

Daniel: A piece of advice that I give my students a lot is, if you have an opportunity to try to do something first, you should go after it as best you can. Doesn't mean you're always going to get it, but you should try to. One of the things that drew me to Browning Day, my predecessor, Bill Brown. He offered me an opportunity to take all this technical, analytical stuff I was doing out in Las Vegas and he says I'm working on a net zero energy library.

When you come here we've got this little town of Christian, Indiana. It's in southern Indiana with a population of about 500. They wanted to have a branch library. The only way it could be supported was through volunteer staff and they couldn't pay utility bills. It needed to be net zero. They pursued some grant and he said: all right and come join me, let's figure out a way to make this happen and I got to collaborate with Bill and that became the first certified zero energy project in Indiana, the International Living Future Institute. In addition to that, the opportunity. I think, three LEED credentials in the state and even the LEED fellowship, the first person, Indiana, to achieve that. I've told some students this too. I have a student that's going through. She's about to graduate in May. In addition to sustainability, I teach professional practice and she's going to become the first person in Indiana to actually complete this new pathway through architectural education, where you're actually licensed upon graduation. You get all your experience, all your examinations. I try to pour that offer, that advice to students, to anybody listening. If you have an opportunity to try to blaze a new trail and try to do something that no one's done before, you should try to do that. That means something when you can show others what's possible. Show that pathway. Any time you have an opportunity to try to set a new bar somewhere, go after it, try to try to do it as best you can. It doesn't mean you always get there. We all have. I could tell you just as many things on a-list of failures too, Charlie. I have an A-list. It's longer, the failure list is even longer, but you keep going after it and you'll break through.

00:11:37

Charlie: I like to give permission to those that come on the podcast to look back on the highlight right. Sometimes we're so focused on more work to do. Let's go and there's some pretty cool stuff that you've been able to do along the way. I can tell you're really proud to be there back in Indiana and a lot of these first, and they're teaching at your on the motor, if you could, before we talk education, tell us about your local trade organizations, so to

speak, like local chapter, AIA, I know that's been important to you. What is being active in AIA is also your local chapter. What has that done for you?

00:12:17

Daniel: Why do you ask that? I have a deep passion for both of those organizations. In particular, I've been the chair of USGB, Indiana twice. I'm the vice-president of Indiana, currently co-chair of our Committee on the environment, and it's a distinct honor to collaborate with so many amazing folks through those organizations. What I value in addition to this, Charlie? What we're doing, just the ability to mix it up with folks, build these relationships, do things together. It's in that togetherness, because what I'm finding out if I could work on 20 LEED projects in my career, and that's great. But what I found to be one of the most effective ways to see change is by getting involved with education and advocacy. Through the teaching we talked about the education piece, but when you can be a part of a larger movement, a louder voice and you can advocate and educate through those pathways, when you can start to try to influence regulatory change, set minimum standards. That are because everything. That's why I see many projects, things tend to want to gravitate there, limited resource capitals right. We're bound by time and by budget and all these other influencing factors, so that minimum standard really matters a lot. I think we WELL,SITES, all these rating systems are so important because if that's a project objective that becomes the minimum standard. We're shooting for things will gravitate toward that line, wherever you set it. When you're working through and up and others through advocacy and through some of the education, you can do that way. I've found to be just exponentially more effective in terms of raising minimum stand. There's changing, having more transcendent change if that, if that's making sense.

00:14:21

Charlie: It makes sense to me and I think those listening to get involved with these local chapters. We're networking for encouragement. You meet

someone people, like-minded folks, but volunteer right, don't just show up. How can I help? This is important and then I think it's validating.

00:14:39

Daniel: I built upon those comments too, because I talked to students a lot that they got their foot in the door at a firm. They need to be 85 and 90% chargeable. They just don't have the bandwidth during the daytime hours to do some things and maybe they're working at a company that doesn't necessarily support advocacy and some of that extra service to the profession and to the community at large, you can always find ways of getting involved through these groups and others, that when you get into that volunteer mindset you contribute that time even outside of what you do for work there. There's no reason why you can't get involved with that, even if, whoever your employer is, if they don't always support it day and day out, or is that they can't because things are so strained that that you always have that ability to still get involved in getting collaborate some other folks and make some things happen.

00:15:33

Charlie: Let's talk about education. You're back there also doing some teaching. What are some of the topics? Tell us all about the program and I want to excite you when you're working with the university.

00:15:43

Daniel: I teach-in both the bachelor program, the Underground program, but also the masters program. I mentioned the masters program, where I'm helping instruct studio, where it's an integrative architectural design studio. We've got some students that have been working on architecture for years and we have some career change students that have an undergrad degree in something else and they're all mixing it up together and they're working on the sort of decathlon which is operated through Israel. It's a department of energy program. It's these ten contests that you have to go through and it is not so different than when we talk about the green building rating system,

Solar decathlon as a pedagogical framework, provides this way for students to address their projects in a technically rigorous but comprehensive manner. That's also necessarily collaborative, and for that I love it. It is a really great way to work sustainability and fuse it into an architectural studio, and we've had a lot of success with it. I've enjoyed it every semester I've this is actually my my third time through with this particular studio. On the undergrad side, I'll teach environmental systems and also professional practice, and that's one of the really fun things I got to do. Charlie is a third-year undergraduate. I'm the first person they get to talk to about pro practice. What does that even mean? What does it mean to be an architect? What is a profession? Why is? Why does a profession even matter? We go through defining that and talking about the imperatives and the issues that you can affect so many students, the emerging leaders of tomorrow. They want to effect change and, through the profession, just categorized soloists, one big collective profession, through sustainability and otherwise we have an opportunity to make impact. You can't say that about other occupations. We're all making an impact in a variety of ways, but they have found a way to have the impact that they desire and it's going to look different for every single one of us. As that collective, they have an opportunity to do that and I think that it's a special honor to have the opportunity to talk with them and to address them on that proposition and try to set their sites and pursue what they care about and j try to do good.

00:18:21

Charlie: Well, if I was back taking some college classes, I'd love to attend one of your lectures here. Let's let's talk about today. What's keeping you busy today? You've been doing sustainability for a long time. They're rounding day and continuing all things sustainability. Tell us a little: peak into your data day. What's keeping you busy?

00:18:42

Daniel: In addition to all the teaching stuff I've been talking about Browning. It's interesting. I hear this unfounded narrative that LEED is

somehow on its way out, that somehow it's a lost value marketplace. I track the data and I will say for us, a relatively modest sized midwestern firm, we have more square footage of LEED certified space on the board right now, then all of our certified work historically combined. I think the last time I counted we had nine different LEED projects that are currently somewhere on the board, somewhere in development. To take the old Mark Twain line, know about being basically underestimated, being exaggerated a bit. The rumors of weeds' demise have been exaggerated. I'm seeing explosive growth as we reach 2020 and beyond. So that's keeping me busy. We actually just finished up the largest LEED platinum project ever in Indianapolis and the largest commercially developed LEED platinum project ever in the state of Indiana at the Emphasis headquarters over at the old Indianapolis International Airport site. One example of many. I could give you. I hear chatter when I get outside of Indiana. I think Indiana doesn't get its due credit for some of the things we are doing, the industry and the institutions that we work with when it comes to sustainability and what's happening here. There's a lot of good stuff happening and I invite anyone to reach out to me. I'd love to have that conversation and tell anyone who's interested in hearing more.

00:20:26

Charlie: I'll put your linkedin on some people paying. Here's what they thought on the podcast and connected in Indiana, LEED platinum. I mean sure that's the highest we can earn within the LEED rating system to someone that's listening and they're not near Indiana. What is easy? What is hard to do on a really good LEED project in your region?

00:20:45

Daniel: We get that some people really like to live in Indiana because you get all four seasons and you get all four seasons really hard. You get really hot muggy summers, you get really cold, blistering winters, a lot of folks doing sustainability in different climate regions here in the in the contiguous US, you get maybe one severe season, maybe a predominant

sort of climate scenario that you have to design for here we have to figure out these extremes and that's part of the reason our potholes are so bad, notorious potholes in central Indiana. It's designed for that. That becomes a real challenge. I've just for the fun of it, because I'm Charlie, which doesn't surprise you at this point. I'll take the same project, model it for Cleveland versus Los Angeles, and I'll look at the energy profiles and how that changes the climate region and see what happens. We're doing that. Several years ago I started to look at some of the stuff and that's why I test some theories on things and it reaffirms to me that you look at the heating degree as the cooling degree days. We've got a lot to deal with in a lot of parts of the Midwest energy energy in dealing with those extremes. That's one issue. There's issues related to renewable energy and the economic payback of that. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that some other conversations we're having right now there's a lot of chatter about electrification, but when we talk about, at least in the short-term with electrification, we are aware in Indiana that our CO₂ equivalent emissions per unit of production is not great. It's not in the upper percentile, it's put there, it's at the lower end. When we're concerned about carbon and we're trying to do what we can, that's something that comes into play. Dealing with embodied carbon like many we're trying to figure that out, working through that lot as well, but it's energy, I think in Indianapolis, where I've done so much of my work now we have an overtaxed CO infrastructure, as many midwestern cities do. There's a big infrastructure project happening right now, but I can tell you from friends I have in Milwaukee and some other cities where they've also had similar big infrastructure investments to help with overtaxed, so that every system, when we talk about infrastructure talking a lot about infrastructure lately, every system has a capacity and things will start to move toward that. They're still in need at the other end of the equation to work on will impact development and restoring natural hydrology of a site and we're trying to retain some of the ecosystem services that that our site can provide for us. An investment in sustainable sites continues to be another issue too.

00:23:42

Charlie: It's good you've covered it, and I mean energy. It's going to be the one we've got to tackle first right. LEED is so heavy on energy, whereas programs WELL, it's so heavy on-air quality right. We go to those biggest categories first and they can be.

00:23:57

Daniel: I do think that's where we're going to go next. I just read the books, been out for a bit, but I finally got to it. You're like me, you've got like a stack of books that we're going to get to and you work away from the bottom and you finally get to the other books like a year or two later. I finally got through the book: healthy Buildings, Joe Allen, John McComb that reaffirmed to me a lot of things I've been picking up on in the marketplace, which is if we succeed, even in Indiana, if we succeed in decarbonising our grid and we shift to a renewable energy, clean energy economy and start to really severely tamp down the carbon consequence of the energy we consume. We know the consumption is only going to continue to go up. If we can solve that, what's next? It's community resilience. Resiliency is going to continue to be an issue, but it's also healthy building and that's part of the resiliency discussion. I think that we are still at the tip of the iceberg on healthy buildings. WELL has been cutting that path and I think that we're just starting to scratch the surface on that.

00:25:04

Charlie: We're doing this work WELL before the pandemic hit and now it's, "Is this a healthy space or not?" To our podcast listeners, literally, in the last two or three months of podcast interviews, this book keeps coming up and Daniel says: go get it too. We've got to put a link to that book here in the show. You kind of hit on my favorite question to ask someone like you, a green building expert and enthusiast, and what's next. You've got some more wellness work we want to do, but what else are you excited about? What's next in the Green building movement?

00:25:40

Daniel: In the near-term we're up against the clock on embodied carbon and we're trying to run embodied carbon models on every one of our LEED projects, if not more. We're still trying to figure out where the right mark is on that. It's not like getting a running building, the projected operational performance through portFolio manager and getting an, and I can figure out if I'm coming up with a 100 and 12 I can figure out based on a number of factors. Is that a good number or a bad number? We're now starting to get to that point with embodied carbon, but I think we need to quickly tackle embodied carbon. I ran some numbers on projects where I get some pushback over the lifetime of the buildings, the embodied carbon isn't really all that much. That might be true, but we're fighting a battle for the next ten and 20 years, not the next 60 plus years. We're looking at what's happening in the near-term and I think that's next and it's going to ramp up. It has to ramp up quickly and that's going to take a broader effort across our collective community to figure out how to do that. We've got to find some ways of addressing concrete and some of these heavy materials that we use with our enclosures, the structures that caused us to go up. It's a prompt for all of us to invest in our existing building stock. We're talking about this on this sort of cataline project. The students were charged with one of the teams, with doing an education building, and they even arrived by themselves without having to leak out on all the green building material that you and I absorb on a daily basis. They looked at it really practically though. We're talking a lot about this abode carbon thing. Hey, there's this, this high school that hasn't been used in a few years, three blocks away from the site we thought we were going to use. Can we use that instead? They've made some contacts and did some research and they're trying to come up with something that's extremely low-carbon for this competition. I think that's a model of where we're going. We're getting trained to value that and I think it's something that we should all look at now. If there is any way of investing in that. I think it's a good thing and there's some appeal to that too, in the experience of keeping that continuity with the historic fabric

of our cities. If we can find a way to adapt, one of my favorite books of all time is Stuart Brand's *How Buildings Learn*, and that meant a lot to me when I first read it. I thought of concrete, glass and steel. The footings are pretty static, they're not really moving. No, they are always moving, they're always learning from us, they're always adapting, being changed and they have life cycles in different parts of them, have different rates of change, and that book taught me a ton on that notion with our buildings and the rate of change. I think that's never been more important than right now with the whole discussion about Embodied Carbon.

00:28:44

Charlie: I think we share that it's not just better materials and how much energy it takes, but it's also the supply chain. Greening up your construction site. There's so much there with embodied carbon and they're not too different in future. This is one of my things I'm tracking sounds like you: are. You're going to have a carbon allotment to build the building, not just run the building efficiently using carbon, but even to build it right. You're only allowed this many metric tons of CO₂, so take better materials and do a better job, or else there's going to be building permits that aren't allowed unless you have this carbon model like it's coming on.

00:29:22

Daniel: I was talking yesterday with a friend of mine, a mechanical engineer, who is heavily heavily involved with ASHRAE and the development of the upcoming iterations of standard 90.1 and that we're on to have an informative appendix or supplement that's talking about operational carbon and such. At least that's something that's being thought about and we're talking to a real high level about what that means to a similar sort of discussion that if we are to think about something like I think a total carbon metric, looking at the embodied, looking at the operational, think we desperately need that. That's Leadership by that institution. I think that's something we can all latch onto and try to get on the same page with, because that's the thing is, if I'm using to kill that we're here in Indiana, it's

going to have a lot more co two than if I'm operating in Vermont and it's trying to how we figure that out. I mean it's the Embodied and it's also the operational and the rate of change, the renovation that's going to have to happen. We still are just starting to figure out, as you said, the energy that goes into just the equipment and things that's happening on the job site. We've probably underestimated how much embodied carbon goes into our mechanical systems and electrical and plumbing. I've not seen any really great data on that yet. I'm sure it's coming. Probably get some people hearing this and no and there's this this and this Charlie just totally missed this every week. Every week there's new stuff coming out and we need it, but we're on the upswing right now, we're learning all this and we need to figure out the carbon consequence in all of these regards.

00:31:04

Charlie: Thank you for taking us there a peek into the future. Why don't we get back to talk about you a little bit more? So what would you say, Dan? Is your gift special to you?

00:31:15

Daniel: I think it's probably a really interesting question. I don't know maybe my tenacity, the ability to stay at it, to persevere, and something anybody listening to this could latch onto. As I mentioned at the beginning of the podcast, what I love to do. It's such a big part of my professional existence in architecture. I got rejected twice so many things I've tried to go after in life the door shut on me and just kept going at it. Don't. Even if someone tells you now in a really loud, convincing manner doesn't mean that they're right, keep trying and keep going at it. I think that perseverance is probably the secret sauce and I think that that translates. You don't have to be the best at something to just have tenacity and perseverance. I think that's something that we can, we can all latch onto and I've seen time and time again, through students, through peers my own background and in my own journal, that perseverance is an x-factor that's what makes a difference. Don't give up because something doesn't work out.

00:32:33

Charlie: That is a specialty and gift that's come up a few times here and it's helped you so much good. Any good habits, routines, rituals you could share?

00:32:44

Daniel: I would say in terms of routine, I like routine a lot and that makes me sound really boring. It was one of my favorite podcasts from the last several years. It's a fast company podcast and they were talking about, among other things, just productivity habits. I think my professional lifestyle requires me to be highly productive and efficient and focused, and they were talking about a lot of these people that we all look up to as these great creative minds, that a lot of times they would wear the same thing. The black mock turtleneck and the jeans, that you're kind of wearing the same uniform. Why are you so creative? Why are we just the same thing? When you see a lot of architecture you get the joke of. You can tell it in architecture, wearing monica, shades of gray and Scandinavian war know, but it's like why the same gets up all the time. Well, if you think about it, your breakfast is pretty consistent, your drive to work pretty consistent, some of your morning routine stuff pretty consistent. Imagine how exhausting it would be, Charlie, if you had to figure out a different way to drive or walk to work every day, if you had to wear something different for the next three months, some different combination you have never had before. If you had to eat something different for every meal for three weeks, imagine just the energy that would go into that creativity. That takes some creativity. What if, instead, you can lean into some routine where it can help you sort of open up bandwidth to really pour that creative energy into the stuff that really can matter and have an impact. I don't see routine as being an indication of being boring at all or anybody. I appreciate routine and I actually try to use it to my advantage. I love routine. I find comfort in routine.

00:34:28

Charlie: That's good. One of my favorite productivity in business books in recent years is atomic habits and to sum it up, you don't rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your system. I would argue your team, so there you go.

00:34:46

Daniel: That book was recommended a few times too. I've not read it, but I'm afraid this multiple time I'll have to add that to my stack. It's on the top, which means I'll get to it in about two years, but I'll get there.

00:34:55

Charlie: For that no audible on one and a half speed. For that one there's my Proti. Let's go to a bucket list. As we get to know each other better than I'm a fan of a bucket list. What are one or two things maybe on your bucket list?

00:35:09

Daniel: I've not had the chance to study abroad a whole lot or travel abroad a whole lot. I have been to Europe a few times to go to Rome and some some places in Spain, Malta, which not too many Americans find their way to Malta. I had an opportunity there when I was teaching for the Boston Architectural College and fell in love with the place and I love to sure that with my wife sometime. That's something that we've both talked about. Really wanting to do is to go to Rome in particular. That's kind of on my bucket list. I hope I can get there some day and again and in the COVID space international travel is it bit more complicated than it used to be? I've got two amazing children and I think if I can manage to help steer them to being independent, happy, fulfilled adults, pursuing what they care about, that's a bucket listing for me. On the architecture side I've got to put something into architecture because I'm not that I would really love to work on something we talk about the first again, kind of ring this back, have an opportunity, do something first on on building projects. This can be really difficult because I hear a lot of times from clients like that sounds great, but

if it's never been done before, like yeah, a lot of times Clients, he want to be the second person to do it. It's like the cost of prototyping can hurt a lot, but I think to have an opportunity to maybe be a part of a team, part of it collective that can an whether it's a building project or maybe it's something larger-scale but just to break new ground and be a part of something new in that way that would be really special just to have something tangible in that way, something that's built and that you can go and you can experience it. And maybe it's something new and creative, that's that's really just close people's minds. That would be. That would be fun. That would be that that really scratches the itch that I think a lot of architects have.

00:37:11

Charlie: I admire how you've also tired, hid in some of the work you do to your buckets, because that means you are doing the kind of work you up it really does, and you know for our listeners I don't if you've ever heard this, you can have a job, you can have a career and then you can have a calling. I'd argue, you're kind of between that career and piling and kind of even seeing what other work you want to get done here. We've mentioned a few, but is there a book you'd recommend to our listeners?

00:37:42

Daniel: Well, I want to stitch the last prompt you had with this one, because on that last note you made Charlie. I was prompted by a professor in my second year in school to read Cradle a Cradle by MC Donna and Brownward, and that was really a major, groundbreaking precursor to what we would call today the circular economy, and that was the moment. That's what made the job, the profession, turn into a calling. That's when I found, I think I had to say like, found my voice, but I found a purpose. That's probably a better word, a purpose for why I want to pursue architecture, and that was the book that I read, that really just changed everything and we mentioned healthy buildings long ago. I'm thinking like more recently when I've read a really great collection of stories by Indianapolis based author John Green: is the Anthropocene reviewed? It's

there's a podcast, but there's also a book that John Green recently released and is comprised of a bunch of essays that takes the Anthropocene era in which we all exist, and it takes very new ones, very oftentimes, very important and complex matters and gives it a five-star rating, like we do everything else any more. But it's a little tongue and cheek. But through that essay really dives deep in its very introspective and there's a lot of fun stuff, in creative stuff and just really gets you to reflect on life in the world in which you're operating in along that same vein not too long ago, and one percent invisible City, Mars and the good folks at 99% Visible, which is a great broadcast as well. Post Corona by Scott Galloway. I've finished that off in the height of the pandemic and there's some really great data: that lasting impact, the shape of Green by the late Lance Hosi. That's also been a really important book to me over the last couple of years that I've read and to think of some of the others: the Future Professions by Richard and Daniel Suskind, that also left an impact. There's probably like one book a year, maybe two books a year that I read that seem like they have this lasting impact and those are a few of them and a couple of lighter reads than others. I hope that that helps give a little peek into my interest area.

00:40:03

Charlie: Fantastic. We'll put links to these books so our listeners can get access to them and thank you for sharing a good peek into how you think, what excites you, how you stay out in front two final questions as we start to come to a close. Is there any career advice you wish to know earlier?

00:40:22

Daniel: Yes, relationships are really the most important part of everything that we do. You can be the most creative, most productive person that has an opportunity for impact. But you've got to cultivate relationships, you have to engage with others. It also adds: just think, a lot of purpose, meaning, value, a lot of fulfillment for me personally, when I think back on what I've done at this point in my career, as we've talked about on this broadcast episode, relationships, it keeps coming back to that. That's really

so important and I felt like in my education I just cared about learning about health. Buildings go together and I'm just trying to learn about all the technical stuff and I spent most of my time in school, Charlie probably too much time in the library and the books. When I got back I could have eased up a little bit. I could have spent a bit more time with some of my friends. I could have done some of that. I'm thankful for the time I've had. I have some great lifelong friends, but when I look back now it wasn't like that extra extra quarter of a tank put into staying up in the library and or maybe burning the midnight oil and studio. Though I've got some great studio experience, late night with some friends, some really great relationships for him there too. But as I look back, that's what means the most. It's the relationships and and it's hard to understand that, it's hard to feel that when you're going through school as or just a young, emerging professional. But for anyone listening to this, just offer that advice, just really place value on people.

00:42:01

Charlie: It's great, man, a lot of wisdom here. Lastly, let's say, someone's listening right now. They've heard your story and they're pumped and they're jumping into this green building movement. That's been good to you. It's been good to me for any words of encouragement for them as we wrap-up?

00:42:18

Daniel: I would say that there's always work to be done for everybody, that there's a need for more leadership. I think you look at some of the information coming out in terms of our pace at which we're transforming the built environment and we're making progress. But we're by many accounts, not making enough progress fast enough that there's always always an opportunity to contribute even if you feel like your employer is not supporting it. We talked about the service pathways there. There are organizations that would be glad to have you do the table with the unique experts and background that you have. There's no reason to not just jump

in, get on a team. I would say that the great work that I see happening today, Charlie, happens in a team, that there's a team. If you're going to look at joining a firm or company, don't chase brands, chase the management, chase the leadership. Look at who you're gonna to be working with. I just find that if you are on a team where you're respected and supported and people believe in you and you give that back, that's going to make some really great things happen. So go after that. Look at the personal.

00:43:43

Charlie: What a point in conversation to all of our listeners. First, thank you for listening to each and every week where we usually do an interview style, and today we got an interview. Daniel Overbey, Indianapolis, is the director of systemic ability of Browning Day and also and also professor there locally.

00:44:02

Daniel: Charlie, thank you so much. I'd come back any time.

00:44:06

Charlie: I want to say thank you to our loyal listeners. We are celebrating over one year here on the Green Building Matters Podcast, me and the entire team were stoked you continue to listen every Wednesday morning to a new interview with Green Building professional here in this industry or just some protist that we want to make sure that you are getting straight from us straight to you. Thank you for listening to this episode of the GreenBuildingMatters.com. Our mission is to advance the Green Building movement through vesting class education and encouragement. Remember, you can go to gbes.com/podcast for any notes and links that we mentioned in today's episode and you can actually see the other episodes that have already been recorded. With our amazing yes, please tell your friends about this podcast, tell your colleagues and, if you've really enjoyed

it, leave a positive review on tickets. Thank you so much and we'll see you next week's episode.