



INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH IN BUILDINGS THROUGH RENEWABLE MATERIALS



INNORENEW CoE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
2020



INNORENEW CoE

Livade 6, 6310 Izola, Slovenia

IRIC2020 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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WELCOME



As we open the second InnoRenew CoE International Conference, it's hard not to think of all that has changed in the year and a half that has passed since our debut conference.

Although the pandemic has dramatically changed our day-to-day lives, it has not changed society's need to address the rapidly changing climate, reconsider our economic priorities, and refocus our attention on important social issues. Buildings remain part of the solution to many problems, and I think it is becoming clear that we need to consider much more about buildings than the basics of shelter.

As the pandemic kept us indoors, many of us may have realised that our indoor environment plays an even more important role in our well-being and happiness than we previously acknowledged. Likewise, we may have considered more carefully how buildings affect the well-being of those who live in different circumstances. Access to safe, comfortable, and healthy living and working spaces is (and should be) a priority in a just society.

Another major change that will affect our work in the years to come is the introduction of the European Green Deal, which will be a major driver of sustainable development in Europe. The European Green Deal prioritises investment and innovation in building renovation solutions for energy performance and attempts to ensure these solutions reach all members of society. The European Green Deal recognizes the need to establish high-performance housing for all and will support renovation in social housing, schools, and other facilities that are often left behind. This is a step in the right direction for inclusive, high-performing buildings.

I rarely find proclamations of success convincing when it comes to sustainability – especially about buildings. We must continue to drive change through research, development, and innovation to make our built environment a beacon of sustainable development. We cannot be satisfied with the environmental performance of our products or buildings; we cannot allow people to be excluded from our advancements; and we cannot forget that buildings impact the well-being and happiness of their occupants.

At this year's InnoRenew CoE International Conference, we wanted to showcase how renewable materials play an integral role in sustainable construction by highlighting environmental performance, safety, and health as well as the economic, digital, and social links that bind us to the materials in the built environment. Conference presenters will discuss advances in design, material development, health research, retrofitting, environmental assessment, and many other topics that increase the efficiency and performance of the building and renewable materials sectors.

Carlo Battisti, President of Living Future Europe, will weave together these complementary threads in his keynote address, "Healthy, living transparent. The quiet revolution of materials". He works to push for change and supports researchers, architects, engineers, and other construction professionals to achieve it. His efforts have expanded knowledge and acceptance of restorative sustainability and regenerative design within Europe's construction community. We are excited and grateful for his participation in our conference.

Together, the contributions paint a hopeful picture. But we must continue to push the science forward, embed these innovations in normal construction practices, and ensure inclusion of all who can benefit from our hard work.

While I wish these matters could have been discussed in person in Izola, we must embrace new options for discourse on these topics. I hope the conference inspires you to reach out to one another and continue sharing, collaborating, and building communities that embrace the challenge of creating a sustainable and just built environment. You may also consider our new open access and peer-reviewed journal, *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Built Environment*, as a place to share the insights your work provides.

Thank you,

Dr Michael Burnard
Deputy Director, InnoRenew CoE
Assist. Prof., University of Primorska

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MORNING

WELCOME
9:00–9:05

KEYNOTE
9:05–9:35

FLASH TALKS
9:35–10:35

COFFEE BREAK
10:35–11:00

**HUMAN HEALTH IN THE
BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
11:00–12:30

LUNCH
12:30–14:00

AFTERNOON

COMPLEMENTARY TOPICS
14:00–15:30

COFFEE BREAK
15:30–15:55

**SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION
WITH RENEWABLE MATERIALS**
15:55–17:25

CLOSING
17:25–17:30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



CARLO BATTISTI
PRESIDENT, LIVING FUTURE EUROPE

*Healthy, living, transparent.
The quiet revolution of materials.*

Carlo Battisti has a degree in civil engineering from the Politecnico of Milan, nearly twenty years of experience in construction companies and a master's in management and organizational development from MIP International Business School. His certifications include Certified Project Manager IPMA®; LEED®, Living Future and WELL Accredited Professional; GBC Home AP, GBC Historic Building AP; USGBC® and WELL Faculty™.

Since 2009, he has been working with IDM South Tyrol (Italy) as an innovation manager in the Business Development department, Construction. From 2010 to 2011, he worked with the Energy and Environment Cluster of Trentino as manager of the business unit for sustainable products. From 2015 to 2016, he was the co-owner of a startup focused on LEED consulting. In 2015, he co-founded the Living Future Italy Collaborative.

Since 2017, he has been working with Eurac Research as Chair and Project Manager of COST Action 16114 RESTORE (REthinking Sustainability TOwards a Regenerative Economy). The RESTORE COST Action (2017–2021) will affect a paradigm shift towards restorative sustainability for new and existing buildings and space design across Europe through the collaboration of 160+ researchers from 40 European countries.

Since 2018, he is European Executive Director for the International Living Future Institute and current President of Living Future Europe. The Institute's mission will hasten the change and provide needed direction towards a regenerative design transition in Europe. It is actively pursuing European market alignment and adaptations of the Living Building Challenge (LBC).

AGENDA

WELCOME | 9:00-9:05

Dr Michael Burnard, InnoRenew CoE

KEYNOTE | 9:05-9:35

Carlo Battisti, Living Future Europe

FLASH TALKS | 9:35-10:35

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*Unable to present



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CLOSING | 17:25-17:30

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING IRIC2020!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

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Flash Talks

Evaluation of Biofinish for Wood Protection

Faksawat Poohphajai^{1,2}, Anna Sandak^{1,3}, Michael Altgen², Lauri Rautkari²

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² Aalto University, School of Chemical Engineering, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems

³ University of Primorska, Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies

Wood is a versatile, natural and environmentally friendly material that has attracted attention for sustainable building for many years. However, wood is susceptible to deterioration during weathering and biological attacks, and, therefore, wood products require protective measures to extend their service life in outdoor applications. For sustainable use, the environmental impact of such protective treatments should be as low as possible. Biofinish is a fungal-based wood treatment with protective functionalities and self-repairing properties. This environmentally friendly treatment has several advantages compared to traditional wood surface protection methods due to its self-repairing property, low maintenance cost and absence of harmful chemicals (Peeters et al., 2018). The objective of this study was to evaluate the interaction of biofilm that is built up by *Aureobasidium pullulans* with wood materials and its subsequent ability to protect the wood substrate against photodegradation. Growth of fungal hyphae over time and deposition of extracellular substances on the wood surface was investigated microscopically. Biofinish-treated wood was also exposed to artificial weathering cycles that included UV irradiation and water soaking. Protection of the wood by Biofinish treatment against photodegradation was assessed by micro-tensile tests combined with FT-IR spectroscopy. Furthermore, cellular-level chemical changes in the wood substrate below the Biofinish layer were analysed by confocal Raman microscopy. The outcome of this study may be utilized to improve and further control Biofinish treatment with stable characteristics under service life conditions.

Keywords: Biofinish, photodegradation, micro-tensile testing, vibrational spectroscopy

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REFERENCE

Peeters, L. H. M., Huinink, H. P., Voogt, B., & Adan, O. C. G. (2018). Oil type and cross-linking influence growth of *Aureobasidium melanogenum* on vegetable oils as a single carbon source. *MicrobiologyOpen*, 7(6), [e00605]. DOI: 10.1002/mbo3.605



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