Reactivity of Buildings
A case for greater study of indoor environmental quality

Wednesday, April 27

Dr. Richard Corsi
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Noon - 12:50 p.m.
Engineering Hall, room 323
1637 W. Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53233

The average American lives to be 79 years old and spends 50 of those years INSIDE his/her own home. As such, from infancy to twilight years, the quality of air that we breathe and surfaces that we touch in our homes has a dominant impact on our lifetime exposure to harmful chemical and biological agents.

Yet, relative to other environmental issues, and despite growing public demands, indoor air (or environmental) quality receives relatively little attention by regulators, educators, the media. This presentation will involve three sections: (1) overview of the importance of indoor air quality and the deep intellectual merit associated with its continued study, (2) changes to building environments that have increased the “reactivity” of buildings over the past 40 years, with specific examples related to reactants, reaction products, and their variations with building features, and (3) ongoing research at the University of Texas that is aimed at harnessing building reactivity to improve the quality of the various indoor spaces where we spend nearly 90% of our lives.

Richard L. Corsi is the ECH Bantel Professor of Professional Practice and Chair of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Corsi’s research focuses on sources, fate, human exposure and innovative control strategies related to indoor air quality. In recent years his team has focused significantly on indoor ozone chemistry and the nexus of building energy conservation and indoor air quality.

Free and open to the public.

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