



## **PechaKucha Night #3: Rebuild Speaker Biographies**

### **Jim Avery**

#### **Vice President, Sprung Instant Structures Ltd.**

Jim Avery is Vice President of Sprung Instant Structures Ltd., a member of the Sprung Group of Companies established in 1887 in Calgary. Sprung is the inventor and pioneer of the stressed membrane structure, an engineered relocatable building alternative designed to provide immediate solutions for disaster recovery applications. Sprung currently has structures located in over 90 countries around the world and has a long history of experience in supplying structures for worldwide disasters. They are currently operating a Haiti earthquake recovery program.

### **Dr. Michael Bopp**

#### **Director, Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning**

Michael Bopp has lived and worked in more than 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Oceania, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean. His work focuses on building the capacity of key individuals, communities and institutions for sustainable development. He is a development practitioner, educator and author. Key themes in his work include the cultural and spiritual foundations of development, the promotion of learning as an engine of change, and problem solving within complex adaptive systems.

### **Gary Ellis**

#### **Principal, The BridgeTown Works**

Gary Ellis is a Principal of The BridgeTown Works, is the organizer of the relaunch of the Calgary chapter of Architecture for Humanity and is affiliated with Creative Intelligence. Gary sits on the Board of the United Nations Association of Canada - Calgary branch and was recently invited to join with CEOs For Cities, based in Chicago, as only the second Canadian partner. He is currently working on an initiative to develop the Urban Design Compendium model for Canada and the United States.

### **Catherine Hamel (with photography by Lawrence Eisler)**

#### **Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Calgary**

Catherine Hamel is an Associate Professor of Architecture in the faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. Her PechaKucha presentation will feature photography by Lawrence Eisler, a photographer, maker and teacher. For

Hamel, born in Beirut, Lebanon, the experience of accelerated destruction and reconstruction is familiar. For Eisler, simple acts of making have the ability to reveal, transform and empower the small hidden voices that exist within us all.

### **Johann Kyser**

#### **Student & Team Alberta 2011 Solar Decathlon Acting Project Manager**

Johann Kyser is a master's student in Environmental Design at the University of Calgary and is currently acting as Project Manager for Team Alberta's 2011 Solar Decathlon. Johann's thesis research on synergies between green building and the contemporary housing needs of Treaty 7 First Nations overlaps with Team Alberta's mandate to develop a prototype for affordable solar housing in First Nations communities. Before studying environmental design, Johann completed undergraduate studies in philosophy and classical guitar performance in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

### **Olivier Mills**

#### **Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)**

Olivier Mills joined the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) in November 2008, and is responsible for developing CAWST's services provision to Haiti. He holds a Master of Science in Water Management from Cranfield and a Master of Engineering with Honours in Civil Engineering from the University of Nottingham. He has over ten years experience in the water and development sector, during which he has worked and researched in Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Congo, India, Tunisia, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

### **Dr. Sasha Tsenkova**

#### **Professor of Planning & International Development, University of Calgary**

Dr. Sasha Tsenkova is a professor of Sustainable Development and Design and Urban and Regional Planning and Design at the University of Calgary, and has worked as a planner and an architect for the World Bank, Council of Europe and the United Nations in more than 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Central Asia. She is the author of 25 books and research monographs and over 70 articles on housing policy, urban regeneration and sustainable cities.

### **Anila Umar**

#### **Youth Counselor and Diversity Trainer**

Anila Umar has been a youth counselor in Calgary for 15 years. She is actively involved in many aspects of community development ranging from community engagement strategies to diversity services and wellness. In her spare time, she volunteers as a girls basketball coach and as a member of a Grants Advisory Committee for the Calgary Foundation. Anila is a recipient of the 2001 Governor General's Award for her leadership and community development initiatives for youth.