

organization, help quickly came to the communities ravaged by the tsunami. "Kids were distributing food before even the army or Red Cross could get there," reported **Patrick Tucker**, deputy editor of *THE FUTURIST*.

Tucker spent five months in Japan and was in Kyoto when the earthquake hit; as did most other foreigners, he left the country in the following week, but returned when he learned of Peace Boat's relief work. "If you can keep the community together, you can rebuild faster," he said, noting that neighbors are essential for keeping track of each other's whereabouts. [See Tucker's full report, "Lost and Found in Japan," on page 16 of this issue.]

### "Actions" in Action

One of the best aspects of World Future Society conferences is the opportunity for futurists to share their work, providing case studies of effective actions as well as models for applying futuring principles.

Two of the world's leading futurist training grounds again sent teams of students to the conference to present their work. Describing the Singular-

## The Living City Challenge: Buildings That Make a Positive Impact

Green building techniques must continue to improve, evolving beyond meeting LEED certification standards, said Cascadia Green Building Council CEO **Jason McLennan**. (Currently, LEED Platinum represents the highest standard of environmental certification.) After all, even LEED Platinum-certified buildings have a negative impact on the environment, however greatly reduced. Buildings simply built to code represent the baseline—they are "the worst allowable by law," he asserted, before asking, "What does 'good' look like? How do we move to a place that's truly regenerative and restorative?"

McLennan, also a board member for the International Living Building Institute, then described the institute's Living Building Challenge. In general, to meet the challenge, the project should not damage the natural environment—in fact, it should have a positive impact on the environment. For example, "living buildings" should generate a surplus of clean energy. He emphasized that energy efficiency does not mean sacrificing comfort, and he reported that there are three living building projects currently under construction in Vancouver.

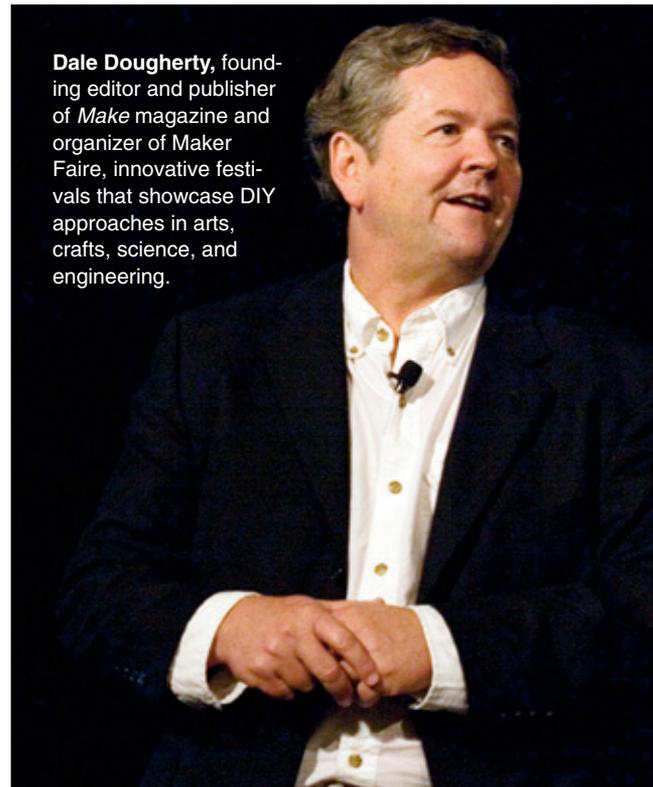
McLennan then described a novel sewage-treatment plant that has met the challenge. It is actually intended as a mixed-use facility: Yoga classes are held there, where teachers "encourage people to breathe deeper."

The "living building" represents the next phase of sustainable buildings, said McLennan's co-presenter, architect **Cindy Frewen-Wuellner**. Their hope is that this transformation will happen in the next 30 to 40 years. Both seemed optimistic that the era of suburban sprawl is coming to an end.

—Aaron M. Cohen



**Edie Weiner**, president of the futurist consulting group Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc., received a Lifetime Achievement Award from WFS president **Timothy Mack** during the closing plenary session at WorldFuture 2011. She credited WEB chairman Arnold Brown for "taking a chance on me when I was 22," and encouraged others to take young futurists under their wings.



**Dale Dougherty**, founding editor and publisher of *Make* magazine and organizer of Maker Faire, innovative festivals that showcase DIY approaches in arts, crafts, science, and engineering.

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