



**AIA ACCREDITED LUNCH & LEARN**    **From Plastic to Performance: Rethinking Translucent Walls**

Most translucent wall systems are specified based on familiarity, not performance. This course takes an objective look at the full range of translucent wall options — from Fibre Reinforced Plastics (FRP) and polycarbonate to glass-based systems — examining how each performs across daylight quality, energy efficiency, durability, and cost over time.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Identify the performance characteristics of FRP, polycarbonate, and other plastic wall systems vs glass-based systems when used in large translucent openings.
- Explain how diffused daylight impacts occupant comfort, productivity, and wellness compared to direct sunlight and glare.
- Evaluate strategies for designing large translucent walls that balance aesthetics, energy efficiency, and long-term durability. Compare material options — including first cost, lifecycle cost, and performance — to understand how glass-based solutions can be competitively priced while delivering superior long-term value, and how they better support sustainable, human-centred building design.

*“Thanks so much for your presentation on Friday. I really took a lot from it with regard to contrast and why blinds and other darkening solutions don’t work.”*

— Colin Dorgan, Architect — Harvey Architecture Ltd.

**The American Institute of Architects  
Continuing Education System**

**Facilitator Qualifications:** Our facilitators are trained on CES guidelines, with formal university education supplemented by continuous in-depth training on building performance, sustainability, and daylighting.

PROGRAM DETAILS	
<b>Provider:</b>	Advanced Glazings Ltd.
<b>Program #:</b>	TGU222
<b>Program:</b>	From Plastic to Performance: Rethinking Translucent Walls
<b>Length:</b>	1 hour
<b>Credits:</b>	1.0 LU
<b>HSW:</b>	Yes
<b>Sustainability:</b>	Yes