

FORMER RECIPIENT OF A GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AWARD NOW AN EXPERT IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

The [Association for Canadian Studies in Chile](#) was recently involved in supporting a Chilean architect based in Canada, Mr. Esteban Undurraga, to present on the concept of Zero Energy Building (ZEB) at three conferences held at the Universidad Mayor, Universidad de Santiago de Chile and Universidad Central in Chile in 2008. A Zero Energy Building refers to a construction that has been designed and built to achieve an energy balance on an annual basis, i.e. that it achieves a significant reduction in energy loads and has the potential for creating new energy to make up the difference.

After practicing as an architect in Chile for five years, Mr. Undurraga came to Canada in 2001 to pursue his Master's Degree in Architecture at the University of British Columbia, thanks to a Government of Canada Award, when this awards program was administered by the ICCS.

Mr. Undurraga's research focused on the *Intrusion of Built Structures in Natural Environments* integrating specific fields of knowledge such as architectural design, landscape ecology, planning and green building design strategies, into an interdisciplinary framework for anticipating change and design, or not, consistently with watershed basins and their ecological integrity constraints. Upon completion of his Master degree, Mr. Undurraga worked first for Acton Astry Architects as a designer and the In-house Sustainability Research and LEED (Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design) Management co-ordinator and then co-founded Recollective Consulting, a green building consulting firm where all staff and partners are LEED accredited professionals. LEED is a third party certification program developed in the United States that is recognized as the benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. A Canadian version of LEED is administered in Canada by the Canadian Green Building Council.

Throughout his career, Mr. Undurraga has consistently been a strong advocate of sustainable building where all aspects of design and construction are dedicated to offering a true living building. Some of his latest work includes Greenfield master-planned communities such as Greenway West on [Bowen Island](#), as well as direct consulting services to the Municipality of Bowen Island on land use strategies and green building policies. Mr. Undurraga's work has involved collaborating and facilitating the design for the Sustainability Framework for Beaverton, Oregon, a green building strategy (2030 Challenge) for a Comprehensive Sustainability Strategy for the [City of Albuquerque](#), New Mexico, as well as participating in sustainability initiatives such as the [100-year Sustainability Plan for Vancouver](#), and Sustainable Cities 2050.

His most recent endeavor was to provide advice on articulating architectural design with green building strategies and co-ordination of the Integrated Design Process for the first multi-residential **Net Zero Building** in Canada in a targeted effort for advancing the notion of [living buildings](#), as well as providing ongoing consulting and support to the introduction and consolidation of a green building & sustainable cities knowledge base for developing countries, particularly in South America. For more information on Mr. Undurraga, [click here](#).