

**SEFA 36th Annual Conference - Hilton Hotel - Torrey Pines
La Jolla, California - Oct. 1 - Nov. 1, 2024**



Dear Members and Industry Colleagues:

I got back from hot Dubai this past Thursday and was supposed to proceed to the 2024 Lab of Year judge's meeting at the spectacular New York City offices of Ennead Architects on Friday but was sidelined by a respiratory illness which I did not want to bequeath upon our intrepid judges and SEFA staff. Luckily, we had Barbara Carr and Ross Sutton in attendance to oversee one of the most in-depth judge's meetings to determine this year's finalists. As we might say in the legal world - "it was a hot bench!"

After debating the relative merits of projects from four different continents, the judges have selected the following two finalists for 2024:

- **F. Hoffman LaRoche pRED Innovation Center** (Basel, Switzerland)
- **Johns Hopkins University - Applied Physics Lab Bldg 201** (Arlington, Virginia)

Congratulations to the teams who worked on these projects! We are looking forward to hearing presentations from the finalists at our Annual Conference in California later this month with the overall winner and high honors award being announced to the world by the judges after the presentations are made. Thank you to our judges Brian Richard, Kirksey Architects (Chief Judge), Don Weinreich, Ennead Architects, Sanjay Purohit, Studio Archnovate, Philippe Fristot, L'Oreal, Charles Klee, Payette and Laura Halverson, Affiliated Engineers for their dedication and in-depth analysis. (If time permits on the Agenda I am thinking about adding a 10-15 minute panel discussion by our judges to discuss their decision-making process.)

SEFA Annual Conference - October 30th - November 1st

. . . and speaking about the "THE BIG KAHUNA" later this month, our room block is 100% full and the time to take advantage of our favorable room rate has expired. However, Barbara was able to work her magic and strong arm the Hilton Torrey Pines into keeping the room block open for a few more days (Oct. 4th) at our

low nightly rate. In short, do not delay!

The golf tournament is so over-subscribed (48 golfers!) Ross is now trying to "finagle" (that's a technical legal term) a few tee times on Tuesday afternoon so that the tournament may span two days and consist of over 52 golfers. My advice - continue to work on your game while Ross finagles.

Stanford University Tour

October 25th at 2 PM is the date and time for the tour of the 2023 Lab of the Year winner and the award of scholarships to two deserving students who work and/or study in this award-winning building. Thank you to all of the members who contribute to The Mike Kloosterman Foundation as these scholarships are funded by your generous contributions. If you are interested in attending this lab tour please reply to this email.

SEFA in Shanghai

We are looking forward to seeing many of our Chinese members and those with business in China on November 19th at the Kerry Hotel (Pudong District). The event starts at 5 PM with a cocktail reception followed by one hour of presentations featuring our Advisory Board member Grace Chen and her colleagues from the Shanghai office of Ennead Architects. At the conclusion of those presentations we will have a traditional family style Chinese dinner. We expect 100-150 attendees for this event. There is no charge for our member attendees and sponsorship opportunities are available.

I am sending this email to you from Greensboro, Georgia since my hometown of Aiken, South Carolina was completely devastated by Hurricane Helene and various tornados. The eye of the storm ripped through Aiken early Friday morning while I was ill in New York City.

Looking forward to getting past all of this and experiencing those cool Pacific breezes at our Annual Conference later this month.

Until then - stay safe!