



Green Building Solutions Awards: 8 winners to inspire professionals across the world

During the Buildings Day of the COP21, on December 3rd, Construction21 revealed the eight winners of the Green Building Solutions Awards at *La Galerie des Solutions*, in Paris Le Bourget. This international competition, organized every year by the Construction21 network, highlights exemplary buildings coming directly from the field, to inspire professionals across the world in their fight against climate change, and disseminate among professionals across the world, very practical, implemented climate solutions.

An awards ceremony connected to the COP21

The awards ceremony, opened by Christian Brodhag, Construction21 president, hosted personalities from the environment and construction worlds, with the noticed presence of Hakima El Haité, Environment Minister of Morocco, who will organize the next COP in 2016, and Carole Dieshboung, Environment Minister of Luxembourg. Michèle Sabban, President of R20 – Regions for Climate Action and José Caire, Directeur of sustainable cities and territories at Ademe, also came to express their support to the contest.

This initiative showed as one of the high points of the Buildings Day, initiated by UNEP as the building event of the COP21, with the launch of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, which Construction21 is naturally partnered with.

Final results born from expert juries and Construction21 users

Launched in May 2015, the 3rd edition of the contest attracted 113 candidates. Expert juries and internet users in each country designated in September the 32 finalists. Then an international jury, along with a second online vote, determined the 8 winners. Key criteria for the final decision were: technical quality of each building, in relation with the chosen category, climate impact, replicability and social innovation generated by each project.

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Each contesting building benefit from the formidable exposure on Construction21, social media for sustainable buildings and cities. A case study published for the competition is seen by thousands of professionals, in their home country, but also internationally.

Voting phases allowed Construction21 visitors and users to discover solutions implemented in contesting buildings, with 1.5 million views in a few months.

If the winners were offered a trophy – a glass sculpture by the artist Yann Denes, they also received from Construction21 an original video, shot in their building and including an interview of the designer or the owner. These highly pedagogical videos, will of course be broadly disseminated on Construction21 and social media; they will contribute to promote the climate solutions implemented in the winning buildings, among thousands professionals and more, across the world. [See the videos.](#)

The winners

Six winners were designated by the international jury for each category below. The online vote by Construction21 users resulted in a tie with two winners. [See the case studies of the winning buildings.](#)

 “Health & Comfort” Winner  Groupe Scolaire Simone Veil (France) Kindergarten and elementary school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : City of Bourgoin-Jallieu • Designer : TEKHNE Architectes • Thermal Consultancy: Astrius 	 “Bio-based & Recycled Materials” Winner  Naturata (Luxembourg) Supermarket - Hypermarket <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : Oikopolis • Architect : Hain Architektur
 “Net Zero Energy Buildings” Winner  LUCIA (Spain) LEED and VERDE certified university <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : University of Valladolid • Designer : Francisco Valbuena Garcia 	 “Renewable Energies” Winner  Solarwind (Luxembourg) Office building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : In Der Laey SA • Consultancy agency: Boydens Lux.
 “Low Energy Renovation” Winner  Edifici Aconcagua (Andorra) Minergie-Eco certified collective housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designer : ENGINESA 	 “Smart Buildings” Winner  Neobuild Innovation Center (Luxembourg) Office building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : Neobuild • Designer : ARCO
 Tied winners “Users’Choice Award”	
 CREAS (Spain) Resources center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : BECSA • Designer : Antonio Baño Nieva 	 Refuge du Gôûter (France) High mountain refuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner/Contractor : FFCAM • Designer : Groupe H/DECALAAGE

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 1,200 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**, will be launched on December 9, 2015.

The Construction21¹ network, constituted of 11 platforms, is both local and global. Each platform is managed by a non-profit organization committed to promoting sustainable construction in their country. Construction21 reaches a growing number of professionals: 300,000 professionals visited the network in 2014 and 1 million visitors are expected in 2015. Construction21 aims to create 50 platforms by 2020, starting around the Mediterranean Sea, in Brazil and China.

Construction21 is an initiating organization of the *Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction* launched by the UNEP, that same December 3rd. These platforms contribute to one of the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations (SDG 11 : Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable»).

Partners of the Green Building Solutions Awards



The contest, organized by Construction21 with the support of ADEME, the French Agency for Energy, has been officially certified through the COP21 label delivered by the French government. Many national and international partners also promote the competition in their own networks.

Companies involved in the fight against climate change associated their brand to the competition, by supporting the category matching their own action.



¹ The Construction21 network counts 10 national platforms in Algeria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Morocco and Romania. An 11th international platform in English is directly connected to BUILD UP.



"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.



"Net Zero Energy Buildings" Sponsor



Terreal's first factories were founded in 1855, during the second industrial revolution: change runs Terreal's genes! The group has always been able to reinvent itself to adapt to the needs of its clients, professionals and individuals – and to anticipate the evolutions of regulations. Today, Terreal is one of the few industrials who can offer comprehensive solutions for the envelope of buildings. Which allows the company 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. Terreal supports 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 Terreal's contribution to the debate on energy efficiency in housings.

TERRAL built, with its partners from Castelnau, 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.



"Renewable Energies" Sponsor



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

Born 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. Their headquarters are located in Lannion (Brittany).



"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 electric and climatic engineering. 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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