

2014

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Seminar

Biomimicry: Learning from Nature's Genius

Nature has existed on this planet for 3.8 billion years. That's a lot of time for research and development. Although nature works to solve many of the same issues we do – finding food, staying warm or cool, filtering water, creating shelter – organisms do this in a way that is entirely sustainable. What can we learn from these strategies that we can apply to our own lives? This is the essence of biomimicry: learning how nature does what it does and then emulating those functions to solve our own challenges more sustainably. This interactive session will introduce the concept of biomimicry through current examples of leading edge products and processes. It will walk participants through a sustainability framework called "Life's Principles" and a current NW project called the Urban Greenprint. Participants will engage in 3 hands-on sessions to connect with concepts on a personal level and understand how to apply biomimicry to real world issues.

Jennifer Barnes, AIA, LEED® AP, is a deep green architect and sustainability consultant with over 20 years of project experience. She splits her professional life between her own design and consulting company, 55-5 Consulting, and her work on the Urban Greenprint, a project run through Biomimicry Puget Sound. Jennifer is active in the Northwest green building community, working with Cascadia GBC and local organizations on environmental advocacy issues, and she is frequently invited to present at regional conferences and workshops. She is a founding member of Biomimicry Puget Sound, a regional offshoot of the Biomimicry Institute. Jennifer has a BA in Architecture from Princeton University and a Masters of Architecture from the University of Washington.



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