

COVID-19 is dramatically changing the way we occupy and operate buildings across all sectors of our economy. Recent reports indicate that over 60 percent of the American workers are now working remotely. Given the size of the work force that cannot work remotely (fire, police, construction, manufacturing, food processing and hospital care are but some examples), this suggests that virtually every worker that can be working from home is working from home. Cubicle farms and barn-like open offices sit abandoned. Equally interesting, both employees and employers report that they are finding work from home acceptably productive.



While at some point in the future, the current pandemic may pass, it may well be that this event has led to structural change in how Americans work. This could well lead to a new model for how to construct and manage office spaces. Dr. Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg, Professor of Architecture at the University of Oregon, will discuss these trends and what they mean for future construction and design at the Springfield City Club program on November 19. This talk will share lessons learned from the field, as we learn to make buildings safer for occupancy, and will explore the future of healthy buildings.

Dr. Van Den Wymelenberg is an internationally recognized authority on office design and health in the built environment.