

Sustainable Principal Jean Hansen of HDR Architecture | Transcript

Introduction ([00:02](#)):

Welcome to Green Building Matters. The podcast that matters for green building professionals learn insight in green buildings. As we interviewed today's experts in LEED and WELL. We'll learn from their career paths, war stories and all things green because green building matters. And now our host and yes, he has every LEED and WELL credential. Here's Charlie Cichetti.

Charlie ([00:33](#)):

Be sure to check out the green building matters community where you can have unlimited exam prep for any of the professional credential exams you're tackling next as well as putting your continuing education on autopilot. Saving time with GBS reporting your hours on your behalf. Check it out. Gbes.Com/Join. Now enjoy this episode of the green building matters podcast. Welcome to the next persona. The green building matters podcast. I'm your host, Charlie Cichetti today. I've got a LEED Fellow coming to us from the Bay area, California, Jean Hansen, LEED fellow, and she's a sustainable principal at HDR. Jean, how are you doing today? Great. How are you, Charlie? Oh, we're still recording in the middle of the pandemic, but there's optimism. I think if we can figure out collaboration and camaraderie from afar, I think we're all, I'm proud of my team for staying productive.

Charlie ([01:32](#)):

It's still some wild times out there, ? Yes, that is so true. We're here to learn more about you. That's what we do here on the podcast. So take us, where'd you grow up and where'd you go to school?

Jean ([01:44](#)):

I actually grew up in a number of areas. I was born in Minnesota and my family moved when I was two and a half to Boulder, Colorado where I grew up right in front of the Rocky mountains. That visual is still very, very much a part of my life. And then I lived in Boulder for six years and then we moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado for another six years. So my growing up years were really spent in Colorado and it was a really great place to grow up. I loved going up into the mountains. I love riding my bike and spending as much time outdoors there as I could. And I did have lots of fond memories. When I started high school, my dad was transferred again and we moved to California, and I lived there for three and

a half years, just long enough to go to high school. I graduated early because we were moving again. I moved with my family and we actually ended up going back to Minnesota where I was born, but I only stayed for six months. I bought a car and headed back to California to go to college and so then I was basically on my own. I've lived in California in a variety of cities ever since.

Charlie ([02:54](#)):

Did you think about going back to Colorado or not, by the time you've been to California, like that's where I want to go to school. That's where I want to be next.

Jean ([03:02](#)):

I did think about going back to Colorado and I actually checked at the University of Colorado at Boulder to see if they had a program that I would want to study and I might've been wrong, but from the research I was able to do, and this was pre internet days, it did not look like they had the program. Otherwise, yeah, I definitely would have seriously thought about heading back there instead of California.

Charlie ([03:26](#)):

About two very eco-friendly places to live and go to school. So I'd have to assume that being that close to nature and the Rockies that must've had an influence on you. Growing up around that is just recycling and sustainability. I mean, did that have an influence on you? I can only imagine that it did.

Jean ([03:46](#)):

I mean, to this day, I still love the outdoors. I love hiking, camping, backpacking, going to the beach, whatever it is, gardening, I love being outdoors. It's such an integral part of me that I can't really even say that there was any one particular point that kind of influenced me. It just kind of, I think it just, it totally fits with me that's who I am and loving the outdoors. And so it totally ties in with environmental issues and sustainability.

Charlie ([04:20](#)):

Absolutely. And so when you were getting that degree, even in California, how did you narrow it down to, as I understand it, environmental design. So did you want to get into that field or how did you come upon that?

Jean ([04:34](#)):

It's kind of interesting. My degree is actually in environmental design or that's the title? My title of my degree is environmental design, but the program I was studying was really interior design and interior architecture. When I was in high school, I thought I either wanted to study psychology or interior design. We'd moved around a lot. My dad and mom loved to remodel the houses that we lived in. So I was always living in a house that was being remodeled. I always used to look around at buildings and go. These buildings really need to be designed better to really serve people, because I felt like a lot of buildings didn't serve people very well. Now where that came from I don't know. I remember thinking that way, way back. I've heard other people say, in high school you might think about studying something, but then you have a teacher that totally turns you off.

Jean ([05:26](#)):

So I had a psychology teacher that totally turned me off to studying psychology. So I let that concept or that idea go and I decided to pursue interior design. I moved back to California, as I mentioned, and went to a junior college in Santa Cruz and basically took a lot of classes in art and design and all the other prerequisites that you need to basically get an associates degree. I figured that would be the best route for me to go. I had a really fabulous teacher who taught interior design and had an interior design practice. He had gone to what used to be called the California College of Arts and Crafts, and is now California College of the Arts. He had gone there and he recommended it. So I looked into that school and I looked into other schools across the country.

Jean ([06:17](#)):

There were a couple that really sounded very interesting, but it meant getting in my car and driving a long way. So I decided to stay in California and only have to drive a couple of miles North to go to school. So I moved to Oakland and Oakland, California, and I fell in love with Oakland. I didn't really like California that well until I moved to Oakland. And then I really, really fell in love with this area and the San Francisco Bay area. I really enjoyed my years at what used to be CCAC and is now CCA.

Charlie ([06:51](#)):

So tell us, you're making that career move, get into design. When did you come across like sustainability or a program like LEED? Was there a certain project? When did you really get into sustainable design?

Jean ([07:06](#)):

I really got into it, when it really conceptually hit me as kind of this solid concept, even though sustainability was really in many ways already a part of my life. I started recycling at home in Oakland and taking all my recyclables to Berkeley after I graduated from college. But anyways, when I practiced interior design for quite awhile. I realized that I, what I really wanted to focus more on with the planning. So I became a medical planner and I'd already been working on quite a few medical facilities, the design in medical facilities and realized that I wanted to be involved in the planning. I made a career shift and became a planner and during that time, in kind of the early days of doing medical planning, a group of us sat down and I mean, we used to get together frequently.

Jean ([07:59](#)):

I can't remember if it is weekly or whatever, but we'd get together frequently and talk about issues around healthcare design. Somebody brought up something that she had just learned. And that was that the cleaning products that are used to maintain the buildings we design can make people very ill. At that point in time, I don't think I was aware of this. This was back in the nineties and the latter part of the nineties. And I was like, that really means to me, that meant that we needed to seriously think about how we design building and what products we specify. And then in addition to that, we need to be talking to manufacturers about how these products need to be maintained. And we need to be specifying products that can be cleaned with a protocol that's not going to harm, , humans or the environment. And that's what actually got me into the whole concept of asking manufacturers to be transparent about goes into their products. And so that's what, that's what got me started probably a little bit different than maybe some people, but I felt a huge responsibility now to really think about building design and the specification of products from a whole different perspective,

Charlie ([09:10](#)):

I guess later that probably got into some of the materials work. I know you really get into HPBs. Interesting journey you found, but let me ask about mentors or other influences. Is there anyone that you really followed that had influenced, or maybe you would call them?

Jean ([09:28](#)):

Yeah, I thought about that question because I knew you were going to ask it. In the beginning of my career, I have to say I had many mentors. I joined a 75 year old architecture firm. I was their first interior designer and it was a firm with about 50, 60 people depending on kind of the workload and whatnot. So we had a number of people with very interesting areas of specialty. It's very interesting to me being somebody new to the profession. I'd have to say that specification writers have always been really great mentors. To me. They're very curious about products. I'm very curious about products. I'm very curious in general, and they really helped me to understand the depth that we need to understand around materials and their specifications and how we design buildings to meet this.

Jean ([10:21](#)):

So I would say early on in my career, that was one of my mentors. There were many of them later, I would have to say when I got involved with the development of the green guide for health care and some other early work around greening the healthcare industry, there were two women that really influenced me and were mentors to some degree. And that would be Robin Gunther and Gail Vittori. There were a number of others as well. Bill Ravanese who is with healthcare without harm. I learned a lot and I really enjoyed working with them. And there were a number of other people, too many to probably name right now that I worked with over the years in the green guide for health care and LEED for healthcare and people that had all different types of disciplines, architects, engineers, and the list goes on. I so enjoyed learning from all of them.

Charlie ([11:16](#)):

I think, give them a shout out and what they've done for you and opening some doors or being a positive encouragement, let's connect some of the timeline there with the career Jean. So tell us about some of the work you've done with the USGBC, the California chapter, HPD collaborative, and then fast forward HDL.

Jean ([11:36](#)):

Sure. I actually attended the very, very first class in Atlanta that they USGBC put on for LEED. So I went to the very first LEED workshop and a short while thereafter I became a LEED AP. At that point in time, a group of people in the healthcare industry convened the first sustainable health care conference. Luckily it happened to be in Oakland. My boss at my former job said, Jean, get yourself invited to this. And I'm like, okay, I will. And I did. I went to the very first healthcare conference and I'd already done some work with Kaiser Permanente,

actually quite a bit of work over the years. They were really trying to figure out what this green building thing was at the time and how did it apply to them? They were involved in many aspects of sustainability already, partly because it made business sense.

Jean ([12:34](#)):

And partly because they're in the healthcare industry and it makes sense from a health perspective, but it's green building and LEED. So they convened a group of people and we ended up being called the green building committee, Kaiser Permanente's green building committee. In addition to that, I was also getting involved with the local USBC chapters. I worked on a couple of different committees, the research committee, education committee, and I was involved in helping Kaiser to really understand what green building was and what LEED was and really how we can make a difference. And so between those two kinds of juggling back and forth, these two extracurricular activities was really very fascinating because it really helped me to hone in on seriously thinking from a green building perspective and what Kaiser's question was is where should we put our energy and our money first?

Jean ([13:31](#)):

And of course, where do people spend their time, but on the interior of a building. So having been an interior background with interior design and a total materials geek and medical planner for many years, and now really passionate about sustainability, it was really a great place to be. With the work I was doing with Kaiser and the work I was doing with the USGBC, I was looking at areas that we needed to research in this new industry, so to speak as well as what kind of education do we do, we need personally, as well as what do we need to be developing for others? And it's two areas that I found totally of interest. And I never thought I would want to be a speaker and never crossed my mind, but I was so passionate about the topic that it just became kind of second nature to me to want to share the knowledge that I was learning with others.

Jean ([14:24](#)):

So I actually also became kind of an educator in a sense, and a speaker. From there extracurricular activities and working with other organizations just continue to expand. I ended up working on the green guide for health care, as I mentioned earlier, but also eventually LEED for healthcare. And that was a seven year of progress. I always say that with a long baby to birth because it was, but I've also

worked with BIFMA on the development of their furniture, sustainable furniture standard called Level, and currently, still stay involved with that organization and the ongoing development level, as well as with the cradle to cradle organization, as an advisor and a few others. And then one of the first things that I did with Kaiser Permanente, along with a few others, including Tomlin, who used to be with the healthy building network, was to develop a questionnaire for manufacturers and to ask them what is in your products? Because there definitely were some key chemicals of concern that had been identified in the healthcare industry that we wanted to try to avoid in building products, especially the interior building products. We developed a two page questionnaire for manufacturers, and from that, we saw a number of products be transformed over a period of time, and those companies still continue that type of work. So it's really been a very exciting, interesting journey. And it continues.

Charlie ([16:01](#)):

Sure. Let's talk about materials for a minute because LEED version 4 there was a big push finally for product transparency, and I've mentioned just some additional certification. So we know that, yes, this is a better material, a better building product. So where do you see us winning with materials and where do you see a still pretty far behind Jean, you going to give us a cliff note view from a materials expert?

Jean ([16:30](#)):

Well, it's always going to be an ongoing journey and just like with the pandemic where we're continuing to learn something new about this virus all the time, and which is a good thing, but in some ways it may not be a pandemic, but we definitely are on a journey from a health perspective when you're thinking about materials. And so I think the really important thing for people to consider and to think about is that many manufacturers are actually not manufacturers they're distributors. They don't make everything they sell. Some of them actually might make everything they sell. And some of them may actually not make a single thing that they're actually selling. And so for the ones that are not are sourcing products from suppliers and sub suppliers, they may not be aware of what's in those products.

Charlie ([17:21](#)):

So when we ask the manufacturer to be transparent about what is in their product that they're selling and that we're considering specifying, they may be

learning something new as well as we may be learning something obviously new, because we're not in the manufacturing business ourselves, and that can set, and I've seen it that many of manufacturer on a journey. They're like, Oh my gosh, this is in our product. Okay. we need to start having conversations. I've talked to manufacturers, reps that I've worked with for years, and when they are able to get HPDs for products that they're selling I've heard, they've shared the kind of conversations they've had with people, at their doctors and other areas within the business. And it's so fabulous to see that happen. And so it's, even though it may seem not that important to some people to just ask many partners what's in their product, it's a game changer.

Jean ([18:20](#)):

And it's the way that many times we end up with products that do avoid chemicals of concern. And the good news is, you don't always have to do all of the homework for absolutely every single type of product. A lot of work has been done in healthcare without harm. For instance, in practice, green health has developed some fabulous resources for furniture, fabric, carpeting, and resilient flooring. They've done the research for us and they've gotten the manufacturers to identify the better products that are in the market, the city of San Francisco with their carpet regulations that free and open source works for everyone. There's, this really an ask from me and for many of us to continue to ask manufacturers about what's in their products to ask for them to be transparent, to ask for HPDs, I am a board member of the health product, declaration collaborative and even if I wasn't, I would still be asking people to continue to ask for transparency because it's how we really expand this opportunity for us to have safer products in the market is basically by building awareness.

Charlie ([19:33](#)):

Absolutely! Thank you for walking us through that. I think some right now we're more open to EPDs, but not really the health product decoration summer. We're worrying about some of that liability, but we've got to push through, we've got to know what is in these buildings products that we're using and specifying. So when we look back on your career, and even sometimes personal accomplishments come up here to what's on the highlight reel, what stands out to you? What are you really proud of?

Jean ([20:02](#)):

Well, I'd have to step back a moment and say, I am really extremely proud of the two children that we have who are now grown. It's been that balancing of having a career and raising a family it's been a pretty incredible journey and anybody that's trying to do it, I know you would agree with me, but it's really exciting to see where my kids have gone, but also when I look at my career, I think I'm very happy to say that I realized that, and I was lucky to be in the career that I am in, because it does allow for a lot of opportunity for growth, because there's so many different areas, you could remain a generalist or you definitely become a specialist. Being in this career and realizing that if I got tired of something, it didn't mean I had to keep doing that.

Jean ([20:56](#)):

I had the opportunity to continue to grow. And for me, being able to actually move from being an interior designer though, you never take an interior designer out of an interior designer, but I could become a medical planner and I could combine these two areas of expertise, which I did for years. And then sustainability just pulled me in a thousand percent. I've been on this journey of trying to learn as much about it as I can and in today's world. Oh my gosh. There's just so much to know. It really has worked better for me to kind of specialize in the materials area since it's an area that I've always been interested in and I do know a lot about, but it's just, I'm really excited to share the fact that this is an incredible career that does allow you to really continue to grow depending on what you realize your strengths are, your interests are or whatever draws you to it. So it's been an interesting journey and I've really enjoyed it. There's definitely been some challenges along the way, but I've definitely enjoyed it.

Charlie ([22:00](#)):

I can tell you really appreciate every moment of it. What about projects? There's some cool projects that stand up today.

Jean ([22:08](#)):

There definitely are. From a project perspective, I've worked on the medical and some research facilities that have really been interesting. Some of the medical facilities I've worked on for as long as five years and each, for each, there were two projects that I worked on for five years each, and there were very different reasons for why I was involved with each one of them for five years. The project really becomes a part of your life. The thing that I really enjoy and look fondly back on it, in addition to these facilities, finally having been completed and being

in youth is all of the amazing people in the medical profession that I had the honor of working with and getting to know and learning from. I've had more recently worked on a new medical center for the Army in El Paso, Texas. And I worked on that for a few years. I did all the materials research for six, very large buildings with our design team and with the client, really helping them to set goals and understand how maybe some current standards they had needed to be reconsidered. Just really looking at the project as an opportunity to really design a really healthy facility for all of the people that were going to use it in the US Army, as well as that the El Paso region,

Charlie ([23:33](#)):

That's a very significant project. I know you've been at HTR for awhile. Can you tell us more about the firm and kind of how your roles even evolve within your design firm?

Jean ([23:46](#)):

This month actually, I've been with HDR for 13 years when I joined HDR, I joined our sustainable design group and we usually have about 10 of us with an HDR on the architecture side that is truly focused just on sustainability. We have a wide variety of skills: architects, journalists, somebody with a financial background, engineers, and me with interior design and medical planning. So we have a wide variety of expertise but we all focus on sustainability and we work on projects, we support projects globally. We also have a network of people that are very interested in sustainability and work with us, but also work on projects depending on what their discipline is as well. I've been a part of that group for most of the 13 years for a short while I moved across to the corporate wide sustainability group, while I was working on a fellowship, HDR awarded me a fellowship in 2018 to research the materials world and to identify what are the best resources out there in the market for our architecture and design teams.

Jean ([25:06](#)):

Also develop protocol for selecting materials. I finished that in December of 2019. So last year, the end of last year, I finished that up and then I went back and joined our sustainable design team working on projects.

Charlie ([25:23](#)):

It seems like just a wonderful place to work; just the layers of sustainability are really impressive within your firm. And since you've got so much of that research

internally, I've got my favorite question to ask my podcast guests, okay, Jean, if you have a crystal ball what's around the corner in this green building movement, what should we be focused on next?

Jean ([25:45](#)):

Well, I think what is going on in our world today is really going to help influence that and is helping to influence that and definitely has impacted conversations. And I know, I think we're all at this point of really trying to figure out how we're going to take these thoughts and really run with them. I think we are all focusing more on environmental justice issues and how that related to our work. From a materials perspective, I look at environmental justice issues being related to the impacts that exposures of environmental carcinogens and P factor perfluorinated chemicals, for instance, and other health impacts have on minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. And so I think that that is something that, at another level, it's another lens that really needs to be added to our work.

Jean ([26:42](#)):

And it's not to say it hasn't been talked about and looked at very closely previously. But I think that is where our focus is really going to be as we look to continue to grow in this area personally and professionally, as well as, kind of expand what sustainability means, another area that I'd also like to see grow because of the pandemic. Obviously we're all concerned about trying to figure out how we all stay safe and keep each other safe. And part of that is how are the buildings that we design the buildings we occupy, whether we live in and visit them and how can they best be maintained? They think green cleaning really needs to be elevated and the information on it needs to be more easily accessible and readily accessible. We need to figure out what are those really trusted resources that can be shared more widely internally with our own own staff and with our clients, the public, if we don't want to go backwards, we don't want to see all kinds of added antimicrobials added to products when that is not going to help us. And that could actually cause harm and has been known to cause harm or use bleach to clean everything or other types of cleaning products.

Charlie ([28:09](#)):

We're right there in the pandemic. That's what people are reverting back to that. So it's just fascinating, it keeps tying back to health for you, but it's a big Bordeaux sustainability. I totally agree. And it's nice to see more and more programs more

on the healthy building side, what I call wellness real estate. I'm going to ask, WELL and FITWEL, great programs in the marketplace. Are you seeing more uptick with WELL and FITWEL right now?

Jean ([28:39](#)):

We are definitely seeing an uptick to some degree and we know that not all of our clients that are interested in them will want to actually certify, but they are fabulous resources to really add to your basket of tricks. No matter whether or not our clients are going to actually, in the long run, be certified with them, we definitely see them as a great tool to use and to really add to our resources that we use with our clients and many of our own offices are using FITwell. We personally, at HDR, see that as a great resource for our own practice as well.

Charlie ([29:23](#)):

Yeah. Well, let's talk about you some more. What would you say is your specialty or gifts? What are you really good at?

Jean ([29:30](#)):

One of my gifts is that I love working with people and I work well with people. I totally enjoy having any side of the group of people that work with large, small, or whatever. I love being able to figure out how to facilitate design discussions around the table, no matter what it is. I love exploring ideas, sharing my knowledge, learning from others and finding ways to collectively make decisions together. So I think that one of my gifts is really, that not only do I work well with people, but I really enjoy it and I miss it when I don't have that.

Charlie ([30:10](#)):

Yeah, no, just the people side of it. I can tell it's there for you and still work from home just the collaboration. So does your team have any trick or virtual meetings or anything like that? How does a design firm still collaborate in times like this?

Jean ([30:31](#)):

I think in some ways I'm pretty lucky because as I mentioned earlier, I work with a small group of people. I mean, the architecture group within HDR is somewhere, probably the neighborhood of, let's just say 2000, 2000 employees there as a rough number. And my group is about 10 and we're spread out across North America. Since day one, 13 years ago, when I started working at HDR, I had to become very comfortable and adept at working remotely from people. And so I

guess I had a leg up on, on that to some degree. So even working from home has not been as big an adjustment for me as it probably has been for many, many people but of course, I did travel a lot and I did meet with people in person, much of the time as well. If not monthly, two, three times a month. Sometimes it just really varies on the month and the year and the projects, but I definitely do miss that, but at least I was familiar with working remotely and in a sense from a lot of people, a lot of the time.

Charlie ([31:38](#)):

You were ready for it. Yeah. No, some have been kind of blindsided and others have embraced it but I think a lot of companies that thought they would never allow telework, work from home are forced to and found that's not too bad and keep that up in some form. That's the silver lining, the beginning of the pandemic I was asking, what does all this make possible? So, has there been any innovation you've seen that you've been impressed by? Innovation and just in terms of being able to remote work. Maybe we are not meeting as much. We're not going to this many sites, we're doing this virtually. We never thought we'd do it. Just curious.

Jean ([32:19](#)):

That's a good question. I hadn't really thought about that

Charlie ([32:21](#)):

I was just curious, one thing we've done is a job site visit, if someone's at the job site, we can remote in, do a FaceTime or zoom call and maybe cut down on the amount of travel, and the client's okay with it. It's like, look, we're already there at the construction sites and you can just promote it, within reason.

Jean ([32:45](#)):

Oh, totally. Yeah. I saw some of my projects, they're on the same site in more than one building were shut down for a very short while being in California where everything was, it seemed almost everything was shut down initially. Once they got it back up and going they had incredible protocols set up on the job site, but most of us still were not traveling. There were just a few people that would actually be at the job site and it totally worked out just fine. Now it's really a matter of trying to learn how to go to job sites and stay safe and abide by the protocols. It's gotta be challenging. There's a project that's under construction right near my house. I actually saw the day they were having to be walking by the day they were first back on the job site and I saw all the training going on and I

could kind of actually hear some of it going on. I thought, Oh my gosh, what a big transition for a construction firm, one thing to be in an office, but boy, to be onsite.

Charlie ([33:49](#)):

There's a lot of protocols in place we have to keep it going. Some of these construction sites were called essential and what we're getting through it. Jean, Do you have any good best practices, good habits and routines or rituals that help you stay on point.

Jean ([34:04](#)):

For me, it's really just figuring out what I need to know? How do I need to go after it, go after it and get the information whether or not it's working on a project or thinking about my career, taking that time to really seriously think about where do I want to see myself get to and really taking that time to seriously think about kind of what's that best path to travel. So, that's really been important to me is to really stay focused and to think carefully about how to get from A to B whether, like I said, it's a project or it's my career. And to also be observing and to look around and to see if you've got some questions about who's the best resource to go to, to reach out, to learn from them.

Jean ([34:58](#)):

I think that's my answer. Other than that beyond being work-related for me, it's also trying to find a balance of work and the rest of my life. That's evolved over my career as my kids have grown up, that's balancing my work and my work life and my personal life has kind of evolved. But one thing that I also find that a ritual that's really important is getting exercise every day, whether it's walking or hiking. I used to love going to the gym also, but that has definitely fallen by the wayside. I don't, I can't imagine going back to a gym anytime in the near future and, loving the garden that is really trying to another, I guess part of my ritual is really trying to make sure and make time for myself. Sometimes that's hard to do, but I really definitely try to focus on that as well.

Charlie ([35:52](#)):

So thanks for those pro-tips as I like to call them Jean. Let's talk about bucket lists. Are there one or two things you could share that might be on your bucket list?

Jean ([36:01](#)):

The very first thing that came to my mind, something that's been on my bucket list for awhile is I want to visit many more national parks. Beyond that, I am interested in taking some horticultural classes to learn more about California native plants, that my front yard is all California natives. The rest of my yard is a mixture of California natives and drought tolerant plants. But I'd love to go back and take classes in horticulture. And then I also would like to learn

Charlie ([36:30](#)):

Those are great bucket list items. I mean, some travels nature's learning love it. I think it's important that we just be intentional about all this. I hear what the national parks are, you can just buy them like annual passes, right? You can go to all the national parks.

Jean ([36:46](#)):

We actually, we have one already, so I don't actually have to get one. I have one already.

Charlie ([36:51](#)):

It's fantastic. Well, let's talk about books and then learning. Is there a book or two you'd recommend?

Jean ([36:57](#)):

Well, one book that I've slowly been reading and enjoying is a Paul Hawkins book that he edited called Drawdown, the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. That book offers a hundred most substantive solutions to reverse global warming. So that is a book I enjoy picking up every now and again, I've never just sat down and liked to read the whole thing, but I'm still working on it. A couple of other books that I'm also in the process of reading since I love to garden are the hidden life of trees and what Robin knows. They have been really fascinating learning about trees as one of my good friends said that that book could have been edited down a little bit, but it's still quite interesting. And I never knew much about birds, but I do enjoy listening to them when they first wake up in the morning.

Jean ([37:47](#)):

I first wake up because I happen to wake up early all the time. I've been enjoying learning about Robin and other birds as well. And then on a lighter note, one of my book club books recently was Bluebird Bluebird by Attica Locke. And we

picked out our books far in advance and it was actually really quite interesting that we read the book when we did. And it's a really very interesting book. It's about a black investigator's quest for justice as this book kind of looks at the meditation on race roots and belonging. So kind of read the book at a better time earlier this year. So I'd highly recommend that.

Charlie ([38:27](#)):

It's a great book. So put the links in the podcast, show notes team. Thank you for those recommendations. As we started to come to a close here on the interview, the two part final question one is there anything you wish you had known earlier in your career?

Jean ([38:41](#)):

The only way I can really think seriously about answering that is probably doing, I don't know what I could have. I think I already did it by year two in my career, Starting to question whether I was doing the exact right thing for me, but it is really positive. I think it's important to pause once in a while and to take a look at what you're doing, make sure that you're happy with it. And if you've got questions too, look around you to figure out who to reach out to. I think for me, I was the first and only interior designer that a 75 year old architecture firm hired. And maybe that would be my suggestion if you're in a situation like that in a fine set, find a mentor outside of your firm. And I did not do that and that probably would have been helpful for me. I kind of had to do it all on my own. That's kind of tough sometimes.

Charlie ([39:37](#)):

All right. So some listening are just now jumping in to the green building movement, maybe just are studying for their LEED. Green associates degree, do you have any words of encouragement for them as we wrap up?

Jean ([39:49](#)):

My thoughts on that on data is it's not too late for anyone to consider learning and adopting sustainability for whatever type of work you're doing, because luckily the green building movement or the sustainability movement in general needs people with any and all skills. And I say that with all truthfulness and sincerity, and there's always a way to combine sustainability and to any and all phases of our work and your voice is incredibly important and we can only be stronger when we're stronger together.

Charlie ([40:22](#)):

That's very encouraging. Thank you, Jane. This has been Jean Hansen with HDR's office of sustainability. She's a LEED fellow and just had an incredible career. Jane, thanks for being on the podcast.

Charlie ([40:34](#)):

Thank you Charlie, for asking me, I enjoyed it.

Charlie ([40:39](#)):

I just want to say thank you to our loyal listeners. We actually are celebrating over one year here on the green building matters podcast. Me and the entire team are stoked and just so glad to continue to listen every Wednesday morning to a new interview with the green building professional here in this industry, or just some pro tips that we want to make sure that you were getting straight from us straight to you. Thank you for listening to this episode of the green building matters podcast@gbs.com. Our mission is to advance the green building movement to best in class education and encouragement. Remember, you can go to gbs.com/podcast for any notes and links that we mentioned in today's episode. And you can actually see the other episodes that have already been recorded with our amazing, yes. Please tell your friends about this podcast, tell your colleagues, and if you really enjoyed it, leave a positive review on iTunes. Thank you so much. And we'll see you on next week's episode.