



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

Using that Lunch Hour to Feed Chelsea Group Team Members, Mind and Body

By Andy Beth Miller

Honolulu, HI — Each week, team members from local building science firm Chelsea Group converge upon a catered noontime meal in order to lunch, and learn. Aptly titled, “Lunch and Learn” is a program that Chelsea Group CEO George Benda makes available as an innovative—and appetizing—way to approach supplemental employee training and development.

“Innovation is at the heart of Chelsea Group – technology for projects, applications approaches in specific buildings, and even our own internal management,” explains Benda. “Engineers working on design tasks can easily get stale – they are often called upon to do repetitive approaches for consistent results. The weekly lunch and learn presented by both guests and internal staff enliven the process and keep our team challenged to find new best practices for old problems – to look to the future.”

Examples of recent lunch and learn topics range from fundamentals of chiller technology and design applications to emerging big data solutions for benchmarking building performance. One recent Tuesday saw the group visit Honolulu-based R&D firm Oceanit, to look at technology just coming out of the laboratory.

Chelsea Group building scientist Lisa Reddinger shared her viewpoint of the great benefit of Lunch and Learns. “We are such a technology-driven group of individuals, so the fact that we constantly have a new manufacturer or inventor coming in to educate our staff on the latest and greatest that is available on the market today is an absolutely phenomenal tool,” she said.

It’s also a great way to stay current in a world that is constantly evolving. “There’s just no way that we can single-handedly, as building scientists, be out there every day working onsite in the field, and still stay abreast of absolutely every single invention and discovery there is as it’s being discovered,” Reddinger stated. “In this way, we are able to stay constantly up to date with innovative new technologies and products, so that we may then offer our clients the best of what’s out there to utilize within their buildings to optimize efficiency.”

Benda explained that it’s about empowering and equipping the Chelsea Group team to grasp the future of existing buildings. “These lunch and learns really allow us, as a team, to be as strong and educated as we can be, so that we can then bring that strength and knowledge to serve our clients,” he said. “It also really benefits us as a team when we are the actual presenters, allowing a safe and encouraging forum for us to practice and improve upon articulating oftentimes highly technical information and data in a user-friendly way, which we can then convey more successfully to clients. It’s all-around just a great and effective weekly tool to keep us sharp on so many levels.”

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