

Construction Documents Plan Review:

Constructability
Interdisciplinary Coordination
Building Code Compliance
Access Compliance
Design Standards
LEED/CHPS

Fall E-letter

October, 2009



Check It Out:

Patrick Blanc's

Vertical Gardens

www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com/

The Omega Center

<http://eomega.org/omega/about/ocsl/>

It's Alive,

www.fastcompany.com/magazine/137/its-alive.html

Beyond the Grid

www.fastcompany.com/magazine/137/beyond-the-grid.html

Science News—Microgrid

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080722152609.htm

The Sagrada Familia

www.sagradafamilia.cat/sf-eng/index.php

California Redwoods

<http://nationalgeographic.com/>

Client Tools

Checklist for
RemedyCheck®
Code

Access Compliance
LEED/CHPS

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Imagine This



Remember what fun you had as a kid. As architects, engineers, project managers and planners, we chose our professions because as kids we had great imaginations and we wanted to build what we dreamed of. Over the years, keeping projects within schedule, budget and of course meeting minimum building codes have suppressed and for some killed our imagination.

Projects Regreening the Galapagos Islands

Off the coast of Ecuador, the famous Galapagos Islands are being loved to death by over 140,000 tourists every year. The archipelago of volcanic islands distributed around the equator in the Pacific Ocean was Charles Darwin's inspiration for his theory of evolution. A trip to see the wildlife (blue-footed boobies and giant tortoises) on the islands is a bucket list item for

many people. Ecuador is a medium-income country with 38.3% of the people living below the poverty level. Yet despite the country's economic challenges, the Ecuadorian government continued with their vision of preserving the islands and decided to go green with these projects.

“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.” Michelangelo

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Let your thoughts pave the way. Imagine your dreams as if they already exist. Speak as if they already exist and act as if they already exist. Learn from the past, imagine your future and live today. Enjoy the articles!



Microgrid

Energy solution—could small-scale, local power be the answer. De-centralized power architecture. Learn about Microgrid. See stories in Fast Company—Beyond the Grid and Science News. Link located in Check It Out column.

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Fuel-handling Facility in Baltra – completed in 2004, this is now one of the safest fuel depots in the Americas with computerized sensors to monitor fuel levels and tank conditions.

Projects Regreening the Galapagos Islands cont.

Wind-Power Project in San Cristobal – completed in 2007, three wind turbines meet 50% of the islands power needs. With high winds, the turbines supply 90% of the power. Similar systems are planned on the island of Santa Cruz.

Solar-Hybrid Microgrid in Floreana – completed in 2004, solar energy and batteries reinforced the islands electrical grid. Biodiesel generators are being

planned for the island.

Isla Baltra Airport in Baltra – completion by 2011, environmental design solutions (building location, solar power, and concrete runways) are a few things implemented in the project.

Read about Ecuador and their preservation efforts. Ecuador was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the 1970s and again in 1999.

California Redwoods

Conservationist see a new wave of enlightened forestry as a model for wiser stewardship of nature.

See National Geographics link in Check It Out.



The Omega Center

America's first zero-impact, supergreen "living building". Imagine no negative environment effects. It just opened in Rhinebeck, New York. The facility serves as an education center focusing on sustainable living.

See links in Check It Out to the Omega Center and article in Fast Company.

The Sagrada Familia

Need more to inspire your imagination? Known as the Church of the Imagination where the physical and spiritual meet, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona has been in construction for 127 years and will continue until 2026. A must see. See link in Check It Out.

Hydroponics

Do plants really need soil? The answer is no. You have seen the plants grow on trees (mistletoe, ferns and orchids). Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil. Compared to ordinary soil yields, hydroponics generates a higher yield in less time with less space. There

are many benefits of hydroponics in agriculture but also in building design. Architectural use of hydroponics are demonstrated in the vertical gardens by Patrick Blanc. This imaginative use of vertical gardens to create friendly and natural spaces is amazing. See his website link located in located in the Check It Out column on page one.

Reimagining

Our ability to create images not available to the sensory system is our greatest faculty for evolving human consciousness. We need to be able to leap out of the familiar and into the unknown. The first step in doing this is to imagine a future different

from the past, a self-sense different from the one we have now. If we can re-imagine our sense of who we are, we can change our experience of life. Imagination is not just powerful, it is power itself. Source: It' all in your mind by Sally Kempton, Yoga Journal, October 2009 issue



“Imagination is not just powerful. It is power itself.”

