



International Green Roof Congress
25 - 27 May 2009
Nuertingen/Germany

Press Release

International Green Roof Congress 2009

INTERNATIONAL GREEN ROOF CONGRESS 2009

“Bringing Nature Back to Town”

From 25th to 27th May 2009, Stuttgart / Nuertingen (Germany) will become the platform for the world of green roofs. The event, which is under the patronage of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, is being organized by the International Green Roof Association (IGRA) and the German Roof Gardener Association (DDV). The congress programme will have a distinctively interactive style with practical workshops and green roof excursions. The congress languages are English and German (simultaneous translation). EarlyBird registrations (until February 28th) will receive a discount of 20 %. For more information please visit the congress website www.greenroofworld.com.

30 Lectures – 3 Excursions – 2 Workshops – 1 Vision

No other element in sustainable architecture has seen technical innovations develop so fast, as in the field of green roofs. The lectures will address fascinating projects designed by renowned architecture firm, as well as the application of green roofs in respect of balancing building energy, rainwater management, environment and climate protection, and green building concepts. Along with the Landscape Research, Development & Construction Society (FLL), the network of cooperation partners for the congress comprises further important German stakeholder organizations in the field of green roofs (gardeners, roofers, landscape architects, architects and municipal delegates) as well as the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), the European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA) and the International Federation of the Roofing Trade (IFD). The congress is kindly supported by ZinCo GmbH (Title Sponsor) and DOW Hyperlast (Premium Sponsor).

Lectures and Projects

The impressive list of speakers includes Emilio Ambasz (US Architect and Green Building Pioneer), Prof. Gilbert Lösken (Head of the FLL Green Roof Workgroup, Germany), Roland Appl (Green Roof Engineer, IGRA President), Paul Kephart (US Horticulture Expert for Eco-

logical Design), Rolf Disch (Office for Solar Architecture, Germany) as well as international architecture firms, such as BIG Bjarke Ingels Group (Denmark), SOM Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (United Kingdom), Mecanoo (Netherlands) and many more.

The **London project “New Providence Wharf”** is, for example, a spectacular site, which combines living space, office space and leisure facilities, and comprises a 27-storey hotel and apartment complex. It has created a new dimension of used rooftop space, which captivates its visitors with its cascade-style rooftop gardens and its views of the River Thames. The architecture firm SOM Skidmore, Owings & Merrill will explain this futuristic concept in detail.



*New Providence Wharf (London) – Roof gardens by the Thames
Photo Courtesy IGRA*

The Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) will present its **“Mountain Dwelling” project** at the congress which received the “Housing Award” at the World Architecture Festival 2008. The Mountain Dwellings appear as a suburban neighborhood of garden homes, flowing over a 10-storey building - suburban living with urban density. It is a unique city centre living concept in Copenhagen, which allows its inhabitants to enjoy nature on their doorsteps.



*Mountain Dwellings (Copenhagen) – Best housing project – World Architecture Festival 2008
Photo Courtesy BIG Bjarke Ingels Group*

A classic among green roofs is the project **ACROS Fukuoka - Prefectural International Hall** in Japan which is also on the cover of the book “Green Roofs – Ecological Design and

Construction” by the Earth Pledge Foundation. The design of Emilio Ambasz, Honorary Fellow AIA and pioneer in the field of green architecture is a perfect example for the reconciliation between architecture and nature. One can say that the building has a “Janus Face”. Whereas the north facade presents the elegant urban design of a modern office building, the south facade extends with a series of 15 stepped terraced gardens into the adjacent Tenjin Central Park. As a result, the building gives back a 10,000 m² green open space to the public and doubles the size of the park.



*Fukuoka Prefectural International Hall (Fukuoka) – Masterpiece of green roof design
Photo Courtesy Hiromi Watanabe*

Fusionopolis, a science and technology powerhouse for Singapore, integrates 13 roof gardens amounting to some 3,000 m² of sky greenery, including 6 large-scale thematic ones on the 5th, 18th and 21st storeys. They serve as the green lungs and social pockets for the office and lab staff. The highest roof garden is located at the 24th storey. A wide spectrum of tropical vegetation ranging from turf, groundcovers, climbers, shrubs, ferns, palms and trees were planted amidst a good balance of hardscape and water features. The presentation by Green Roof expert Ho Wang Weng (Managing Director of ZinCo Singapore) shall highlight the some of the unique features of this sky greenery from various perspectives - installation operation, choice of materials and vegetation.



*Fusionopolis (Singapore) – Science, technology & media powerhouse with Sky Gardens
Photo Courtesy IGRA*

Other project presentations, such as the FiftyTwoDegrees in Nijmegen (Mecanoo Architects) and the Platinum Business Park in Warsaw (RS Architektura Krajabrazu), demonstrate how

green roofs can help to symbiotically combine nature with modern architecture. The same applies to the combination of green roofs and photovoltaics, which has been installed on Cologne's first office building, in line with the "Passive House Standard", and has contributed to an increase in the efficacy of the PV installation.



*FiftyTwoDegrees (Nijmegen) – Natural stormwater management with green roofs
Photo Courtesy IGRA*

The Workshops: practice-oriented and tailor made

Workshop 1 "Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Green Roofs" will offer participants practical expertise on how to successfully plan and create a green roof – from a simple garage landscaping to a 30,000 m² landscaped park.

Green roof expert Bernd W. Krupka is on the list of speakers, along with the internationally experienced plant expert Dr. Nigel Dunnett from Sheffield. Practical construction experience will be presented by landscape contractors from Germany, the Netherlands and Poland.

Other talking points include insurance-related issues: What effect do green roofs have on a building's insurance and what are the relevant fire precautions?

Workshop 2 "An International Comparison of Funding and Support Programmes for Green Roofs" will provide an overview of political incentives in Germany and on an international level. The main findings of the workshop will be included in a "Best Mode of Practices-Guideline for Local Authorities".



*Pavillones de las Naciones (Zaragoza) – A landscape park on the rooftop of the EXPO exhibition hall
Photo Courtesy IGRA*

An Eye on the Green Roof

Excursions in and around Stuttgart, to the German solar capital Freiburg and to Friedrichshafen, Lake Constance, will show the various ways in which green roofs can be applied, using both individual case studies and within the context of modern town planning. The fact that Stuttgart alone houses over 300 000 m² of green rooftops says a lot. Special highlight: The excursion to Friedrichshafen includes an airship tour with the famous Zeppelin NT. Cruising at a height of 300 metres will give participants a unique view of the green roofs around Lake Constance.



*Green roof cruising tour at Lake Constance with the famous Zeppelin NT
Photo Courtesy ZLT_J_Wuertz*

The International Green Roof Congress 2009 has a vision – to bring nature back into modern city architecture. Combining green roofs with other future-looking technology like solar energy, thermal insulation and utilising rainwater offers new potential for progress.

Nature + Architecture = Beauty, it's as simple as this.

1187 words

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