Scaling Sustainability from Buildings to Communities with Julio Carrillo| Transcript

00:02
Speaker 1
Welcome to Green Building Matters, the original and most popular podcast focused on the green building movement. Your host is Charlie Cicchetti, one of the most credentialed experts in the green building industry and one of the few to be honored as a lead fellow. Each week, Charlie welcomes a green building professional from around the globe to share their war stories, career advice, and unique insight into how sustainability is shaping the built environment. So settle in, grab a fresh cup of coffee, and get ready to find out why. Green building. Green Building Matters. Hey, everybody. Welcome to the next episode of the Green Building Matters podcast. For over eight years now, I've interviewed a green building professional somewhere in the world. Every now and again, I chime in a little me just discussing a hot topic. But today's an interview.

00:47
Speaker 1
Today's an interview with one of the newest lead fellows in Austin, Texas. We've got Julio on today. Can't wait to unpack his story. Julio, how you doing today?

00:55
Speaker 2
Very good, Charlie. Good to see you.

00:57
Speaker 1
Well, it was great to see you at the recent green building conference. I know you're getting some awards out there, and we just learned before we hit record that you've been on a jet plane and back to Riyadh. So we'll have to get into that a little later. What's that about? But take us back. Where did you grow up and go to school?

01:13
Speaker 2
So I'm originally from Peru, and so I went to architecture school. I got my architecture license there, and then later I moved to Austin, Texas, when I was in Peru. I actually grew up in the Andes in the mountains, but I went to architecture school in the coast. I usually have this idea of showing a little bit of dichotomy between places. I'm all about places. And so when I present my

students, when I introduce to my students, I show this dichotomy with the capital city and the Andes where I lived. And I mean, we can go into that a little bit later, but, yeah, and it has to do with a little bit of sustainability and how. How I. I became, you know, in love with finding solutions at the. The bigger scale, like cities and communities and neighborhoods and whatnot.

02:05
Speaker 1
So, okay, so Perot to Austin, Texas, and the mountains in the coast. You know, when did you first start feeling that sustainability, though? It sounds like a little bit of. It's where you grew up and probably like to get out in nature. But tell us about that again. And then, you know, when did you start seeing it up in. In your jobs system?

02:25
Speaker 2
Yeah, yeah, in my job, definitely when I started practicing Architecture here in the US and in Austin, you know, what a great place to be working with sustainability related stuff. And so when I first came in, I was working for SDG Design and I worked for what, six, seven years or so. And SDG Design was a company that was very early and heavily supporter of sustainability in general, but not only advocating for designs for the projects, but also for the designers to become lead APs. They had an encouragement office wide to have pretty much 100% of their designers to become lead APs back then. And so there was a charge by STG and that's how I started becoming a lot more sustainability minded then.

03:18
Speaker 1
Okay. And then, you know, it's an amazing city. I, I like Austin a lot. I'm in Atlanta, Georgia and it sounds like that's where you really started getting into the architecture side of things. So what kind of buildings were you working on maybe early in your career?

03:33
Speaker 2
So buildings, you're saying you're asking?

03:36
Speaker 1
Well, I know you're a planner, so have you always done planning also doing buildings?

03:41
Speaker 2
Yeah, definitely was working on buildings. And a lot of my early work was architecture, interior design, a little bit of master planning here, there, commercial office. And then later on in my career I started doing a little bit more multifamily type of thing. You know, getting into the larger scale, larger complexes and neighborhood developments and things like that. Right.

04:04
Speaker 1
So, but yeah, okay, thank you for that. So a lot of experience there. Let's ask about mentors though, before we talk more about projects. As you look back, have you had any mentors along the way?

04:15
Speaker 2
It's definitely kind of like the most difficult question to answer to pick one. Right. In my story, at least as I look back, I can say that there was no person that is, was the mentor that created a turning point in my career or things like that. But I feel there are so many people. Right. To mention in this journey. And a few names that I'll definitely like to highlight is first, Jim Sussman, the principal at SDG Design. You know, I loved his leadership style and things like that and. But people like Hector Miranda, you know, Peruvian, who was my business partner when I was back in Peru, with whom I was able to partner and co found the Green Building Council of Peru. That's back then in 2009, 2010.

04:59
Speaker 1
And so.

05:00
Speaker 2
But so many names to mention along this path. And when, for example, when I was about to post on LinkedIn about my lead fellow designation, I was not able to tag everyone LinkedIn has this limit for mentions that made me realize that there was a lot of people in this journey that I wanted to recognize to name a few more. Alan Scott, I believe he was one of the first class of fellows back when I was in Peru. He was super instrumental on starting the spark and contributing to the momentum in there. But other people like Michel Malanca, Cristina Gamboa, both of them leadership with the World Green Building Council, Cesar Lises Trevino, Felipe Faria from Brazil and I mean names can come longer and longer.

05:50
Speaker 2
So I don't want to just start naming more, but those are the few that I kind of feel like, you know, I need to definitely mention.

05:58
Speaker 1
Well, it's great to give our mentors a shout out. Some we meet with regularly, some we just see from afar, but they have influence over us and our especially our careers. Okay, so one more look back. What are some of your proudest achievements? What's a on the highlight reel?

06:14
Speaker 2
Yeah, well definitely say obviously becoming a lead fellow is one of the highlights. I have so many other recent events as well that few minutes. But one of the very proudest moments and proudest achievements is definitely the establishment of Peru Green Building Console. It took a couple of years to get there and it was exciting just to go through that journey because when I was in Peru I was one of the, I probably, I was the one only lead AP in there and when I looked into the database there was only one project, one lead project in Peru. And so after two years when you know we co founded, I started my consulting company back there. By the time I was leaving there were obviously over 100 projects.

06:58
Speaker 2
It was a very fast adoption of LEED there and I was glad definitely to contribute to that and found the Green Building Console. Right. So have very good memories and you know, good times.

07:09
Speaker 1
But yeah, those are some great achievements. So with credentials, you know, for a long time I taught lead classes. I taught well classes and you know, I love our lead fellow group. But yeah, what are their credentials did you earn along the way? And maybe there's someone listening that's like, should I go for that lead pre associate or not? What would you tell them?

07:31
Speaker 2
Yeah, I mean credentials are important of course. Right. One of my other

proudest achievements is getting my AICP certification. My, you know, American Institute of Certified Planners. I'm not sure if There are any AICPs within the lead fellows club. There might be some but I haven't looked it up yet actually. And AICP stands for American Institute of Certified Planners. Becoming a planner to me was, you know, a place where I started opening a lot more doors with high potential to continue making big impact in the world of green buildings. You know, just thinking at a larger scale and larger impact and things like that. I also had, you know, the. Before becoming a planner, I became a lead AP with neighborhood development specialty. So that was one of my kind of like the routes that make me become a planner.

08:25
Speaker 2
When I was, you know, I was doing architecture and consulting, being a lead AP and understanding that there was a larger scale to impact, it really wanted to make me become a planner. After that, after, you know, I would say lead AP&D made me become to want to be a planner.

08:44
Speaker 1
Amazing. Okay, then that gets us to present day. So for a big chunk of your career now, you've been this master planner. And so tell us about, you know, what do you love about that? Tell us about your firm and some of your projects, and then in a little bit we'll talk about UT stuff, but tell us about what's keeping you busy today.

09:04
Speaker 2
Yeah, so like I mentioned, you know, I'm very excited and passionate about the. The pieces of my work that have to do with planning and this idea of transforming at a larger scale. I'm working on this project. It's not a physical project, but it's. It's an initiative. It's called the. The Planning Challenge. And this thing has evolved over the years. And we started this with about two years ago, or maybe a little more within the apa, the American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division. And so this planning challenge was actually inspired by the 2030 challenge of AIA, you know, from the work that Architecture 2030 was doing with Ed Basria and Vincent Martinez. So the idea behind this planning Challenge is to create a voluntary way of tracking for cities and communities for tracking progress on specific decarbonization metrics.

10:00
Speaker 2
But again, following this idea that there are metrics at a larger scale, and we

created this dashboard platform where any city and community can go and track their progress on their goals. Whether these are goals in transportation plans or downtown master plans, parks master plans, climate equity plans. You know, any type of plan that has goals in it can be tracked using this dashboard platform. And so when I say that it's evolved is because when we launched the platform In April of 2023, we only had five communities participating with about 57 metrics. And now we're over 15 communities with more than 100 metrics in there. Whereas scaling this reach of the platform internationally. Right, Because I had a very special session in RIYADH what was mentioning right before we started recording, and we launched a program.

10:57
Speaker 2
We're inviting cities and communities outside the US to be part of this amazing movement. So there's a lot of stuff in there which is exciting. There is cities and communities are tracking Vision Zero bike, pedestrian goals related to or educational goals. There's university partnership goals, mobility goals, electrification goals. I mean, you name it. There's like a huge diversity of things that are tracking in there. So I'm excited about that project that I'm working on, if you can call it Project. It's an initiative, basically. Yeah.

11:32
Speaker 1
I can tell you. Very excited about it for our listeners. I've been in lead for a long time. There was Lead for Neighbor Development. I saw you pass that exam. To me, it was the hardest out of all the lead exams, by the way, because I wasn't a planner and that was tough. I did pass that one. But tell us about Lead First, Cities and Communities. Seems like that one's really taking off. So can you unpack that a little bit more? And I love the category of quality of life. Tell us more about that.

11:58
Speaker 2
Yeah. And so the idea, and I'm glad you're mentioning this, that the Lead APND exam, you know, being one of the toughest ones, because when I was looking at it when I was studying for it, I said like, oh, this is so super cool. And there's a lot of things that I don't know that I want to know. And that's why I decided to become a planner. Just reading through the lead and D thing. Right. But the other thing I wanted to mention is that green buildings, USGBC has always been all about buildings and how we treat them. How do we transform the industry of designing and construction of buildings. Right. And I have a big hope that all of us, these professionals in this industry, keep recognizing that every building.

12:44
Speaker 1
Is.

12:44
Speaker 2
A little piece of the big puzzle. Right. And so we're only stronger together in those solutions that we create. They can be replicated or scaled to become larger mass. So these solutions can be scaled from a site for a district and so on. And so more than trying to predict where this shift is, I'm trying to think, where can I take this conversation to a larger scale? And that's when my involvement with the Lead for Cities and Lead for Communities, being involved in the working groups and now going to be involved in the consensus group as well, just brings me exciting feelings to think about the immense potential of how those rating systems are going to be evolving because they look beyond the Building and can effectively make an impact on resiliency and equity of our community. So it's about everything beyond the building.

13:42
Speaker 2
We've done a great job on green buildings. Now we need green cities and green communities. Right. So I don't know if that can answer your question a little bit.

13:52
Speaker 1
Oh, it did to our listeners. Please check out Lead for Cities and Communities. There's so much more there. It just makes sense. Tell us a little more about Park Hill though. So you're on the planning side, but tell us some more about your firm. You do some other work too, right? Architecture, engineering. Yeah.

14:06
Speaker 2
So Parkhill is an architectural engineering company with 600 plus employees, most of them architects and engineers. Right. I'm one of the, my planning team now is 1, 2, 3, 4, 4 of the 600. But. And that to say that, you know, a planner is really valuable within many places, really. I mean, not only in architecture and engineering, but this is a good example of me as a planner being in an architecture engineering consulting company, contributing to their work. And so when I say contributing to their work, park has so many different sectors and practices. Like we have environmental, civil infrastructure, we have landscape architecture, we have all the architectures that focus on higher education or K12 architecture or commercial or civic, and so many different realms.

15:00
Speaker 2
And as a planner here working at Park Hill, I do touch on many different sectors, many different places, many different projects. And I go from drawing Cyplands to a downtown master plan or a comprehensive plan. So all the way, all the scales, I love that. But Park Hill is also an amazing place to be. It's a West Texas based company, 13 offices in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Like I said, I think. And so working in Texas, really with a West Texas based headquarter office, it's been always super challenging in terms of bringing in sustainability to that world. About the political conservationism in West Texas. But that is the challenge that me and other lead people here at Park Hill are pushing towards. And it's harder to work on a company that has a large amount of clients that are not sustainability conscious.

16:04
Speaker 2
But how do we actually bring sustainability into the conversation without saying sustainability? That's the challenge. It's high reward when you produce a project in a conservative political place that is sustainable project and that has, you know, when you have all these barriers of adoption and you definitely want to incorporate those sustainability ideas, when you do it effectively with a client that is not that conscious, it's a high reward.

16:36
Speaker 1
You're right. You're right. There's different motivations around sustainability. And the other day, it can also be good for the project budget, the project schedule. Going green can make money.

16:47
Speaker 2
Right.

16:47
Speaker 1
It's as much as we want clients that, oh, I've been dreaming about this. You know, there are those that you need to show. There are some laws around it, there are some rules, and oh, by the way, these are best practices that actually save you money. And it might just be energy efficiency. Right. Which I don't think a lot of us would argue with. I think the new safe umbrella is decarbonization. Right. I think a lot of people kind of say, okay, well I'm going to do that no matter what politics side this or that. And but there's still more we

could and really should be doing. So I'd agree with that. So as I understand it, you also lecture at ut. You want to tell us a little more about that?

17:23
Speaker 2
Sure. Yeah. That's a very interesting part of my personal professional life because working as a planner, you work with data heavily on a daily basis. And so a couple years ago, maybe a little more, I took a class, a post degree about machine learning and AI. And when I took it, I was like, what the heck am I doing? Why is a planner looking into this? Right. Data analysis and data science. But I was super excited that I took that class. And since then I started writing about how planners can actually impact the world of machine learning and artificial intelligence. Some of those articles that I wrote in the analysis that I did and work through that realm got published in the American Planning association reports as planning Practice working on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

18:18
Speaker 2
And that's how UT Austin program director of UT Austin actually called me and said, hey, do you want to teach this in planning in our planning school? And I started teaching because planning schools don't teach that yet. It's a new topic. And so I teach the new generation of planners how to actually incorporate these ideas and relevant solutions using machine learning and artificial intelligence in planning practice. Which is, I would say is a bit unique because if you think about it, many of the AI solutions are very personalized, you know, are for you and by you. And it's a very personalized solution type of thing. And when you think about planning, you're thinking about the common good, you know, the public good. And so how do you find or you apply or you create AI solutions that are meant for this? Right?

19:09
Speaker 2
It's, it's a different approach, it's a different unique lens to this world. So that's what I'm teaching. I hope I'm inspiring The students into.

19:18
Speaker 1
If I were there, I'd take your class. That sounds fun. And you're right. It's one thing to train a language model on. Here's what we've done forever. It's another thing to say, well, here's what we should be doing and in schema, just so you know, and I'd love to show you more of it offline is we actually only train based on your previous best practices. We don't actually create a huge language model

and share your firm's best practices over here. So we just take those BIM greatest hits, make them reusable. But you know, when it comes to sustainability, you need some real time sustainability feedback. Hey, if I go from that window system to this window system, is that good or bad? Right. We need that real time feedback for my carbon impact. So, okay, so that's kind of current. What's going on?

19:59
Speaker 1
Why don't we talk about the future? So you know, Julio, what do you think's next in this green building movement?

20:04
Speaker 2
So definitely I have that big hope again and kind of repeating myself on next step should be scaling up all this impact, right? The green buildings. From green buildings to green communities, at least for cities and communities type of thing. When I was there at the green building in la, I was talking to Peter Templeton. He's also a planner and he's also passionate about cities and communities. And so we definitely kind of like crossed paths and said we need to push the future of LEED to be a little more impactful, definitely with the lead for cities and communities type of thing. That's my feeling. At least that's my charge upon personally that I want to be pushing more, you know, taking a look at that larger scale, larger impact type of thing.

20:50
Speaker 1
Okay. And you know, you mentioned AI. Are there some other tools you're wanting to use? You're teaching about this or if you had a magic wand, what would AI do for some of your workflow? Might not be. Maybe no one's built it yet, but if you had a magic wand, man.

21:06
Speaker 2
That'S a difficult one to answer. But I would say when I teach my class and students come up with different solutions and different ideas, they're so creative that I would have never thought about that. And that's why I love teaching too. Because when I come in and say, okay, this class is about a workshop, it's about what you want to explore and what you want to create in terms of a solution for communities and cities utilizing data and AI. And so they come up with so many creative options that if you ask me what do you think could be that I cannot answer because there's so many different ideas. But my charge or my

efforts lately have been working with school districts, especially in Texas, and they have so much data available to look into. I'm looking into that.

21:57
Speaker 2
I'm looking into ways that we provide relevant solutions for them in terms of how do they serve their most economically disadvantaged populations. If you think about AI solutions, they usually re emphasize the trends and keep forgetting about the most historically underserved and those economically disadvantaged. So with the planner mind, you gotta serve that, those outliers, those that are historically underserved and so on. I would think in terms of the future, at least on my passion as a planner and working in AI, I'll try to focus on solutions that help serve those historically underserved. Right.

22:38
Speaker 1
Have to, we have to do that work. Okay, so what would you say is your specialty or gift? The next parts come with some rapid fire questions to get to know you more as a high performance green building specialist. So what's your specialty or gift?

22:53
Speaker 2
Let me think through this. I have it on a note here. I think my, I'm just laughing at reading to my note, but I've been told I move very fast and I think that's basically because if I have an idea, my brain can not stop thinking about it. I become dangerous. And I cannot just leave that as an idea. I gotta take action and make it happen. And that's exactly what happened with the planning challenge, for example. I had this idea and then I just like, you know, moved it and make it a movement. And now internationally I'm excited about that. But that will be my gift, you know, and my specialty. Just taking an idea into action and not just, you know, leave it there as an idea.

23:47
Speaker 2
You know, if that's, if that can be described as a gift, I don't know if there's a word for that.

23:52
Speaker 1
I think it's what I'm hearing is you taking enough information to move fast. Right. And you get behind decisions that are made and then just you can show people like this is where we're going to go. So yeah, I heard some kind of

leadership in there, but you know, kind of a sense of urgency. Right. The more we talk it, overthink it, like it's just inefficient. So that's what I heard. And actually that reminds me to our listeners, one of the most powerful questions you can ask anybody, whether it's your child or your Spouse or a colleague is, hey, Julio, what did you hear? Because sometimes you might have said something and they might have heard something. That's a fair call. Question. Hey, what did you hear? So I just gave you what I heard. Okay, so. So that's kind of your.

24:33
Speaker 1
Your specialty or gift. How about habits? Do you have any good habits or routines?

24:37
Speaker 2
Yeah, so habits or routines. You know, definitely that. The being actionable, taking. Taking action, you know, making your idea, convert it to something real. And more than a habit, something is like a philosophy of me is finding people that challenge you know, or the ones that don't believe in you, that don't. Don't stay. I mean, more, you know, like habit is not. It's not a habit, it's a philosophy. Right. And so I'm trying not to stay close to the ones that always support you. Well, I'm trying to stay, I mean, close to my friends, of course, and my family. Right. Don't misunderstand me. But what I'm trying to say is, professionally, those that are challenging you are going to make you succeed better, because that's the challenge, Right. If you only succeed if you convince them otherwise.

25:30
Speaker 2
And so it sounds kind of like a masochist in that sense. But I. What I really mean is that sometimes we want our lives to be easy. Right. And to be. And to me, if you want to create a movement from the ground up or something, it's because you challenge the status quo. And if you bring in a value proposition to those challenges, and so creating those value propositions are super important. So if you create a value proposition and they see it, then you're succeeding. So that's what I'm trying to say when my philosophy, sort of trying to stay close to the ones who challenge you so you can learn more about the way they're thinking.

26:12
Speaker 1
So yeah, he wants to be challenged, right? Yeah, I think we all have to, you know, be coachable and sounds like you seek that out. So. Okay, next. I'm a fan

of the bucket list. I think you were one of our recent lead fellow calls. I shared my bucket list. So to our listeners, I like to ask my guests, you know, what's on the bucket list? Any travel adventure, Maybe you want to write a book. I don't know what's on the bucket list.

26:37
Speaker 2
Yeah, that was definitely a fun call to be in just watching or looking at your bucket list. Right. And so, and I definitely when show that I started building my own and I started writing on my own because I didn't I never had. Never thought about it having a back list. And when you think about back list is something that you're not. You want to do in the future. Right. Sort of things. But I also think in. In terms of bucket list to. To have those bullet points that are your constant repeated kind of habits, like you were asking just. Just a few minutes ago. Right. And so crossing those out is important, but just leaving them in so you can see them, that you have achieved that or you're continuously repeating those, that's super important.

27:22
Speaker 2
So in my bucket list is definitely travel and explore. Because it's important to just look at different ways of thinking. It's amazing to learn how many parts.

27:32
Speaker 1
Of the world what are your destinations.

27:36
Speaker 2
So we had was in my bucket list and now it's crossed off. But it was the main thing that the, you know, just being in that in the Middle east where they don't talk about small projects, they don't talk about big projects, they don't talk about mega projects, they talk about giga projects. And the way they do it is just like, you know, yeah, we can do this whole coastal community in a few months and they have the resources, they have the money and all that. But I want to go back to this bucket list idea. And the thing that I want to mention is in my bucket list, there is always this thought of having data, which is something that you don't touch physically, but having data with you all the time.

28:18
Speaker 2
And I work with it on a daily basis and I love looking at it, I love exploring it. Sounds super nerdy. And I love mapping it when I have that, I feel like I have

more power when using that and exploring it and mapping it. And now. So you tell better stories with that and whatnot.

28:39
Speaker 1
Well, I think I'm gonna. To our listeners. To our loyal listeners. You know what? As the new year rolls around, I'll do a special podcast episode just on bucket list. So since that went well with our fellow group. Well, just a few more things as we start to wind down. I like to ask about books. If not a book, maybe a podcast or something. Hey, is there something you'd recommend to our listeners?

29:01
Speaker 2
There is one that I read back in 2020, you know, Covid and all. I was able to read a little more and I really enjoyed it was a very nerdy book. It's called the System View of Life. I don't have it with me. I'm not at home right now, so I can show you the authors. But systems view of Life, super nerdy but it was teaching me a lot of that premise that everything is connected. And if you want to transform something the big way, you got to think about all the little pieces that are connected to this. Right. I usually say a little bit of the thinking behind this to my students with this analogy of the graphite and the diamond, the systems thinking analogy. I don't know if you heard about it.

29:48
Speaker 2
In one hand you have the graphite and the other hand you have the diamond. And the analogy says that they're basically exactly the same things. Right. Both of them are carbon atoms, but the only difference that makes the final product is how those carbon atoms are holding together. And so. And I, I like that analogy because I. I start thinking about with cities and communities. You think about, like, how all the systems, transportation, drainage and environmental socioeconomics, all this connect to each other and hold hands. That's what's going to make you either a graphite city or a diamond city. Right. Type of thing. So I love that. But the other one that I want to mention in. In books, and this is more like an audiobook, I listened through it when I was in. In the Plane, actually is called.

30:31
Speaker 2
It was Curiosity or something. Ingredients or bucket lists, maybe for success or something like that. I don't remember, but it was. The main title was Curiosity and I loved it because it was more like the reaffirmation of my philosophy of

professional and living way of living. I recommend listening to it because I listened to it and it was super straight. It gives you a list of steps on what to do professionally and living wise. Yeah, living by Curiosity is super good.

31:02
Speaker 1
All right, two great books. I'm going to put links in the podcast show notes, so everybody go check that out and check out these books. What great recommendations. I'm totally going to check out the first one, too. It's. I mean, I just put it in my Amazon cart, so you've already had influence on me. Okay, cool. But would you recommend audio on that one or a physical book on the systems?

31:24
Speaker 2
I'm more on the audio side, but, you know, don't have anything against.

31:30
Speaker 1
I'll do audible one and a half speed. It looks like the authors are Fritjoff Capra and Pierre Luigi Luisi. So we'll put a link to that in the show notes.

31:38
Speaker 2
There you go. There you go.

31:39
Speaker 1
Last two things as we wrap up. As you look back on your career so far, is there anything you wish you'd have learned earlier?

31:45
Speaker 2
Yes, and definitely. And this is something I keep telling my kids, but I'm dangerous when I say it a little bit, which is do not follow all rules. Basically, I guess I'm a troublemaker by nature. Right. And I'm not saying that all rules are bad. I think they're actually very good. They're in a place for a reason. Right. But they're also just inherently limiting potential of good and innovative solutions. So what I'm getting here is that if you see that rules are against something good you want to do, you should figure out a way that good outcome still achieved. Right. Pushing the limits, bending those rules a little bit, it can be sometimes very hard, but it'll take you a lot farther. And I never got this advice. I just learned it on the way. But it's shaped.

32:40
Speaker 2
I think it's shaped my career strongly because it makes me always think of the purpose, the positive impact, the end goal, rather than the way to follow the rules to get there. And sometimes those rules sometimes are made and put in place to stop you half the way. So that advice I would have liked to have early on in my career, and I think I don't know how to frame it without sounding too.

33:10
Speaker 1
You said it well. Yeah. Thank you for that. There you go. It's important to look back, notice how I don't ask about regrets or anything, but, hey, if you'd have known this a little earlier, what would that have meant? So thank you for that. All right, so last question. Say someone's listening to your podcast. They're like, oh, what a great story. What a great journey. And they're just now jumping into the green building movement. It's been good to you. It's been good to me. We're both lead fellows. That's amazing. Any words of encouragement, Julio, for them as we wrap up?

33:38
Speaker 2
Yeah, no, that's a great question, and I think it's something that I just recently experienced during Riyadh. We were all planners in a Congress and enjoying this beautiful city, but it was a city built for buildings, not for pedestrians, outside of the buildings. And you know why? Because it's just, you know, it's too hot to be outside. But everybody there understands what a healthy city, a healthy community is all about, and they want to start shifting their nature, their cities, their communities, utilizing all this sustainability knowledge that is all over the world. Right. So Leave for cities and Communities is a good example of how you can convert your city into very healthy, walkable community. And so my advice for those getting into this, into the sustainability world is just to not only look within, but look beyond.

34:40
Speaker 2
You know, and I kind of say that, you know, don't only look at the buildings, look at the impact beyond that building. And so that's kind of like my bottom line out there.

34:51
Speaker 1
Okay, you heard it here. I love learning more about you here. I know we're

going to be hanging out more in our lead fellow groups, but everybody listening, make sure you connect with Julio on LinkedIn. Check out the good work Park Hill's doing, and if you're in Austin, maybe you can go sit in, sneak into one of his classes there. I would.

35:09
Speaker 2
There you go. Awesome. And more than welcome.

35:12
Speaker 1
Thanks for being on the podcast today. This was fantastic.

35:15
Speaker 2
Thank you, Charlie. Appreciate it.

35:18
Speaker 1
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