The Energy/Comfort Nexus: Making Buildings Work for People and the Planet

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ABSTRACT:
Today, too many buildings harm the planet without properly serving their occupants. Buildings contribute roughly 40% of the total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and 80% of their energy use is for heating, cooling, ventilating and lighting. Yet research shows there are still high levels of occupant dissatisfaction with indoor environmental quality, and this can have profound impacts on people's health, comfort, performance, and overall well-being. Using a range of research examples, this presentation will describe new ways of studying, designing and operating building to improve both energy and comfort performance, which must be simultaneous goals of a high-performance building.

BIO:
Gail Brager has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, and is a Professor in the Building Science Program of the Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley, and the Associate Director of the Center for the Built Environment, an industry/university collaborative research center with over 40 industry partners from various sectors of the building industry. She has over 30 years of experience in teaching and research addressing the design, operation, and assessment of buildings to simultaneously minimize energy consumption while enhancing indoor environmental quality. She has particular interests in thermal comfort and adaptation, natural ventilation and mixed-mode buildings, and personalized comfort systems.

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