



**"The important thing is that we are moving into the future with the building! \***

*\* Helena Feldmann-Fischer from URBANLUST at the European Façade Summit in Vienna*

## **European Façade Summit 2024: On the way to sustainable innovations in façade construction**

From 29.02.-01.03.2024, everything revolved around sustainability and new approaches in façade construction at the Hotel Meliá. The speakers at the specialist congress were unanimous: in today's world, you have to think holistically!

Thomas Eschbacher from Werner Sobek opened the EFS with a presentation on façade greening and delivered the first of the many sustainability concepts on the two days of the congress.

### **Digitalization meets sustainability**

In his lecture on Building Information Modeling, Plandata CEO Lars Oberwinter then presented systems for data processing and built a bridge between digitalization and sustainability. Among other things, he emphasized the opportunities that machine learning offers in terms of resource savings and optimization. URBANLUST, represented by Helena Feldmann-Fischer and Martin Bachem, also emphasized how AI is fundamentally changing the construction process at all stages. Images from AI offer them new conversation starters and inspiration, while their speed of production is impressive. The new task now is to create visionary plans together with AI.

### **Focus on carbon control**

Karl Stefan Dewald's presentation on carbon control focused on the recycling industry, where you can "dismantle with a knife and fork instead of a wrecking ball" and thus achieve CO<sup>2</sup> savings of 98% in construction. Together with Alexander Riemer from Alukönigstahl, the Head of Façade Engineering at Schüco appealed for the development of a new self-image of sustainability in construction.

The host, Managing Director of Interconnection Consulting, kicked off the afternoon with a presentation on current market data for curtain walling and VHF. The mood in the construction industry in the DACH region is poor, but facades are weathering the crisis comparatively well, according to Frederik Lehner.

### **Forward-looking façade solutions**

Dieter Moor from arconsol and Paul-Rouven Denz, project manager at Priedemann, presented further solutions for future-oriented façades. Both electricity and heat, as well as the correct use of BIPV, played an important role here. Christoph Kepser provided further arguments for the use of photovoltaics in façade construction with a presentation of international projects by the Colt Group. GIG Managing Director, Gerhard Haidinger, provided an example of intelligent commercial construction and architectural glass design with the Cube Berlin.

## Serial refurbishment and recycling

Associate Director at ARUP, Susanne Stolper, and Axel Roth from Saint Gobain Glass, examined the opportunities and risks of serial refurbishment and recycling in their presentations. In the glass sector in particular, the biggest obstacles at the current stage of development are the poor quality of obsolete materials, low implementation of the necessary circular economy and high costs. Sustainable thinking in the construction sector "is the future, because there's no other way!" Roth insists, referring to the scarcity of resources for important production materials.

## EFS Awards 2024

At this year's EFS Awards, recognition prizes went to Arch+More ZT and roofit.solar in the Innovation category, while Towern3000 won the main prize for its CEPA energy façade. In the Sustainability category, Wiedergewonnen and Dachgrün & Techmetall were awarded recognition prizes. The winner in terms of sustainability was Schüco with its Carbon Control project.

In addition to exciting content and lively panel discussions, attendees were able to enjoy classic Viennese cuisine and live music in the rustic atmosphere of a wine tavern in the evening. We are already looking forward to the European Façade Summit 2025!



CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

*IC.Events by*

*Interconnection Consulting*

Franca Kircher / Eventmanagement | PR

tel.: +43 2 585 4623-15

mail: kircher@interconnectionconsulting.com

Mar. 2024 | Vienna

---