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Visiting Norwegian professor presents lecture on "Green Design in the 21st Century"



February 5, 2009

Chris Butters, a visiting professor from the University of Oslo in Norway, will give a lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 at room 264, Quadrangle Building, Saint John's University.

Butters will speak on "Green Design in the 21st Century: Lessons from the World." He will show examples of state of the art buildings and urban development in Europe that have high social qualities and almost zero energy use or climate emissions, illustrating that sustainability is fully possible, as well as discussing deeper issues related to creating a sustainable world. Butters' speech is free and open to the public.

A consultant and designer of sustainable communities and buildings in Europe, Scandinavia and Asia, Butters spent a decade in Bhutan as a consultant architect for schools and hospitals. He is a published author, writing on issues of development as it relates to ecology and local culture, and has taught in many places.

Butters is spending the 2009 spring semester at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, teaching a political science class on sustainable planning and community development. He is also giving talks and participating in conferences in Minnesota, New York and other locations.

Born in South Africa in 1950, Butters received a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1978 from the University of Montpellier, France, and a postgraduate degree in energy planning in 1979 from the University of Oslo. He is a course director at the University of Oslo, and an architect and consultant for Global Awareness Interdisciplinary Alliance (GAIA) International group.

Butters' visiting lectureship at CSB and SJU is made possible by a grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and is sponsored by the [Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement](#) and the [department of history](#) at CSB and SJU. The center seeks to engage the campus and wider community in debate and discourse regarding public policy and public affairs.