

RAiNA REPORT

1ST QUARTER 2024

RAINSCREENS & SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

MAY 6, 2024 | RESTON, VA

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SYMPOSIUM

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Letter from the Chairperson

It's been a quick start to 2024 and our committees continue to be very active and our programming schedule is now well underway. We continue to see excellent participation, engagement, and progress from our committees and expect to reach new heights this year with fully approved budget proposals for the first time ever.

Lots of work will be happening this year so it's a terrific time to get involved if you are not already an active committee participant. In January we had over 196 attendees for our member hosted webinar and continue to see heavy interest in the content being provided by RAINA and it's valued members. If you have not yet signed up to present as part of our webinar series, please contact the administration team to learn how.



Our May 6th Educational Day is almost upon us. It will take place the day before the Air Barrier Association of America's conference and will be a full day dedicated to Rainscreen Education, Sustainability, and Networking. For the first time, we will be presenting RAINA's own CEU programs that will be available to all member companies to offer to their networks. This will be the first opportunity to hear them presented live and to engage in conversation around content. The afternoon will then include 3.5 CEUs centered around rainscreen and sustainability, National and Mid-Atlantic Regional Energy Policies (with direct ties to rainscreen enclosures) and finish a dynamic panel presentation of a large rainscreen project in the DC area called Inova, tracking the rainscreen from specification to installation. Of course, we will also host a networking dinner for all attendees and guests who are arriving for the ABAA Conference. It should be a spectacular evening, so we hope you can join us.

Until then, keep on keeping on,

Todd Kimmel

Welcome New Members

Accurate Builds

G. M. Diemert Architect Inc.

Global Wall Panel Group

Mega Contracting Group

Siderise Insulation Ltd

PCC Construction Components, INC

North American Modern Building Alliance

York Flashings

Bonitz

Member Opportunities

RAINA Hosted Monthly Member Webinars

Amplify your voice by showcasing your rainscreen-related presentation in our monthly AIA-accredited webinars. Contact our office to schedule your webinar.

Presenting? Let us know!

Whether it's an in-person presentation or virtual, let RAINA help spread the word via the events calendar on our website. Email us with the details to start sharing your next upcoming presentation.

Member Spotlight

We want to continue to feature our incredible list of members on our social media platforms. This include a write up, your company logo and images of projects your company has been working on, any image you feel best represents your company/brand. Contact our office to be featured.

[EMAIL US](#)

RAiNA Committee Updates

Codes Committee

The Codes Committee met to discuss updates and developments related to various codes and standards, including those from ASTM, NFPA, NYCBC, IECC/ASHRAE 90.1, and NGBS. The primary conversations for the first quarter of the year was to review and deliberate on International Building Code (IBC) proposals and to determine RAiNA's position on them, with the assistance of our code consultant, Dr. Theresa Weston.

Definitions Committee

The committee discussed the term "Air Space" and voted to propose a definition pending review by the Board of Directors. This definition will also feature commentary that the committee is set to work on in April.

New Terminology completed in Q1:

Drainage Planes: Surfaces located at and/or outboard of the water control layer on which drainage occurs.

Commentary - More than one drainage planes exist in a rainscreen assembly. Typical drainage planes include, but are not limited to, the exterior face of cladding, the inside face of cladding, the face of insulation if present, and the water control layer. The innermost drainage plane must be the water control layer.

Subframing: An assembly of linear members including, but not limited to, rails, girts, furring, related clips, fasteners, and accessories used to connect the cladding to structure or backup wall and resist and transfer the loads from the cladding to structure or backup wall.

Performance Committee

The Performance Committee has made significant progress in the first quarter, with a Division 1 specification task group, led by the invaluable Amy Baker. This collaborative effort has brought us to the final stages of refining this work, with a draft presented to the committee in March, which is currently under review. The Committee's Fireblocking Task Group convened and will move forward with preparing a guidance document.

Retrofit Committee

The committee has completed a template for Retrofit Case Studies and intends to share it with the RAiNA membership by the end of 2024 to share relevant rainscreen retrofit projects. The committee is working on preparing an FAQ & guide document on how to complete the case study template, with short, medium, and larger case studies to use as examples. The case studies will be shared on social media, and a map with pinpoints for specific case studies and their locations will be provided.



Get Involved - Join a Committee

There are seven committees which are led by two Board-appointed Co-chairs. The committees develop policies and procedures, as well as make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FEATURE ARTICLE

Choose Your Own Rainscreen Adventure

Introduction to RAINA

by Philip Frederick, P.E., SGH

Growing up the son of an English teacher, I found myself doing Mad Libs a lot as a kid. If you're unfamiliar with Mad Libs, it's a word game that prompts the user for types of words to fill in missing segments of a sentence or paragraph to complete a story. By picking different nouns, adjectives, and verbs, I could create my own unique story using the same framework each time. As a building enclosure engineer and façade consultant, I find that designing rainscreen façade assemblies can be similar to the Mad Libs I enjoyed as a kid.

The Rainscreen Association (RAINA) defines a "rainscreen" as an "assembly applied to an exterior wall which consists of, at minimum, an outer layer, an inner layer, and a cavity between them sufficient for the passive removal of liquid water and water vapor." This definition is purposefully broad to recognize the vast variety of components, configurations, and attachment mechanisms that can be combined to create a rainscreen assembly. Every project has the possibility to be different and exciting, with its own unique challenges. Given my childhood enjoyment of Mad Libs, it's no wonder I found my way to rainscreen assemblies (and RAINA!), where design professionals can mix and match different claddings, subframing and cladding attachment systems, cavity dimensions, insulations, WRBs, and substrates to create a seemingly limitless number of options for exterior walls.

However, unlike my stories as a kid where my sometimes illogical but comical Mad Lib creations were supported by a rigid structure of preset punctuation, design professionals and contractors are often left on their own to figure out if their selected rainscreen components and configurations will function as a coherent assembly. Will their rainscreen design(s) result in the beautiful, harmonious, and stable assembly they envisioned? Or, does it form some Frankenstein-version that requires heavy edits, eraser marks...and change orders?

SGH and the other founding and current RAINA members have been reviewing and editing rainscreen assemblies for years. We've noticed rainscreen assemblies continue to become more complex as new products enter the market and energy codes push us to incorporate more exterior insulation with limited thermal bridging, resulting in more options for designers, but also more opportunity for confusion. By coming together as an association, RAINA's goal is to be the proverbial editorial resource for rainscreen designers and help provide and ecosystem for the framework and punctuation to make these rainscreen stories a smooth read from design through installation.

RAINA's committees and working groups have made great strides towards this goal since our inception 4 years ago, including publishing the RAINA Technical Bulletin: Defining Rainscreen Wall Performance – which outlines the basic types, components, and performance characteristics of rainscreen wall assemblies – to help designers get started on the right path as they plot their own rainscreen adventure. It is the hope of this author that future iterations of this newsletter column will cover some of the twists, turns, and hot topics that designers and contractors must navigate along the way.



About the Author

Mr. Frederick is an Associate Principal in the Building Technology group at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc's (SGH's) Washington, DC office. Mr. Frederick's primary

experience focuses on the design of building enclosure systems, including rainscreen assemblies, with a focus on performance, integration, and constructability. Mr. Frederick is a current board member for RAINA and a regular participant in RAINA's Performance Committee.

[Tell us your Rainscreen Mad Lib.... \(See next page\)](#)

Rainscreen Mad Lib - Fill out and share

A project in _____ is clad with _____. The
(insert region/climate zone) (pick one or multiple exterior cladding materials)
exterior cladding will be supported by _____ that
(select cladding attachment system(s), consider one for each cladding type)
anchors the façade back to the _____. To meet the minimum
(insert exterior wall structure)
prescriptive energy code requirement of _____, the wall includes
(insert minimum U/R-value)
_____ of _____ insulation, which _____
(insert insulation dimension) (selection insulation type)
_____. The wall assembly contains _____
(does/does not account for thermal bridging) (select WRB material/type)
as a water resistive barrier on the _____. The selected
(select substrate to receive or function as the primary WRB)
WRB _____ function as an _____.
(will/will not) (select all that apply: air barrier/vapor retarder)



Rainscreen Resources

Rainscreen Presentations

Enrich your knowledge base with RAINA's AIA-accredited presentations.

[See all available presentations](#)

Glossary

Intended to provide standardized terms and definitions for the rainscreen industry and associated systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies, accessories, materials, and products.

[View the Glossary](#).

RAINA Literature Review Report: Rainscreen Performance

Providing a baseline of knowledge, this comprehension literature review looks at seven categories of information

[View the report](#)

Technical Bulletin: Defining Rainscreen Wall Performance

Created by the Rainscreen Performance Committee, this document defines Rainscreen wall performance...

[View the technical bulletin](#)

Upcoming Events

APRIL

17 **RAiNA Hosted Member Webinar**
Benefits of Structural Composite
Metal Hybrid Sub-framing in
Rainscreen Design.

24 **RDH x RAiNA Partnered Series**
Deep Dive into Rainscreens Session 7:
The First Line of Defense

MAY

6 **RAiNA Education Symposium**
Rainscreens & Sustainability - From
materials to performance, building a
better wall for a better future.

7-8 **ABAA Building Enclosure Conference***
The only conference in the world that
focuses on air barriers and building
airtightness.

21 **Facades+ Vancouver***

21 **RAiNA AGM**

22 **RDH x RAiNA Partnered Series**
Deep Dive into Rainscreens Session 8:
Pressure Equalization and
Compartmentalization

29 **RAiNA Hosted Member Webinar**
Contemporary Approach to Successful
Stucco Wall Assemblies

JULY

10 **RAiNA Hosted Member Webinar**
Through-wall Flashings and Transition
Membranes: Selection and Installation

OCTOBER

9-10 **Facades Tectonics Institute 2024
World Congress**

30-1 **METALCON '24***

NOVEMBER

TBD **Facades+ Toronto***

7-8 **Facades+ Los Angeles***

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