

What Do We Do with All that Debris from Blight, Property Abandonment, and Construction?

Domicology event at MSU on May 17 invites community to learn more

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For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Whether you live in the city or the country, most of us have seen abandoned buildings. Barns, factories, homes, high rises and other structures that are empty can be dangerous eyesores, affecting property values, crime, sanitary conditions, and neighborhood pride.

It boils down to this: what do we do with all the debris that remains when they fall apart or need to be torn down? What can be reused or salvaged? Who pays for it? Who should pay for it?



Join the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development at **Domicology: Opportunities, Markets, and Innovations (D.O.M.I.)**, on Friday, May 17 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing to learn about advancements in reducing structural abandonment while increasing material salvage.

Domicology is the study of the economic, social, and environmental characteristics relating to the built environment. Why does that matter? Because the United States generates a considerable amount of structural debris and construction waste annually, most of which ends up in landfills. Many communities, including the Midwest, have had the additional burden of property abandonment and blight which exacerbates the adverse economic, social, and environmental conditions.

“Society has widely lost the knowledge to responsibly manage the consumption and allocation of construction materials. Domicology is not only a cool and novel thing – it may actually be our way out of environmental destitution. This is why it is a compelling call to action,” said Dustin Altschul and Kim Buchholz, Hungry Architecture co-founders, and event presenters.

The D.O.M.I. event features professionals and practitioners working in architecture, deconstruction, material sorting, and the sale of architectural salvage.

Jeff Spencer, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (formerly Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) manager in the Sustainable Material Management Unit will deliver a keynote address.

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Bill Stough, Sustainable Research Group chief executive officer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has more than 30 years of experience in environmentally sustainable business initiatives, industrial ecology, pollution prevention, and environmental management systems. "Domicology shows a whole new course of action that could lead to greater value extraction, more jobs, and a safer environment."

The current end-of-life paradigm for manmade structures in many communities allows structures to sit vacant until they decay, imposing substantial social, economic, and environmental costs on communities. Domicologists, however, seek to understand and improve the way in which the built environment is designed, planned, built, maintained, repurposed, and – when it has reached its functional end of life – deconstructed in order to promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

The event will highlight advancements in research, policy, and practice.

Registration for the event can be found [here](#).

Questions and additional information can be directed to Madison Nacker: nackerma@msu.edu, or (517-353-9555).

In brief:

Domicology: Opportunities, Markets, and Innovations (D.O.M.I.)

Friday, May 17, 2019

10:00 am-3:15 pm

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Lincoln Room

East Lansing, MI 48824

\$25 per person, includes lunch and parking

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