

Cathy Higgins, NBI Director of Research, New Buildings Institute | Cathy has over 25 years in energy efficiency strategic planning, research, policy and large-scale project management. At NBI she manages work involving zero energy (ZE) buildings, measured performance, emerging technologies, market assessment and supports business development. She frequently shares findings on buildings and market trends nationally through conferences, webinars and meetings with practitioners, program staff and policy makers. Cathy is currently leading a \$5 million field demonstration in Los Angeles on the retrofit potential and energy savings for shading and lighting technologies. Other recent projects include support on the New York Getting to Zero study, a gap analysis of California zero energy emerging technologies, and the energy performance of radiant cooling and heating systems energy use with University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining NBI in 2000, she served as Director of the Oregon Municipal Energy and Conservation Agency and was a Commercial Conservation Manager with Bonneville Power Administration. Cathy is a LEED Accredited Professional and has received Oregon and National Awards for her work in energy efficiency. EMAIL | higgins@newbuildings.org



Heather Flint Chatto, Owner, Forage Design + Planning LLC / Co-Director, Portland Main Streets Design Initiative. Heather is a professional planner and urban designer with more than 18 years of professional work in environmental design, civic and regional planning and environmental policy practice. Prior to starting her own firm, she worked with New Buildings Institute managing zero energy building programs creating tools, developing education programs, and leading trainings for architects, engineers, schools and local governments. In addition to a Masters in Urban Planning and a Bachelors in Environmental Studies for Teachers, she draws on a diverse background of experience working both in public and private sectors including as professional long-range planner and redevelopment planner with Santa Barbara County Planning Department. She has extensive research experience from her work the Environmental Policy Center in San Francisco, and has worked to advance sustainable design with green building firms including Habitats Inc., a design build firm in Eugene, OR. As co-founder of the PDX Main Streets Design Initiative, Heather has worked tirelessly with neighborhoods and business associations, community groups, university students, planners and policymakers to foster greater design literacy, policy advocacy, and tools to manage growth and change. Their community-led neighborhood main street design guidelines have now been adopted by six neighborhood and business associations and apply to Hawthorne, Division and Sellwood. In 2015, she was honored by the DJC with an award as one of the top 25 [Women of Vision](#) in Oregon for her design leadership. EMAIL | foragedesigner@gmail.com



Sean Denniston, Senior Project Manager, New Buildings Institute | Sean manages NBI's New Construction program, which provides technical resources for new construction projects. Sean earned his Bachelors Degree in Architecture at the University of Oregon, and a Masters in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania. Early in his career he worked as a Research Associate with Heschong Mahone Group performing building energy analysis and developing custom analysis tools, and doing background research and analysis for development of California Codes and Standards and other public policy initiatives. Prior to joining NBI in 2009, he worked for several years with an historic preservation consulting and development firm founded to rehabilitate historic residential properties with a special emphasis on energy efficiency upgrades that are effective and sensitive to the significant aspects of historic buildings. His NBI work includes analysis and review of data relative to commercial building energy performance and prediction, code and energy program effectiveness and energy technologies. He also does research and review of commercial building design practices and energy and green technologies, including application, cost, savings and reliability, preparing analysis and graphics on commercial building energy use. EMAIL | sean@newbuildings.org



Mike Steffen, AIA, LEED AP, Director of Innovation, Walsh Construction Co. | Mike is an architect, builder and educator with 30 years of experience in the design and construction of the built environment. He has a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kansas. He is a licensed architect in Oregon and California. Mike's experience as both architect and builder provide him with a unique and useful perspective on both design and construction challenges and solutions. He joined the quality assurance program at Walsh Construction Co. in 1999 with 15 years of experience in architecture working as a designer and project manager. For a decade, Mike worked with WALSH project managers and superintendents to develop one of the most innovative and effective quality programs in the industry. For an additional decade, he served as General Manager of WALSH's operations in Oregon. Mike now applies his energies to projects in support of clients who wish to explore innovative new construction technologies & methods to bring their visions to life. EMAIL | msteffen@walshconstruction.com



Laurence Qamar, Architect + Town Planner, Qamar + Associates. | Laurence is an urban designer and architect with 30+ years of experience establishing vibrant, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods in the Northwest and nationally. His recent award winning work has garnered recognition among NW public, planners, and developers, including built successes as Town Planner and designer of Seabrook, Olivia Beach, and Bella Beach on the Washington and Oregon Coasts, and extensive work around the Portland and Seattle metro regions. Laurence is also a noted planner of downtown and infill redevelopments throughout Oregon and Washington. His unique urban design strategy integrates a range of scales from the broad sub-region and neighborhood framework, to downtown districts, streetscapes, building form and typology, and ultimately detailed coding of sustainable place-making. Laurence consults for public jurisdictions and private developers to design urban solutions for transit-oriented developments, main street revitalizations, mixed-use centers, sustainable districts, and infill housing. He is committed to promoting economically, socially and environmentally sustainable cities, neighborhoods and buildings that fulfill needs and aspirations. EMAIL | lqamar@comcast.net

