

## An international symposium organised as part of the Brick Award 24 on June 7, 2024 in Vienna, Austria

Rapid urbanisation worldwide means every five days, the world adds buildings equivalent to the size of Paris. The building and construction sector is by far the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, accounting for a staggering 37% of global emissions. The sector needs rapid change on all levels. New collaborative approaches and innovative solutions on all scales are imminent.

New sustainable materials need to be developed, an increase of re-use, preservation and transformation of already existing buildings are necessary and with that new business models, research and knowledge. The value-adding of locally developed crafts and building methods and the preservation of natural and cultural ecosystems, human or non-human, in numerous dimensions and at different scales are valuable resources to take into account.

Jennifer Beningfield (UK), Boonserm Premthada (TH), Gabriela Carrillo(MX) and Jens Linnet (DK) are four established architects forging new bonds with their local environment and their communities. They will share their belief that architecture has the power to engage in multiple scenarios for tomorrow at the symposium Sustainable horizons: Advancing architecture through scalable innovations on June 7, 2024 in Vienna.

Organised as part of Brick Award 24 event at the initiative of wienerberger and moderated by Veronica Hejdelind, (SE) the symposium will bring together more than 200 professionals in the Lecture Hall at the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) in Vienna.

### New horizons: The perspectives of four international architects

## **Jennifer Beningfield, United Kingdom**

*"We bring the relationship between humans and the natural world to the foreground in our work. It is an implicit part of our buildings to enhance a sense of presence, fostering an awareness of nature, place, and landscape that unfolds with time and use. We use natural materials in unexpected ways to add texture and depth to our work and to connect our buildings to the external environment."*

The sustainable, reasonably priced, and high-quality projects that Jennifer Beningfield prioritizes at the center of her promises must be the architecture's contribution to the restoration of this intimate bond between humans and their surroundings. Awarded the RIBA Housing and Homes of 2030 Award and shortlisted for the Brick Award 24 for her Brick Award

The Brick Award honors biannually the creativity and adaptability of brick architecture worldwide and has been established the first time in 2004 by wienerberger, a global pioneer in the production of bricks and creative solutions. Although wienerberger is the host of the award, it is an independent award and the use of wienerberger products is no decisive factor for participation. The Brick Award 24 winners, who were chosen by an international jury, will be revealed at a ceremony on June 6, 2024 in Vienna, the evening before the symposium Sustainable horizons: Advancing architecture through scalable innovations.

## **Boonserm Premthada, Thailand**

The elephant is for the Kuy (Thailand), "the umbrella" of their entire ecology. Preserving their living environment entails protecting it. Boonserm Premthada is well-known throughout the world for creating Elephant World, a massive complex that guarantees the ethical treatment of animals and a steady income for the Kuy community that hosts it. He also uses bricks made by Kuy farmers using the fibres that their elephants discard, supporting a socially conscious and quasi-animalist approach to architecture. At the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale, his Elephant projet represented Thailand. Category Winner of Brick Award 14 with his project Katana Film and Animation Institute, he is also the recipient of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2018 and the Royal Academy Dorfman Award in 2019.

## **Gabriela Carrillo, Mexico**

Gabriela Carrillo, a former associate of Taller Rocha Carrillo for almost nine years and co-founder of the Colectivo C733 which is dedicated to the production of public projects in Mexico, established her own studio in Mexico City in 2019. Awarded "Architect of the Year" by Architectural Review in London in 2017 and by Architectural Digest in Mexico in 2020, Gabriela Carrillo carries a political vision of architecture whose goal is to create an atmosphere of peace and serenity into her buildings that foster community well-being. She has tested this approach by creating equipment specifically for the blind. Gabriela, who is devoted to regional resources and ancestors' customs, particularly Maya, has won multiple awards, such as the Emerging Voices Award in 2014, the Federico Mariscal Chair, the highest honor for professional practice from the Faculty of Architecture of UNAM, and the Gold Medal of the French Academy of Architecture in 2019.

## **Jens Linnet, Dänemark**

*"Even minor changes can have a big effect; the key is to connect theory with practice and the past with the needs of the future."* As founding partner of BOGL, for 20 years, Jens Linnet has conceived and planned landscapes that are recognised for both their aesthetic appeal and practicality. It interacts with the surrounding and on the buildings, either inside or outside, depending on the particular characteristics of the sites on which it acts, operating on the scale of urban developments and parks as well as facilities. He is adamant that the local and the global need to be reconnected, as well as the little and the enormous. Jens Linnet advocates for a positive and Scandinavian approach to sustainable development. He is the author of *Balancing Beauty and Sustainability in a Time of Crisis* in the collective publication *Mission Neighbourhood – (Re)forming communities* (C.Pagh & T.Cook, 2023).

## Brick Award

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## More about wienerberger

wienerberger is one of the leading providers of innovative, ecological solutions for the entire building envelope in the areas of new construction and refurbishment as well as in the infrastructure for water and energy management.

With a workforce of more than 19,000 employees, wienerberger has been committed to improving people's lives since 1819. An extensive range of products and solutions enables energy-efficient, healthy, climate-friendly and affordable living on a global scale. The company is a world leader in brick production and a European leader in the production of clay bricks, with a network of over 200 production sites in 27 countries.