Ecologically Sound Architecture (2 HSW) – William Horgan, RIBA

Saturday, June 9, 3:45 - 5:45 p.m.

The use of sustainable design assessment tools and best practice guidelines by practicing architects is now routine. However the steps that designers take towards more ecologically sound architecture are often unconnected from one another and many are subsumed in technical systems and specifications rather than embodied emphatically in the architecture. In this session the presenter will discuss examples of projects by Grimshaw where the architecture is fundamentally shaped towards the pursuit of an overarching environmental outcome. Projects highlighted will include the Frost Museum of Science in Miami, FL; Fulton Center in New York, NY; Croton Water Treatment Plant in New York, NY; Southern Cross Station in Melbourne, Australia; and the Sustainability Pavilion for the Dubai World Expo 2020.

- Participants will learn about approaches to design for large and complicated projects that enable the emergence of an overarching architectural identity to emerge that supports a coherent environmental story, unique and site /program specific in each case.

- Attendees will hear about the importance of early and sustained client commitment to sustainable design approaches, and examples of ways that environmentally driven design can be prioritized and incorporated into projects in a way that protects their value throughout the challenging cost management stages of a project.

- The presenter will discuss the importance of considering the value of a building's measurable environmental footprint versus its wider capability to influence attitudes and changes in behavior that can have a broader positive impact beyond the project's physical boundaries.

- The presenter will discuss the role that architecture can play towards a positive - rather than negative - narrative of the win-win scenario that is achievable in combating the causes of climate change without accepting compromised standards of excellence and human experience.