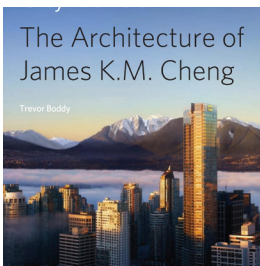


# MARCH 26 TREVOR BODDY

## From Sustainability to Resilience: Four Buildings



“Architecture is quickly moving from an obsession with sustainability, to one with resilience,” argues Vancouver-based architecture critic and curator Trevor Boddy, illustrating this notion with recent breakthrough designs from Western Canada.

It is his view that there have been problems with the notion of “sustainability” from the beginning, implying a state of grace, a natural equilibrium that has been lost but can be regained. While it was originally limited to the notion of rebounding from disaster, “resilience” has broadened in recent years to include a broad range of positive reactions adapting to a changed world. Boddy feels this word is a better fit with the needs of architecture today. “Architects are trained to do more than merely sustain things—we are not solely the repair squad of the built environment, but struggle to make things new, better, un-imagined. Our imaginations expressed in our drawings, plans, words and actions try to make a better world, not just hang on to the one that was.”

Boddy contends this switch to resilience from sustainability is not a defeat, but the setting of a new and much wider battle, one that architects might actually win, not just arrive at a truce. Rather than evolve abstract definitions, the lecture explains what is meant by resilience through examples.

Boddy illustrates his argument with one building from each of the four architecture books he has co-authored or published this year: *City-Builder: The Architecture of James K.M. Cheng*; *Glacier Skywalk* (Figure 1 Publishing, Vancouver); *MG.6: Six Architectural Projects* by Michael Green (Artifice, London); and *Stantec: Airports* (Figure 1 Publishing, Vancouver).

Trevor Boddy is a critic and curator of contemporary architecture and a Vancouver-based consulting urban designer.