

It seems many architects want global warming to go away

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=3419#more-3419>

You may recall that last month I wrote about a daily online architectural newsletter, the Architect Newswire, that had picked up a previous column I had written about Climategate. In that article I pointed out that more and more architects are becoming skeptical that global warming is man-caused, and that the revelation that scientists had been manipulating data supported my belief that global warming was a hoax.

By the time I wrote the article about the responses I had received from readers, I had received 11 responses, 8 of which were in agreement with me, and not long after that I received 2 more that were also in agreement with me.

Then Architect Newswire picked up the article I had written about those responses, and published the headline, “A global warming skeptic is warmed by reader responses.”

Their narrative about my article said, “A couple of weeks ago ARCHITECT Newswire linked to the architect Randy Bright’s column in the Tulsa Beacon that expressed his doubts about global warming and his relief that not all architects have bought into the belief that it is occurring. He thinks the column was linked as a compliment (it was), and, in addition, he got 11 e-mails from other architects, 8 of which were supportive. “I won’t share the negative e-mails,” he writes, “Let’s just say they weren’t very polite.” His and others’ doubts about human-caused global warming “doesn’t mean we are anti-environment,” Bright adds. “Far from it.”

So I’d like to give Architect Newswire a heartfelt “thank you!” for carrying the article and treating it fairly.

I received 7 responses to that article, and this time all of them expressed agreement with my opinions of global warming. Here are some of the sentiments that were expressed in those responses.

One architect said that he was concerned about the way many architects simply followed what was in vogue, and that our architectural colleges were indoctrinating students with bad science.

Another architect felt that indoctrination begins earlier in our nation’s school systems, where young students begin being taught that global warming is caused by mankind in courses like math and science. He also expressed concern about how easily people fall for politically charged philosophies without realizing that they are being duped.

That sentiment was reflected by the next e-mail I received, from an architect who, though he was undecided about global warming, was glad that I had broached the subject and felt that our architectural schools needed to get back to the basics.

Another architect, who expressed his concern for energy efficient design and sustainability, felt that the global warming movement was being taken advantage of by the architectural community in order to make more money, and that it had lost interest in real science.

Still another architect e-mailed to say that, while he was a believer in sustainable design, he did not believe that global warming could. He also felt that the architectural community had bought into the movement simply as a means to increase fees and make more money.

One architect wrote simply to lend his support and encouragement to me for taking a stand, and was glad to see that others were doing so as well.

The last e-mail I received was especially insightful, giving me anecdotal evidence of how powerful the politics of global warming is among architects. He said that he had to be careful not to discuss the matter in the firm where he worked because it would lead to confrontations with the principals of the firm. And he, like myself and many of the others who wrote me, was very concerned about being a good steward of the environment, but wanted his architectural practice to be based on sound science.

It would be interesting to discover if his employers believed like he did, but were afraid to say so because of what their peers would say; and perhaps those peers are afraid to say they don't believe in global warming because of what others might think of them, and so on, and so on.

In my opinion, there is a large the majority who would love to see the global warming issue quietly go away. The politicization of a non-issue like global warming is a huge distraction to our practices. We'd just like to do our job, and do it in the best interests of our clients.

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Randy W. Bright, AIA, NCARB, is an architect who specializes in church and church-related projects. You may contact him at 918-664-7957, rwbrightchurcharch@sbcglobal.net or www.churcharchitect.net.

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