We’ve come to know Seattle as an innovation hub in the digital information age, but where does Seattle rank as an innovator of building construction & material technology across the globe? How will technological advancements in 3D printing shape construction in the future? Will existing building techniques using concrete & steel be replaced with renewable methods using Cross Laminated Timber? Join us as we explore building case studies, both local and around the world, to understand the material and construction process advancements that are influencing the next generation of buildings.
AMIR LOTFI  
Associate, Callison RTKL

Amir Lotfi has more than ten years of experience in architecture and sustainable design. He specializes in the mixed-use and tall building markets and has worked on many high-rise projects around the world, including the US, India and Middle East. He has a Master of Architecture from SCI-Arc, focusing on the challenges of leadership in urban politics, planning and architecture.

He currently works at CallisonRTKL, a global architecture and design firm in Seattle office. In addition to designing residential high rise buildings, he is also a member of the Performance Driven Design team, promoting smart and sustainable approaches to design.

Amir participated in CallisonRTKL’s Seattle Mass Timber Tower Feasibility Study, which has been mentioned in several publications including the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce and Building Design + Construction. Amir has also written several articles on mass timber construction, including Construction Specifier January issue and Civil and Structural Engineer March issue. He is a LEED AP BD+C.

SETION BRANKO  
Associate, Gensler

Setion Branko is an Architectural and Interior Designer operating at the intersection of built environments, human experience, and brand elevation.

Serving as the Office Design Lead for Gensler’s Seattle office, a global architecture, design and planning firm with 46 locations and over 5,000 professionals in Asia, UK, and the Americas, Setion has been responsible for a range of award-winning projects that have helped improve employee performance as well as create memorable visitor experiences.

Growing up surrounded by the Italian design culture, Setion has an inherited sense to produce state-of-the-art design solutions that are effective and intersect with business goals. One of his areas of focus is how material innovation will influence the future of architecture. He looks at how materiality can affect emotional engagement in the everyday lives of employees, visitors, customers, and users of space.

Setion holds a Masters in Architecture from Universita degli Studi di Firenze and worked in globally recognized architecture firms in Italy and New York, prior to joining Gensler.

JASON LEAR, MODERATOR  
Principal, Batt + Lear

Jason Lear is founder and Principal of Batt + Lear, a company that has become one of the leaders of Seattle’s green building movement. Batt + Lear builds high-performance, deep green buildings. The firm’s work spans residential and commercial, both new construction and remodel, and every project is a sustainable project. In recent years, the firm has certified projects 5-star Built Green, Passive House, LEED Platinum and DOE Net-Zero-Energy Ready. As Principal in charge of design, Jason has focused his own learning on the ways that building systems work together. This learning has resulted in a significant knowledge base around building science and systems that work, as well as the importance of both a holistic approach to building and attention to detail in every step. Jason believes we have the opportunity to make our existing buildings and new buildings massively more energy efficient and much longer lasting. He does not believe in a Silver Bullet approach; rather, he recommends treating a building as the complex system that it is and applying simple systems, and excellence in construction, to make that building work better. Jason loves building green and has a contagious passion for sharing that love.

Join us for the third part of the 2017 series

NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER | NORTH & SOUTH

What draws you to a neighborhood and what keeps you there? Lively downtown main streets that promote locally owned shops and restaurants close to public transit are key. Hear how design, community advocacy and other amenities keep these neighborhoods on the outskirts thriving

May 16 - Columbia City
June 20 - Greenwood