

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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GIHN New Member

Jason Kester lives in Renton, Washington. He owns Kester Clear Mold Inspections. He is a certified mold inspector who specializes in working with doctors and patients in the areas of Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. He also provides mycotoxin inspections and connects his clients with Real Time Laboratories in Dallas, Texas.

Please join me in welcoming Jason Kester.

Individuals and businesses can request an application for membership by going to the GIHN website and completing the request form on the [Contact Us](#) page.

They will receive a copy of our Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy. If they agree with our policies, then they complete the Membership Application and submit it via email. As a reminder, membership requests will not be approved for individuals or organizations that are primarily in the business of selling products.

Estimated Cost of Indoor Air Pollution: First Study in France

The quality of air inside buildings is a public health concern in France and in many other countries. In fact, indoor environments encompass a broad diversity of exposure scenarios and many physical agents and chemical and microbiological contaminants which have variable effects on health.

Numerous health risk assessments, research studies and measurement campaigns are being, or have been, conducted in France in order to reinforce population prevention and protection measures. In addition, an exploratory study of the socio-economic cost of indoor air pollution has been launched by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), the Observatory for Indoor Air Quality (OQAI) and Pierre Kopp, Professor of economy at the University of Paris I – Sorbonne-Panthéon.

This work has led to the development of an exploratory method aiming to quantify the economic consequences of the impact of certain indoor air pollutants on the health of the population living in France.

This first study, more illustrative than quantitative due to the assumptions adopted and the limits identified, estimates the cost of indoor air pollution at approximately 19 billion euros per year.

Indoor environments encompass a broad range of different exposure scenarios and numerous physical agents and chemical or microbiological contaminants. The health consequences of these exposures vary greatly depending on the type of pollutant, and the intensity and duration of exposure. The occurrence of health effects also depends on other factors such as genetic determinants, socio-economic considerations and other environmental parameters.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *128 Hotel Rooms with Mold* on page 2

128 Hotel Rooms Saturated with Mold; Workers Walk Out

They were disgusted, fed up, and they took to the streets. A half a dozen workers walked out of a Muskegon hotel to warn the public about black mold and other health hazards that they say are in several rooms.

Anyone can reach a breaking point. For six workers at the Victory Inn and Suites in Muskegon, that time is now.

"I can't take it no more," says Alicia Rogers, with housekeeping at the hotel.

"I'm worried about the health of me, the other employees, and our customers," says Christopher Hill, with maintenance at the hotel.

All the employees say they've all tried letting management know about the problems with black mold.

"When brought it to his attention, he told me to stay in my profession," says Rogers.

So, Alicia Rogers led the group of six workers outside the Victory Inn and Suites, where they could carry their signs, and show the evidence. Rogers sent photos to WZZM 13, which she says show the black mold that's in several rooms.

"We've got 128 that is saturated in black mold," says Rogers.

"They just asked me yesterday to wipe down a room that had mold growing on a ceiling, to wipe it down so they could rent it out the same night, it's disgusting," says Hill.

The employees say the problems have been going on for at least four months and in just the past month they've had three different managers.

"The second one came in was here for a day, packed his bags, and left the next day," says Hill.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



128 hotel rooms saturated with mold; workers walk out

Couple Awarded €291,000 After Home Ruined by Damp (Ireland)

A couple have been awarded €291,000 after the High Court heard their newly constructed dream home turned to a nightmare because of damp and they eventually had to leave it.

Dolores and Stephen Nimmo sued builders Mulreid Construction Ltd over its failure to install a proper damp course on the new two-storey over basement house at Tallansfield Manor, Tallanstown, Dundalk, Co Louth.

The couple paid Mulreid, of Ardee, Co Louth, €326,000 to build the house which they moved into in May 2006.

The court heard that instead of a proper damp course, a thin plastic barrier, similar to a radon barrier, was put in during construction of the foundation with the result that dampness seeped into the house.

The judge said it was the type of case relating to poor quality building that was too often before the courts. It was supposed to be the Nimmos' dream home but it turned out to be a nightmare and he was sorry for the trouble they had endured.

He awarded them €131,609 for the cost of repairing the damp problem along with €160,000 for trauma and suffering.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *No New-House Smell* on page 3

No New-House Smell; How to Build a Scent-Free, Hypoallergenic Home

One of the telltale features of a freshly finished, just-built home isn't the gleaming appliances or unscuffed, piano-gloss floors. It's the heady, intoxicating, dizzyingly clean smell.

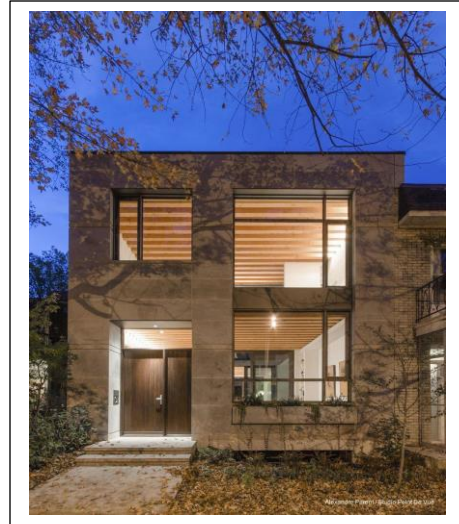
It's an odour that architect Meg Graham is intimately familiar with, as the principal of Toronto's Superkul, an award-winning studio that has built many top-quality houses. But in a home she recently completed in Mulmur, Ontario – a beautiful, waterside bungalow with sunbathed interiors and a rich, woodsy palette – “there was no new-home smell,” she says. Not because anything was amiss, but because everything had gone according to plan.

Graham's goal was to create an abode with no noxious chemicals – the glues, formaldehyde and sealants that hold together, preserve and finish most modern homes. (And that give them that pungent, never-used whiff.) But also compromising indoor air quality, and, with some people, causing irksome reactions like itchy eyes, sore throats and wheezing (a set of symptoms often called Sick Home Syndrome).

It's a particular concern because, according to Health Canada, we spend up to 90 per cent of our time indoors. And yet, according to writer Adria Vasil, author of *Ecoholic Home* and environmental columnist for *Now* magazine, “the air in our homes can often be more polluted than the air outside.”

In the past, avoiding harmful building materials was difficult. Paints with VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and cheap, glue-filled chipboard cabinets were standard; the alternatives were hard-to-find, expensive and not particularly attractive. Now, because of increased awareness, and the work of both custom designers like Graham (“this is something that's long overdue,” she notes), and mass-market retailers like Ikea, a beautiful home can also, increasingly, be a healthy home.

When she first moved into the three-bedroom, 2,700-square-foot place a year-and-a-half ago, there was “no new-car smell,” she says. And she was thrilled.

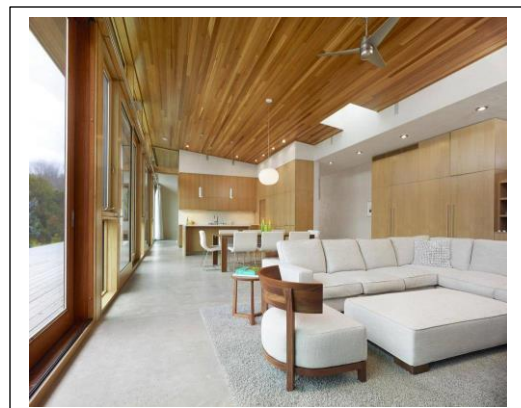


No New-House Smell; How to Build a Scent-Free, Hypoallergenic Home

Karsenti spent a year and a half working with architect Gervais Fortin and researching materials. Drywall, for example, was out. It's vulnerable to mould and can leach harmful gasses like sulfur dioxide (a problem specifically when it's manufactured in China). So were sealants like polyurethane.

Instead, she used as many all-natural components as possible. The locally sourced wood floors are finished in organic oils, for example. And the walls are formed from a composite of hemp, crushed limestone and sand. The results have a striking texture with a soft grey colour so they don't need to be painted. And they have acoustic properties that help dampen the sound in the house.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



China Suspends Officials After Lead Poisoning in Hunan Children

Authorities in the central Chinese province of Hunan have suspended three officials and placed the head of a local chemical plant under surveillance after more than 300 children were found to have excessive levels of lead in their blood, official media reported on Tuesday.

The officials were suspended from the environmental protection bureau in Hunan's Hengdong county, while local authorities halted production at the Meilun Chemical Materials Co. after the reports of lead poisoning emerged, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Polluting smelting and chemical plants have been blamed for a wave of lead poisoning cases affecting thousands of children across China in recent years, sometimes sparking violent protests.

Children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning, which can result in neurological, liver, and kidney impairment, as well as anemia, convulsions, coma, and death.

High levels of lead exposure can cause permanent intellectual and developmental disabilities, including reading and learning disabilities, behavioral problems, hearing loss, attention problems, and disruption in the development of visual and motor functioning.

Hangzhou-based independent journalist Zan Aizong said big polluters are rarely held to account by local governments.

"All of the big polluters are also big earners and big taxpayers," Zan said. "And the local governments will always protect these enterprises first, to boost GDP figures, while the lives of local people get pushed into second place."

"The government has a duty to protect the lives and health, employment, housing and environment of the people in its locality," Zan said. "They shouldn't fail at this most basic task and try to pass the buck."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



Mold Cover-Up at Ball State University Housing Project

A multi-million dollar off-campus housing project in the Villages at Ball State is being threatened by mold and workers claim it's being covered up.

For nearly two weeks, construction crews have been fighting heavy rainfall and growing mold on the top two floors at the Village Promenade. They're trying to get the hot spot open by August 1 while taking extreme measures to keep students safe.

"Imagine the possibilities" reads the advertisement posted outside the Village Promenade Apartments in Muncie.

"I think it will all be really, really good for the village. There's not a whole lot there," said Jordan Clohessy, a senior majoring in Music Technology.

Developers of the \$55 million high-rise apartment/restaurant project just south of the Ball State campus promise growth. But not the kind workers allege could make students sick.

In an email, a worker shows 13 Investigates photos of growing mold, saying the construction company in charge "sprayed foam insulation in all 4 floors ceilings before there was a roof. The rain soaked the foam."

"Before drywalling, they didn't do anything to address the moisture, mold started to grow and the cover-up started," the email continued.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *Industry Defense Experts* on page 5

Industry Defense Experts—Bought and Paid For

When mounting scientific evidence began to convict cigarette smoking as being a leading cause of lung cancer as well as other potentially fatal ailments, the tobacco industry responded with scientific ‘experts’ of their own to dismiss the concerns as unfounded and false. For the average person, it became a matter of which experts to believe. **In hindsight, we now know that the tobacco industry had, through its own studies, suspected the health risks associated with tobacco, and hid that information from the public.** Yet even after all the damning health evidence against tobacco and the millions of victims tobacco has claimed, the tobacco industry still occasionally produces an ‘expert’ to promote the ‘healthy’ aspects of tobacco.

This pattern of putting forth an ‘expert’ to counter a product-related health concern is far from limited to the tobacco industry, and is, in fact, standard practice for a multitude of corporate entities.

Another that perfectly fits the mold is the past use of lead in various products including paint, gasoline, and even toothpaste tubes; this despite the fact that the lethal nature of lead was known even to the ancient Romans. Lead workers in Roman times died of the various hideous effects of lead poisoning at an alarming rate, but the Romans didn’t particularly care since most of those workers were expendable slaves. Yet they didn’t realize that the lead in their water pipes and dinnerware was slowly leaching into their own bodies. In fact lead poisoning has been listed as one of the causes of the decline of the Roman Empire.

Even though the toxic nature of lead was well known, it became a major ingredient in various commercial products though the mid-1900s. The most hazardous was the lead additive to gasoline. Scientists began to document the buildup of lead in the environment and sounded a health alarm. The petroleum industry then produced ‘experts’ of their own who categorically denied the buildup and health risks. It took over 20 years from the first sounding of an alarm before the federal government essentially banned lead in the production of consumer products. Yet meanwhile the petroleum and lead industry secured millions of dollars in profits from the sale of lead.

Big Business and the Big Lie

Industry Defense Experts—Bought and Paid For (continued)

In the current race for profits and in light of the growing body of evidence for man-produced climate change, the fossil fuel industry continues to produce its own cadre of ‘experts’ to dismiss it all as a vast conspiracy to stifle capitalism and kill jobs, a claim not so different than those made by the tobacco industry and the lead industry. The pesticide industry and interlinked GMO industry produces its band of experts to dismiss the well-established link between pesticide poisoning and the decline of honeybees, native pollinators, and the Monarch population. Now evidence is mounting implicating pesticides, particularly the nerve toxins now common in systemic pesticides, in various developmental problems in children, which, true to form, the chemical industry continues to deny.

GIHN comment: This same “big lie strategy” is also being used in regard to the health effects of mold.

In its recent ‘corporations are people’ ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court has bestowed ‘personhood’ to corporations granting them the same ‘rights’ as citizens. **Yet while gaining the rights of the individual, corporations are largely immune to the legal consequences of the harmful products they produce. No corporate executive or board of directors of the petroleum industry, the tobacco industry, or the lead industry ever had to face legal charges for the millions of people who suffered and died because of their products.** The point here is that the corporate entity provides a layer of protection against criminal prosecution that the average citizen does not have and therefore these individuals enjoy a privileged place in the American Way.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Big Business and the Big Lie strategy.

See *IOM Conflicts of Interest* on page 6

Institute of Medicine (IOM)—Not Reporting Conflicts of Interest

When faced with intense criticism for her agency's approval of the powerful narcotic painkiller Zohydro, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Margaret Hamburg turned to a sobering statistic: 100 million Americans are suffering from severe chronic pain.

The 100 million figure has become a staple in the ongoing debate over the use of narcotic painkillers. It is cited in news stories, by medical organizations and by drug companies seeking approval for new opioid therapies. When Hamburg spoke in April at a prescription drug conference, she noted it means debilitating pain affects more people than heart disease, cancer and diabetes combined.

But that number is exaggerated and misleading, according to pain specialists familiar with how it was derived.

The number originated with the Institute of Medicine report, [*Relieving Pain in America, A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research.*](#)

A *Journal Sentinel*/*MedPage Today* investigation found that nine of the 19 experts on the IOM panel that produced that report had connections to companies that manufacture narcotic painkillers at the time or in the 3 years prior to their work on the report.

Some were officers or board members of groups that received opioid company funding, others were drug-company consultants or were paid for educational programs funded by companies that make pain drugs.

In addition, panel chairman Philip Pizzo, MD, was dean of the medical school at Stanford University when he chaired the panel, a school, which received educational grants and research funding from companies that make pain treatments.

Yet none of those financial links were disclosed in 2011 when the IOM issued its 364-page report.

That runs counter to the institute's own recommendations to the medical world, which say disclosure of conflicts of interest are "essential."

Institute of Medicine--Conflicts of Interest

Institute of Medicine (IOM)—Not Reporting Conflicts of Interest (cont'd)

Catherine DeAngelis, MD, MPH, an IOM member and the former editor of JAMA, **took it one step further saying the pain organization board members and officers should have excluded themselves from serving on the panel.**

"It's a conflict," she said.

The institute's report devotes only a few pages to opioids, but it warns against efforts to restrict their use. Past *Journal Sentinel*/*MedPage Today* investigations found that the boom in narcotic painkillers has been fueled in part by an aggressive push from drug companies that funded nonprofit groups which advocated for greater use of opioids.

Indeed, six of the IOM panel members have been officers or board members of advocacy groups that were named in a 2012 U.S. Senate Committee on Finance investigation into the links. A seventh panel member co-founded another organization that is the subject of a separate investigation launched in February by two U.S. senators.

In that case, the group collected as much as \$35,000 each from various drug companies and arranged private meetings at expensive hotels that were attended by drug executives, FDA officials and academics.

But there has been little scrutiny of the 100 million figure -- one that is the equivalent of 40 percent of the nation's adult population. In recent months, it has been criticized as misleading by a researcher on whose study it was based and another who served as a reviewer of the report.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *Deteriorating Navy Housing in India* on page 7

Deteriorating Navy Housing in Mumbai (India)

The deteriorating state of residential buildings in the elite Navy Nagar area (in Mumbai, India) has resulted in the husband of an officer sending complaint letters to the defence minister and Navy chief. While the complainant has not heard from officials, the concrete ledge of a six-floor residential building in Navy Nagar crashed on an officer's car last Tuesday, causing further alarm.

Yeshwanth Shenoy, the husband of a doctor at the Naval Hospital Asvini, shot off the letters after a legal notice he served on the then commander-in-chief Western Naval Command Shekar Sinha in April holding him solely responsible for any disaster in the Naval Officers Residential Area at Navy Nagar got no response.

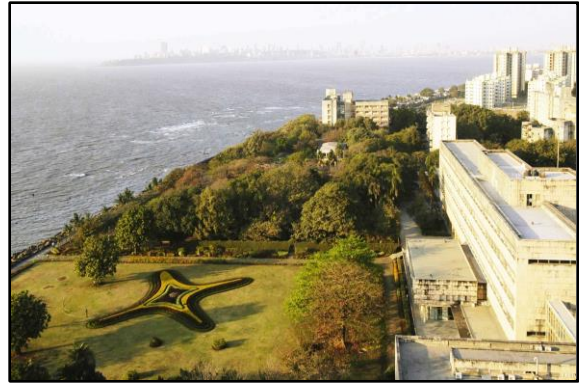
Shenoy, who obtained maintenance and repair data and expenses via RTI, said the flats in NOFRA were so poorly maintained that only a few of them were free of internal seepages. Shenoy said he has documents to show that Rs 4 crore allotted for maintenance was misappropriated. He stumbled on the alleged irregularities when his wife requisitioned a tank for their house.

Shenoy said in his complaint that R 35, a 13-storied building less than 25 years old, has been evacuated owing to structural defects and will be pulled down soon. He alleged two high rises built in Karanja (a Naval property in Alibaug) had no takers now due to its bad construction.

"The walls of the western naval command mess that houses officers in transit has leakages and are covered with thick mould and fungus," he said. "The air is so thick that breathing is difficult in these rooms even in the summer heat makes it a serious health hazard."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

Next Newsletter: August 1, 2014



Navy Nagar housing in Mumbai, India

Student Makes Life-Saving Cystic Fibrosis Discovery

A medical student made a major cystic fibrosis discovery during her summer work placement.

Jo Armstead, 21, pored through medical data from 30 countries and found **half of adults with the incurable genetic lung condition were also infected by the fungus aspergillus.**

Her research will help doctors diagnose and treat cystic fibrosis more quickly, meaning patients could lead longer and healthier lives.

Jo of Altrincham, Gtr Manchester, said: "It has been really great to be involved in the first project of its kind, with dramatic results and real opportunities for better health in young cystic fibrosis sufferers."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

Quick Links:

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Health Effects:

http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health_effects.html

Position Statement:

http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/files/GIHN_position_statement_Revised_12_17_2012.pdf

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments