



IAQ RADIO+

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The Winter Break WEEK 2025 Highlight Show Recap of the Key Points of 2 High Level Industry Educational Events

Good day and welcome to the IAQ Radio+ episode 750 blog. This week we welcomed Andy Äsk, Sarah Fanger, Darren Foote, John T. Hull, and John Lapotaire for a review of The Winter Break Week 2025. Also joining us was the restoration industry global watchdog Pete Consigli.

Panelist Bios:

John T. Hull, RRO has 25+ years in the roofing, waterproofing, and coatings industries. He is a recognized authority on building envelope inspections and assessments, roof restoration, quality assurance, roof asset management; reroof assessments, and roof restoration scope of work and specification development. Specialties include moisture detection within the roof and building envelope as well as roof condition assessments. Mr. Hull has provided technical support, training, and consulting in over 30 Countries. He is an internationally recognized speaker having delivered technical presentations throughout all the America's, Europe, and Australia. His expertise in roof and building envelope restoration has contributed to projects at NFL stadiums, airports, universities, hospitals, military bases and even the White House. After graduating from George Washington University with a BA in American Studies,

Sarah Fanger, worked in non-profit associations as a meeting and event planner for over a decade, and earned the Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives. In 2009, Sarah pivoted into disaster restoration, opening, and running her own independent business focusing on water mitigation and mold remediation. In addition to running the business, she often worked in the field with her crews and achieved the IICRC WRT and Odor Control Technician certifications.

In 2017 she shifted her direction again, moving into a consulting and testing role, where she specialized in investigations for mold, moisture, and other indoor environmental hazards in residential and small commercial buildings. During this transition she found the training she received at the IAQ Training Institute was immensely helpful, particularly Joe's Indoor Environmentalist prep course. Today, Sarah is a Certified Indoor Environmentalist through the ACAC. Beginning in October 2023, and officially full time as of early January 2024, Sarah is now proud to be the Executive Director of IAQA, serving as its first full-time, directly employed staff member. She is excited to bring her diverse work experiences together to help create something special in this new phase of IAQA.

Andrew C. Äsk, B.S. (English). J.D., P.E., is a mechanical consulting engineer who specializes in the retrofit and remediation of HVAC systems in buildings. Early in his career he worked in the Great Lakes region and spent time in construction and installing air conditioning in many types of buildings. The past 20 years have been devoted to solving humidity problems and replacing HVAC components in Southwest Florida buildings. Andy has five decades of experience solving building science problems and helping people live in healthier environments.

John P. Lapotaire, CIEC, is a Building Envelope & Indoor Environment Consultant providing IAQ consultation for commercial and residential properties. He is a Florida Licensed Mold Assessor, a Council-certified Environmental Thermography Consultant, CETC. Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultant CIEC. John's professional experience has led to appointments and elected positions to several international industry association committees and boards. As a CIEC, he has earned the most respected certification in the field of indoor environmental consulting based on his training and field experience in building sciences, industrial hygiene, and indoor environmental risk assessment. The certification documents John's skills and knowledge regarding design, construction, and operation of buildings with respect to the quality and efficiency of the indoor environment in a manner that could be relied upon by individuals and organizations seeking John's services as a consultant or advisor for the assessment and management of new or established indoor environments. John's specialties are Expert Witness, Cause & Origin Forensic Water Intrusion Investigation, Building Envelope Failure, Indoor Environmental and Indoor Air Quality Assessment, Nuisance Odor Investigation.

Darren Foote, CR, WLS, Darren is an IICRC instructor and an IICRC school administrator. Darren's company Learn to Restore teaches all the IICRC courses. [50% of Darren's courses are hands-on and 50% are remote learning.] Darren is a big believer in eyeball-eyeball training. Darren is an IICRC board member, IICRC standards vice chair, and an IICRC S500 consensus board member.

Nuggets mined from today's episode:

The Winter Break 2025 episode focused on discussing two unique events that combined a Building Science Symposium and an interactive workshop on building envelope moisture surveys. Participants shared insights on historical changes in building science, the importance of proper construction techniques, and the challenges faced in moisture control and energy efficiency. The episode also covered the significance of networking, ongoing education in the industry, and the need for a comprehensive understanding of building systems and materials.

Z-Man expressed his congratulations to Pete and John T for a highly successful and noteworthy event. The event was superbly planned, well organized, and professionally delivered in the "Consigli Way." A blend of meaningful high-level education, hands-on demos with camaraderie and networking opportunities.

The 2025 Winter Break led off with Pete Consigli's presentation which laid the foundation and set the tone for the event. Pete explained the IAQ 4 P's (People, Pollutants, Pathways, & Pressures) and their relationship with building science.

Andy, Joe Lstiburek is well known as an elusive presenter. Please share the secret with successfully recruiting him with our audience. The secret to getting both Joe Lstiburek and John Straube at our 2025 event is knowing Pete Consigli. Andy formed relationships with both Joe Lstiburek and Pete by attending Building Science Corporation's Summer Camp. Andy has been hosting a Winter Break event in Fort Myers, Florida since 1998. While Andy is the face of this event, Rick, and Rickie Sims (Johnson's Air Conditioning) do the heavy lifting behind the scenes. Andy's event chronicles how buildings have changed from loose, leaky, poorly insulated buildings to tightly sealed, well insulated more energy efficient buildings. New construction is more costly. In Florida, quality construction is a problem. The new challenges are, keep heat out, keep moisture from condensing and leaking. The new trend is decarbonization. Decarbonization is the driving force in building construction. The current challenge is to prevent buildings from self-destructing. Andy and his group didn't create the event to sell new building products, rather their job is to prevent buildings from rotting and the occupants getting sick.

Darren Foote Takeaways- Darren lives and works in the restoration world. He found the roof to foundation building envelope focus educational. Prior to attending, Darren was told by industry peers that Winter Break is a don't miss must attend event; and after attending he agreed. He found the two events powerful and educational. You don't realize what you don't know. He was greatly impressed by the Lstiburek-Straube tag team interaction with moderation and color commentary by Andy Ask.

Sarah Fanger- Executive Director of IAQA Takeaways- Winter Break is the place to be! Winter Break is where the movers and shakers are. Everything IAQ related comes down to building science.

John T Hull- John credits Pete for coordinating and managing a thoroughly planned and well-oiled machine. While John T has heard all the presenters before; he always learns more each time he sees them present. John T and the other presenters have a shared passion for communicating and educating the audience. John T is an advocate for the crosspollination among related trades (tradesmen, architects, practitioners, manufacturers, specifiers, attorneys, building managers) that occurs at these events. John T finds that all of a building's components and systems are dynamic. Better building, Better Health = Better Quality of Life.

John T Hull on Thermal imaging- The best time to do thermal imaging is at sunset on a sunny day. During the day, the building's roof absorbs energy, and at sunset the building begins to release the stored energy. John doesn't recommend thermal imaging for use on gravel/ballast roofs due to heat sinks, etc. resulting in false positive readings.

John Lapotaire- As a homebuilder, he quickly learned that windows leak. John has spent 25 years hunting window leaks. Ground floor window leaks manifest at the floor, upper floor window leaks are usually found on the ceiling in the room below.

Pete Consigli-

- Concrete Bob says, "it's about the surface stupid." Concrete problems are related to type, mix, chemistry, additives, age, pH, etc. Drying wet concrete is challenging. Bob calls out people who get things wrong or parrot misinformation accidentally or purposefully. Bob supports his statements with an archive of curated citations.

- Tramex meters- Mickey Lee and Lew Harriman wrote a Consumer Reports type paper on the accuracy of moisture meters. Tramex meters are most accurate when compared to gravimetric tests.
- Pete discussed the structure and purpose of the interactive model, emphasizing the importance of education, quality workmanship, and ethical conduct in the property damage repair industry.
- He highlighted the need for collaboration between all stakeholders, including contractors, property owners, third-party experts, and organizations that bear the cost of repairs.
- Pete also mentioned the inclusion of a door prize drawing for a valuable Tramex multi-purpose meter at their event, which was won by Ramona Gallagher, a contents expert and licensed public adjuster.

Andy Äsk, what's the training soup du jour? Finding the need to be repetitive, people forget what they forget over summer vacation. We've been drilling too deep and trying to make everyone an expert. We've learned it's better to have everyone know a little bit. The current trend is moving away from saving energy to decarbonization. Andy loves spray foam insulation and spray foam insulation is the only thing that works in Florida's hot and humid climate. The problem is that spray foam doesn't break down in landfills. We need to think more about the cradle to grave building material lifecycle. Andy's clients are very rich people who want and can afford to live on the beach and who are self-insured. They have 18' elevators to enter their homes. Tramex meters changed everything for Andy, they are like going from a folding paper roadmap to GPS.

Pete Consigli- It's all about the basics and fundamentals. Pete and John T previously assumed people who attend their courses know the basic stuff when they don't. Pete and John T learned that different specialty trades working on the same project don't communicate with each other. Joe Lstiburek said: "Architects are artists who build beautiful buildings. Artists know not to leave their art in the rain!" Pete and John T advocate that it's always important to review the basic principles.

Sarah Fanger- IAQA's 2025 event will be held in Lexington, Kentucky June 1-4. The event features a blended tightly knit program of formal presentations and workshops. The event will incorporate social networking events. Networking opportunities are the glue that holds an association together.

John T. Hull- More people need to know a little. Hopes to see more crosspollination between practitioners, manufacturers, and trades. Show and tell is most valuable when the information is presented in a comparative manner.

John Lapotaire- John discussed through a few PowerPoint slides, the importance of understanding wall assembly in determining water sources in buildings. He explained that water often enters through windows and seeps down through the concrete and CMU block before showing up on the floor. Water often doesn't show up where it's entering the building. Moisture meters and IR cameras are often ineffective in locating moisture sources. Fi-Foil® reflective insulation stapled to wood studs causes false positive readings on both penetrating and nonpenetrating meters. Penetrating meters often don't have sufficiently long enough pins to penetrate to the depth of the moisture resulting in false negatives.

John demonstrated how to remove a marble sill without breaking it and emphasized the need to look at both sides of a wall to identify water sources. He also discussed the issues with metal frame windows and insulated concrete forms, noting that improper waterproofing and window installation can lead to water leaks. The most common reason that leaks aren't found is that the inspector doesn't know where to look! Clients need to see a cross section of their wall assembly to understand how and where water enters and what occurs when it does. John, provided a drawing explaining how to fix the problem.

Roundup

Sarah Fanger- Sarah stresses keeping occupants in mind when addressing building issues.

John T. Hull- Cross pollinate. The use of drones in roofing inspections was mentioned, but the importance of physical inspection was emphasized. On a roof inspection, your eyes are your most important tool!

Andy Äsk- Was delighted by John L slides which showed the effects of improper window installation. Andy highlighted the importance of considering the environmental impact of materials used in construction, such as foam insulation.

John Lapotaire- There is only one correct way to install a window, according to the manufacturer's instructions. We are too quick to dry and restore without knowing the why! Share the why.

Pete Consigli- The Winter Break experience is an interactive model. Multiple disciplines, carefully selected sponsors, creation of a platform for interaction, no questions are stupid, high-level education provided by leading authorities (SME's), moderated interaction, the importance of building relationships and networking by breaking bread. Winter Break is "education backed up by reason and references." Pete emphasized the need for general knowledge among different specialty trades and the importance of starting with a strong foundation.

- Pete then introduced Stanley Yeskolski, IAQA 1st Vice President, Investigative Inspection Services, Inc, a potential future president of the IAQA.
- Stanley, expressed his appreciation for the hands-on training provided and emphasized the need for comprehensive knowledge across various areas of construction.

Z-Man signing off

TRIVIA QUESTION-

What year did the IAQA begin inducting nominees into the IAQA Hall of Fame?

Answer- 2014-

Answered by Don Weekes, Ottawa, Ontario Canada