



## Call for Abstracts

Wagdy Anis Symposium on Building Science 2023

### **Building Enclosures that Last**

Thursday, 26 October 2023  
BSA Space, 290 Congress Street, Boston, MA

A long-lasting building is a sustainable building. By remaining in service for an extended period of time, the building's materials are conserved, thus lowering its environmental impact. Critical to the lifespan of a building is a building enclosure that serves effectively as a first line of defense, protecting the superstructure, finishes and occupants from deleterious effects of weather. Building enclosures must therefore be durable and maintainable while controlling the passage of heat, air and moisture from exterior to interior conditions. To stand the test of time, they also need to accommodate future change. Traditional approaches for achieving performance and adaptability include application of these principles to new construction as well as to the renovation of existing facades. Recladding existing buildings with new enclosure systems is another attractive strategy for propelling our existing building stock into a sustainable future. Inspired by Wagdy's work on retrofitting existing buildings, and by a recently issued AIA practice guide entitled "Buildings that Last: Design for Adaptability, Deconstruction and Reuse," this year's symposium will focus on the building enclosure's central role in achieving these goals.

The symposium planning committee seeks submission of 200-word abstracts on the theme **Building Enclosures that Last**. We encourage participation by representatives from a wide range of perspectives including: building ownership and operations; design, engineering and construction at each phase of a project; research & development of construction methods, materials and products. The structure of the symposium will include 30-minute talks and 60-minute panel presentations. We recommend that each panel include no more than 4 speakers. Ideas for workshops and student papers will be welcomed. Topics of interest include:

- Defining the intended lifespan of a building enclosure
- Assessing the contribution of the service life of materials and assemblies to the long-term environmental impact of a building
- Strategies for retrofitting enclosures of existing buildings to optimize performance
- Resources for salvage and reuse of existing building enclosure materials and assemblies
- Special challenges in preservation of 20<sup>th</sup> century modern buildings
- Identifying and managing expectations of Owners for sustainable goals for their buildings
- Project accountability and performance metrics
- Construction of facades that can be inspected and maintained
- Façade assemblies that can be readily modified and deconstructed for reuse
- Design of building enclosures that inspire and contribute to the cultural values of a community so that they will be cared for

Details for submitting abstracts can be found on the [2023 Wagdy Anis Symposium](#) page.

Important dates:

**Friday, 26 May 2023:** Abstract submissions due

**Friday, 23 June 2023:** Committee will finalize program and notify presenters

**Friday, 29 September 2023:** Presentation slides due

### **About the Building Enclosure Council**

The Boston Building Enclosure Council (B-BEC) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote technical excellence in the design and construction of the building enclosure. B-BEC is led by architects and building enclosure experts, to provide a forum where members of the design and construction industry can discuss common issues and share information on materials and methods, with the goal of promoting the well-informed application of building science to construction of commercial and residential buildings. We support this mission through monthly meetings and periodic special events, featuring panels, presentations, discussions and related activities.