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**For Immediate Release**

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**Beacon Institute presents “Building Inspiration” talk with sustainable architecture experts Schaper and Zand**

**Third Thursday event at CEIE on May 19 at 7pm**

BEACON, NY—Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries will present an evening designed to inspire new ways of thinking about “green” building with Oliver Schaper and Lily Zand, two leaders in the world of sustainable architecture. The event will take place on [Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm](#) at Beacon Institute’s Center for Environmental Innovation and Education at 199 Dennings Avenue in Beacon, NY.

Oliver Schaper, Design Director, Senior Associate and Senior Sustainability Strategist at [Gensler](#) global architects, and Lily Zand, architectural designer and founder of [School of Jellyfish](#) in Beacon, will share their talk, [Building Inspiration: Newer “green” thinking from the ground up](#), about a new paradigm of thought more intrinsically linked to nature, leading to a new foundation for building practices. Going beyond the current standard of LEED certification as the pinnacle for green building, Schaper and Zand feel the prime informant for how we construct our living spaces should be our inextricable connection to all ecosystems.

Zand explains, “Take, for example, a jellyfish — whose physical structure, its functionality, its transportation — its entire existence — is in continual interaction with the water in which it thrives. It gives, it takes, essentially turning two entities — the water and the jellyfish — into one. It is this nature of cooperation we need to consider when looking at building our living spaces sustainably.”

Zand, having recently founded School of Jellyfish in Beacon, NY, looks to examples in nature like the jellyfish to inform her work. “Biomimicry,” a concept which means using nature as the model, will be discussed in the course of the evening’s talk. Schaper, a co-founder of School of Jellyfish, shares Zand’s approach. He will discuss his experience in a wide array of commercial and residential projects. It is his work in developing a “next generation” of high-performance design that has placed him at the forefront of the global sustainable design movement. Expanding on their cognitive approach to

connectivity and systems, Schaper and Zand will present in their talk working examples of projects in which they have applied their philosophies.

[Online registration](#) for this event is encouraged. For more information about upcoming Beacon Institute events, visit [www.bire.org/events](http://www.bire.org/events).

***About the presenters:***

**Oliver Schaper**, as senior associate with Gensler, leads the Sustainable Design Performance Group for the company's Northeast region and is involved in numerous projects including large scale master plans in the U.S. and the Middle East. Trained as an architect, Schaper became one of the very first LEED-Accredited Professionals for Neighborhood Development. Schaper was Design Director for Beacon Institute's Center for Environmental Innovation and Education, which won a Rehabilitation and Remodeling award in 2009 from the Society of American Registered Architects. Other clients include *The New York Times*, Novartis, McGraw-Hill, Morgan Stanley, Qatar Airways and New Nile Co., among others.

**Lily Zand** is an architectural designer, installation artist, and educator recognized internationally for her animated, mobile design and relentless promotion of environmental issues. She earned her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cooper Union and her Master's degree from Harvard University. Prior to establishing Q-LLP, her New York based architectural firm in 2001, she had accumulated 12 years of teaching and 16 years of experience in the practice of architecture. Most recently, Zand has founded School of Jellyfish, a Design House for the Advancement of Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy in Beacon, New York. Zand is a LEED BD+C accredited professional.

***About Beacon Institute***

Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, with offices in Beacon and Troy, New York, is a not for-profit environmental research organization engaging scientists, engineers, educators and policy experts in collaborative work focusing on real-time monitoring of river ecosystems. It aims to make the Hudson Valley a global center for scientific and technological innovation that advances research, education and public policy regarding rivers and estuaries. [www.bire.org](http://www.bire.org)

**Editor's Note:** High resolution color images are available for publication upon request. Please contact Terry Platz at 845-765-2722.

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