

Event Recap

The 2016 Women in Sustainability Leadership Awards

The winners celebrated another exciting year with a party in LA

By *Laura Rote*

An expert in alternative housing, a CDC leader, and a director of architecture programming at one of the most prestigious universities in Latin America—the faces of this year's third annual **Women in Sustainability Leadership Awards** were varied and inspiring. We celebrated these and a dozen more women when we gathered the winners and other industry experts to meet and mingle over cocktails, dinner, and an awards ceremony during this year's **Greenbuild International Conference and Expo** on Oct. 4 in Beverly Hills. Speakers for the evening were **Rochelle Routman**, Chief Sustainability Officer at **Halstead International** and **MetroFlor**, and **Ana Guerrero**, Chief of Staff to Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

This year's exciting winners came from all over the globe and continue to inspire with innovative ideas in the field of sustainability. Winners were chosen by a judging panel that included Routman of MetroFlor, **Kimberly Lewis** of the **USGBC**, **Amanda Sturgeon** of the **International Living Future Institute**, **Angela Foster-Rice** of **United Airlines**, **Leith Sharp** of **Harvard University**, and **Chris Howe** and **Laura Heidenreich** of **Green Building & Design**.

The 2016 winners are: **Lisa Bate**, B+H Architects; **Liz York**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **Mary Tod Winchester**, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; **Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks**, Earth Friendly Products (ECOS brand); **Nicole Isle**, Glumac; **Holley Henderson**, H2 Ecodesign; **Susan King**, Harley Ellis Devereaux; **Carolyn Aguilar Dubose**, Iberoamericana University; **Kathleen Smith**, International Living Future Institute; **Barbara Deutsch**, Landscape Architecture Foundation; **Nancy Sutley**, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; **Karen Kubick**, City and County of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission; **Barbra Batshalom**, Sustainable Performance Institute; **Andrea Goertz**, TELUS; and **Dominique Hargreaves**, USGBC-Los Angeles.

The celebratory evening was presented by gb&d magazine in partnership with the USGBC with support from the MetroFlor Corporation, Steelcase, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and United Airlines.

⊕ For more on this year's WSLA winners, visit us on the web at www.gbdmagazine.com.



Harlan Stone, CEO of Halstead and CFO of MetroFlor



Rochelle Routman, chief sustainability officer at Halstead International and MetroFlor

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Winners of the 2016 Women in Sustainability Leadership Awards

IN CONVERSATION with Cynthia Phifer Kracauer

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Then there are physical standards that don't exist for men. It's just not a level playing field for women. It doesn't mean that women can't be successful, but what it does mean is that...

gb&d: The cards are stacked against them?

Kracauer: Yes. It's clear if you look at how many women are graduating from architecture schools, and then there is this huge drop-off when you look at women architects with 10 years of experience.

gb&d: What do you think happens to suck all of these women out of the pipeline?

Kracauer: We call it the leaky pipeline. If you want to be home at night with your children, you have to get assigned to a project where you don't travel. That limits the kinds of projects you can take on. So you're not flying to China every other week. If you can't do all that traveling, you're going to get stuck in your career.

gb&d: How did you navigate those challenges in your own career?

Kracauer: First I worked for a multi-state firm based in Philadelphia, and then I worked for Philip Johnson in New York, which was wonderful, but I had to do a lot of traveling. I was the project architect for the Transco Tower in Houston, a 65-story office building. And then I got pregnant and I couldn't travel. Doctors don't let you travel after the seventh month or so. This was in the early '80s when there was very little accommodation for professional women having babies.

gb&d: What did you do?

Kracauer: I went back to teaching for a few years, and I had my own little practice on the side. Then I had another kid. So I got my childbearing out of the way while I was doing kitchens and family rooms—small-scale residential work. Which is typically how women stay occupied professionally when they are taking care of children. They start their own businesses.

gb&d: How did you make your way back to working in a major international firm and eventually becoming a principal?

Kracauer: After I had my own practice for about five years, my husband, who was

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gb&d's Laura Heidenreich (left) and Chris Howe (right) with Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, CEO of Earth Friendly Products (ECOS brand)



The 2016 Women in Sustainability Leadership Awards were held in October at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills.

PHOTOS: CH PHOTOGRAPHY