



**European Association for
Architectural Education**
Association Européenne pour
l'Enseignement de l'Architecture

Date: October 29, 2021

Climate Change & Built Heritage,
a conference in Brussels on 28th October 2021, organised by the ACE (Architects' Council of Europe)

After a smooth and energetic welcome by master of ceremony Andrea Thilo, we could listen to introductory words by Kristiaan Borret (Brussels Bouwmeester / Maitre Architecte), Georg Pendl (ACE President) and Thomas Vonier (past president IUA). Over the next 40 years, 230 billion square metres will be built, which is about the entire building volume of Paris!

Brussels is a city with a lot of office buildings. So now, in the post-pandemic period, it is time for a paradigm shift, says Kristiaan Borret. Which will also have to lead to a change in practices, including change in 'style'.

"Demolition is an exception", a statement by Georg Pendl.

In the morning keynote speech, Anna Heringer showed her well known bamboo and earth projects, all based on community work and participatory processes. "Beauty ... out of love" as an answer to 'Form follows ...?'. Anna is a winner of the 2021 NEB Awards.

The first session of the conference included designing and planning for the long term. Speakers talked about heat islands in Paris, performant life cycle analysis and more wooden buildings in Stockholm and new urban landscapes in Germany. The nice thing about the NEB is that it is a way to put soul in the European Green Deal. These words came from Ciaran Cuffe, member of the European Parliament, when talking about transport shifts.

The second session was build around the EU Climate Action. Ambitious declarations, enormous renovation waves and a lot of money. "What about affordable houses?" and "who is really going to pay?" were examples of some critical questions from the audience.

EU Policies for a circular ecosystem and other examples of relevant EU programmes were shown. Interesting are the OMC Groups: Open Method of Cooperation Groups. Anne Grady, policy officer at the EU Commission for Culture and Education talked about the group "Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change".

We saw excellent architectural projects in session 3, after Martin Rauch's talk on rammed earth. Martin is also a winner of the 2021 NEB Awards. Today earth block walls are much more expensive than brick walls. In the future this will be different.

I participated in the 4th session with representatives of the NEB Collective and tried to relate all this to our EAAE-world. To the younger generation of students and new architects. Can we think of a new OMC group tackling the barriers for young people when working on the future? A group

that works on fee-systems for preparing work and research before the actual architectural project is started. A group that works on new types of competitions based on slow and rich thinking. A group that rethinks EU-directives for architectural education including the NEB-soul.

The conference statement was presented at the end of the day.

Dag Boutsen

See the website <https://www.ace-cae.eu>