

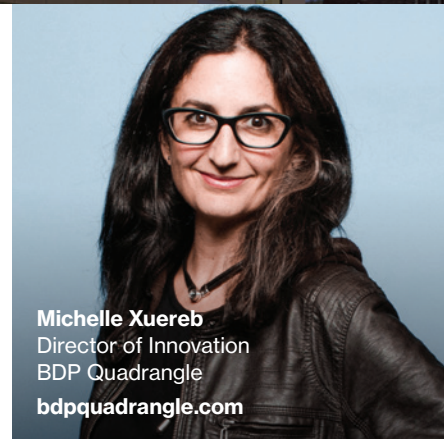
Hullmark's new timber-frame office building at 80 Atlantic Ave. in Toronto, designed by BDP Quadrangle.

Photo: Doublespace Photography

# Ask an architect

## Michelle Xuereb

Veteran **Savings by Design** participant **Michelle Xuereb** has completed the program more than a dozen times as part of project teams involved in the multi-residential and commercial building sectors. Here, she shares how the program benefits architects and helps participants achieve their goals.



**Michelle Xuereb**  
Director of Innovation  
BDP Quadrangle  
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### **Q: As an architect, what's the value of participating in Savings by Design?**

**A:** The real value comes from the integrated discussions. The program brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the client, their design team, subject-matter experts and energy modellers provided by Enbridge Gas. We spend the day together, outside our day-to-day environment, which allows us to focus our attention on solving complex design issues informed by real-time energy modelling.

### **Q: How is the program different from simply bringing in consultants?**

**A:** I think the difference is that the workshop is peer to peer. For example, a mechanical engineer with sustainability expertise may present new technologies and ideas to the project mechanical

engineer in the room. It may be a technology that is new to the team or it may be something they were already considering and now have the support to bring forward. I love the collaborative aspect of the program.

### **Q: What's a typical day like in the Savings by Design full-day workshop?**

**A:** After introductions and reviewing the overarching project goals, the energy modeller shares the model that they've prepared in advance of the workshop. Then there's a series of presentations and discussions with subject-matter experts, which can be anything from windows to wellness. The subject-matter experts make suggestions for energy-conservation methods and explain how those methods can help the project reach its goals. Over the course of the day, you're building on these different discussions, selecting energy-conservation methods you want to test, while the energy modeller is doing live modelling. At the end of the day, the final results are presented.

### **Q: What part of the workshop is most relevant to you?**

**A:** As an architect, the part that is most relevant to me is the discussion around passive strategies, specifically the building envelope (windows and wall construction). The program focuses on passive strategies before active ones to increase the building's resilience, while also increasing energy performance. The building envelope is key to how a building looks, how it performs and, most importantly, how it both protects and connects the occupants with the environment.

### **Q: How do you get a client to buy into a more sustainable, energy-efficient building?**

**A:** In my experience, it's really important to understand a client's "why" for each project. For some building owners, energy savings are the driver. For others, it's their reputation; they want to sell a certain quality of building. Once you understand the why, you can work towards solutions that respond to their goals.

# Start designing sustainable buildings with expert help

**Savings by Design** gives your project team free access to industry experts, technical tools and financial incentives to help you build high-performance, resilient and sustainable buildings.

**Free expertise and incentives**

value up to

**\$60,000\***

## Key steps to efficient, resilient design

### Step 1

1 – 2 hours | No cost

#### Visioning session

We'll meet with your project lead, sustainability manager and a design team member to:

- Help define and prioritize project requirements and sustainability priorities.
- Determine which team members and external experts should attend the workshop.

### Step 2

1 day | No cost

#### Integrated design process workshop

Your team will strategize with energy modellers and sustainable design experts to maximize your building's energy and environmental performance.

- An energy model will be developed as well as a final report summarizing the options discussed and recommendations.
- Facilitated by Sustainable Buildings Canada.
- A \$30,000 value.\*\*

## Rewards for building above code

After completing the workshop, you're eligible for additional incentives based on the performance of your building.

#### Energy simulation modelling incentive

**\$15,000**

Earn incentives when you complete a pre-construction certified energy model that shows your building will be 15 percent above current code.

#### Commissioning incentive

**\$15,000**

Earn additional incentives by confirming your building is 15 percent above code with a post-construction certified energy model, performed by a professional modeller.

To get the most out of your next project, contact **Mary Sye, Energy Solutions Advisor.**

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\*Projected savings based on energy modelling simulations from the Savings by Design Integrated Design Process workshop. \*\*This has no cash value. HST is not applicable and will not be added to incentive payments. Visit [savingsbydesign.ca](https://savingsbydesign.ca) for details. To qualify for the program, your project must be located in the Enbridge Gas Inc. service area. If a participant doesn't complete construction of a new commercial property in the Enbridge Gas service area that exceeds 15 percent of the OBC's energy performance requirement within five years of completing the integrated design process workshop, they're ineligible for performance incentives. During that time, builders are expected to design and construct at least one new construction building based on resulting recommendations. In order to receive incentive payments, you must agree to all program terms and conditions, fully participate in all stages of the program and meet all program requirements. © 2020 Enbridge Gas Inc. All rights reserved.