Construction21 launches the Green Building Solutions Awards, climate solutions contest for the COP21 - Paris 2015

Construction21, social media for sustainable buildings & cities, facilitates practical exchanges between professionals all year long, allowing each and every one to improve their skills and practices.

For the international conference on climate in Paris at the end of 2015, Construction21 aims to push initiatives from the field and put on display practical solutions which contribute to fight against climate change.

Christian Brodhag, President of Construction21

Promoting exemplary buildings from the whole world

The competition gathers real cases, solutions already implemented in existing buildings and possibly replicable in other locations. Beyond the 9 countries covered by Construction21, buildings from China, the United States, Canada, India, Afghanistan or Algeria have been announced by our international partners.

Competing is gaining visibility

The contest, through the great diffusion power of Construction21 and their partners, will showcase these exemplary buildings for 1 million professionals to see over the year 2015. All competing buildings will be visible in 2015 and long after on all Construction21 platforms, in each local language.

Each winning building will be rewarded with its own video, created by the Construction21 team to present their solutions. These videos will be widely disseminated on the web. Nominees and winners will also be honored during the two events organised in Paris before and during the COP21, in October and December 2015.
How to apply?
Applications are free and open to all kinds of professionals: building owners, architects, engineers, construction companies industrials... event building users. It’s a great opportunity for them to display their innovative buildings and to develop their market.

To enter, applicants only have to publish a case study describing their building and at least one exemplary solution illustrating its performance in the selected categorie(s).

Publication of the case study is done on one of the 9 national Construction21 platforms, depending on the location of the competing building.

For other countries, applicants can publish their case studies on the international platform, either in English, French or Spanish.

Enter the Green building Solutions Awards 2015.

Contest time line

| Until June 30th | Publication of case studies describing the buildings and solutions competing on the Construction21 platforms. |
| September 1st to 30th | In each category and each organizing country, selection of the best buildings by a jury of national experts. Plus national online votes to designate in each country the user’s choice award winner. |
| October 13th | Announcement of the national winners, nominated for the international contest, during World Efficiency. |
| October 13th to 31st | Deliberations of the international jury to designate the world winners and international online vote to elect the user’s choice award winner at the international level. |
| December 3rd | Announcement of the winners and awards ceremony at La Galerie des Solutions in Le Bourget, right next to the COP21. |

About Construction21.org

Construction21, social media for sustainable buildings & cities, disseminates information and best practices on sustainable construction for free, among the actors of the building sector. Since 2012, Construction21 offers an international benchmark of 1,000 exemplary buildings and solutions, accessible in each local language and in English. These case studies are published by professionals themselves, through a user-friendly interface. Then, they are moderated and translated by the Construction21 team of each country. A second observatory dedicated to sustainable cities and their urban solutions, City21, is planned for the end of 2015.

The Construction21\(^1\) network, constituted of 10 platforms, is both local and global. Each platform is managed by a non-profit organization committed to promoting sustainable construction in their country. 300,000 professionals visited the network in 2014 and 1 million visitors are expected in 2015. Construction21 aims to create 50 platforms by 2020.

\(^1\) The Construction21 network counts 9 national platforms in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Morocco, Romania and an international platform in English connected to BUILD UP.
Partners of the Green Building Solutions Awards

The contest is supported by the ADEME, the French Agency for Energy and many other national and international partners who promote the competition in their own networks.

Companies involved in the fight against climate change associated their brand to the competition.

"Health & Comfort" Sponsor

The VELUX Group is actively committed to transition towards sustainable habitat, combining energy efficiency, comfort and healthy interior, with the least impact on environment. We are committed to overcoming the challenges of climate change, of reduced energy resources and of fundamental need to preserve health and well-being in buildings.

While we spend 90% of our time inside buildings (housings, offices, schools, leisure, hobbies), impact of buildings on our health and well-being are not sufficiently taken into account. If reducing consumptions of buildings is key to fighting climate change, it must fully include concepts of comfort and health of users.

That’s why the VELUX Group supports the "Health & Comfort" category of the Green Building Solutions Awards 2015, to promote solutions combining energy efficiency and well-being of the users.

About the VELUX Group

The VELUX Group is committed to improve quality of life by providing more natural light and fresh air through roofs. Its line of products includes a large variety of roof windows, solutions for flat roofs, natural light conducts and modular skylights. That same line also presents several equipment: a complete range of decoration, sun screenings, roller shadows and intelligent home controls.

These products contribute to a better indoor environment, healthy and sustainable to live, work and play in the best conditions. The VELUX Group owns selling companies and production units in around 40 countries and employs 10,000 people across the world.
Our first factories were founded in 1855, during the second industrial revolution: change runs in our genes! Our group has always been able to reinvent itself to adapt to the needs of our clients, professionals and individuals – and to anticipate the evolutions of regulations. Today, we are one of the few industrials who can offer comprehensive solutions for the envelope of buildings. Which allows us to provide a global approach on energy challenges of our market, in new constructions as well as in renovation.

To build more efficient housings, professionals usually go through a modelling of their performances before the construction, then through experimentation on the field and feedbacks. Building and living in positive energy buildings needs even more experimentation in real conditions. It’s not about building an efficient envelope with performant equipment anymore. There is also the necessity of understanding the interaction of the users with their home, because of its impact on the final results.

TERREAL supports the Net Zero Energy Buildings category of the Green Building Solutions Awards 2015, because positive energy is our future by 2020, barely 5 years from now. We support this initiative collecting real feedbacks. Collecting and displaying remarkable buildings is a real challenge for the construction sector, especially during the negotiations of the international conference on climate in 2015 in Paris. This is one element of our contribution to the debate on energy efficiency in housings.

TERRAL built, with our partners from Castelnaudary, 2 positive energy social houses, recently noticed by the French Ministry of Ecology, during the presentation of positive energy territories.

**About TERREAL**

For 150 years, TERREAL has been a key player of terracotta-based construction materials. Based on that unique experience, our group creates innovative solutions for the envelope of buildings, through 4 activities: roofing, structure, façades and decoration. Terreal achieves 400 million euros sales and counts more than 2,700 collaborators across the world.
Since 2008, Sillia VL is on the market of photovoltaic panels through Sillia Energie and became the first French producer of solar panels. For the 3rd edition of the Building Solutions Awards, it was natural for Sillia VL to sponsor the Renewable Energies category.

About Sillia
Bron from the Sofie Group, the Sillia Energie company was created in 2008. In 2011, the BOSCH Vénissieux production site became BOSCH Solar Energy before handing over their production lines to Sillia in 2014. The Sofie Group now owns Sillia VL, first French photovoltaic panels producer, and the Elvia company, French leader in circuit boards.
SILLIA VL generates 70 million euros sales with 185 salaries. Our headquarters are located in Lannion.

“Low Energy Renovation” Sponsor
Sustainable construction requires to manage energy efficiency in buildings. Rabot Dutilleul didn’t wait to follow this approach, as many projects can testify, and pushes it further to achieve excellency with the expertise of its filiale Pouchain, specialized in génie électrique et climatique. The Rabot Dutilleul Group deploys several processes to push forward ecodesign, without ever losing sight that the best building is the one in which the users feel the best.
Rabot Dutilleul structures its development on a strong environmental approach: design and construction of low energy buildings (BBC), HQE certified projects, CO2 assessment of its activities and a CSR action plan. This approach allows the Group to renew its offer always watching its markets and environment.

About Rabot-Dutilleul
Founded in 1920, Rabot Dutilleul is an independent group in real estate development and construction, in France, Belgium and Poland.

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