Speakers biographies

Andrea THILO, Master of Ceremony
Freelance journalist and documentary producer. Andrea moderates conferences, panel discussions and open space formats. She studied social and business communication at the Berlin University of the Arts. She was the Master of Ceremony of the NEBC conference ‘Making a renovation wave a cultural project » in April 2021.

georg pendl, President of the Architects' Council of Europe
georg pendl is an architect who graduated dipl.-ing. from the University of Innsbruck; he has been leading his private office since 1986 and been CEO of pendlarchitects since 2004, whose main fields of work are social housing, private housing, renovation and reuse, industrial and commercial buildings, workshops, passive house standard. He regularly contributes to magazines, speaks in conferences and participates in jury of national and international architectural competitions. He has been the President of the ACE since 2018.

Thomas VONIER, International Union of Architects, Immediate Past President
Thomas Vonier was the founding president of AIA Continental Europe, one of the seven chapters of the American Institute of Architects (1994-1995). He was the first president of the AIA International Region. In 2010, he was named AIA 2010-2012 board of directors, as the AIA’s international director. He became president of the AIA in 2017, and president of the UIA from 2017 to 2021. He has worked on the challenges of urbanization, conflict, insecurity, and changing climate patterns.

Kristiaan BORRET, Bouwmeester / Maître Architecte
Kristiaan Borret has been a Bouwmeester Maitre Architecte of the Brussels-Capital Region since 2015. A civil engineer-architect by training (KU Leuven), Kristiaan Borret was stadsbouwmeester of the City of Antwerp from 2006 to 2014 and since 2017 he has been supervisor of the Oostenburg and then Hamerkwartier projects for the City of Amsterdam. He has also been a visiting professor of urban design at Ghent University since 2005.

Anna HERINGER, Winner of the 2021 New European Bauhaus Awards in the category “Solutions for the co-evolution of built environment and nature”
As an architect and honorary professor of the UNESCO Chair of Earthen Architecture, Building Cultures, and Sustainable Development Anna focuses on the use of natural building materials. She has been actively involved in development cooperation in Bangladesh since 1997. Over the years, Anna has realized many projects in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Together with Martin Rauch she has developed the method of Clay Storming that she teaches at various universities. She received numerous honors: 2021 New European Price, the Obel Award 2020, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, the AR Emerging Architecture Awards in 2006 and 2008, the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard's GSD and a RIBA International Fellowship.

Steffi SCHÜPPEL, landscape architect, AIAPP Italy member and Chair of BDLA Saxony (German Landscape Architecture Association)
Steffi graduated from Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Dresden (FH) in Germany as Dipl.-Ing. Landespflege. She holds a Master degree in Landscape Architecture achieved in Switzerland and Germany. She is a chartered member of the Chamber of Architects of Saxony, with the qualification of Landscape Architect, she is chairwoman of the BDLA Saxony - Bund Deutscher Landschaftsarchitekten, the German Landscape Architecture Association, and she is a member of AIAPP - the Italian Association of Landscape Architecture.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speakers biographies</th>
</tr>
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| **Christiane BLANCOT**, Head of studies, Atelier Parisien d’Urbanisme (APUR)**  
Christiane is a French Architect DPLG. Her current work is focusing on the SCOT of the Grand Paris Metropolis and the preparation of the bioclimatic PLU (Local urbanism Plan) of Paris. She is also a teacher at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Paris La Villette (ENSAPLV)

**Gustaf LANDAHL**, City of Stockholm, Dept. of Planning and Environment
Gustaf holds a Master’s degree in civil engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. He started to work for the City of Stockholm in 1988 as a project manager for the city’s work with comprehensive land-use planning. In 1995, he was appointed head of Department Planning & Environment, which is responsible for environmental control, environmental issues in land use planning and traffic and for the City’s work on Climate protection and energy efficiency.

**Ciarán CUFFE**, Member of the European Parliament – Transport committee
Ciarán is an Irish MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance). He is a member of the Parliament’s Transport and Energy committees. He previously served as Minister of State for Horticulture, Sustainable Travel, Planning and Heritage from 2010 to 2011. He was a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dún Laoghaire constituency from 2002 to 2011.

**Brigitte JACQUEMONT**, Policy Officer at EU Commission – DG Energy (DG ENER)

**Philippe MOSELEY**, Policy Officer at EU Commission – DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

**Anne GRADY**, Policy Officer at the EU Commission - DG Culture and Education (DG EAC)
Anne Grady joined the EU Commission in May 2016 as a seconded national expert in the Cultural Policy Unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture. Before joining the Commission, she was a senior manager at the National Museum of Ireland and was responsible for a number of areas including the development of a wide range of policies and guidelines. She was also a member of the Member States Expert Group on Digitalisation and Digital Preservation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Biography</th>
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<td>Alexandru MATEI, Senior Officer &quot;Governance and Social Innovation&quot;, ICLEI Europe, Local Governments for Sustainability</td>
<td>Alexandru is a passionate urban (re)thinker interested in understanding the complex processes and phenomena which take place in human settlements and in (co)creating innovative, just and sustainable solutions for them. Since 2004 he has dedicated his energy to improving the lives of local communities around Europe by developing win-win processes and solutions. He is working for and with local governments and communities in villages, cities and regions keen in generating positive transformations. Currently, Alexandru is Senior Officer in the Governance and Social Innovation department of ICLEI Europe, where he is developing projects and initiatives on cultural and natural heritage, cultural tourism, adaptive/ temporary (re)use, sustainable development, integrated territorial development, regional development and rural/urban regeneration. He initiated, developed and managed various actions, projects, and funding proposals, and is regularly involved in policy, research, strategies, moderation and capacity building events.</td>
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<td>Marcos ROS SEMPERE, Member of the European Parliament – Industry, Research and Energy Committee</td>
<td>Marcos Ros is a Spanish MEP from the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats group (S&amp;D), with seat in Culture and Environment committees. He has a PhD in architecture, specialises in urban planning issues and has a long experience in university education and in heritage rehabilitation. He is currently in charge of the NEB on behalf of the socialists and the initiator of the NEB' Friendship group in the European Parliament.</td>
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<td>Martin RAUCH, Winner of the 2021 New European Bauhaus Awards in the category &quot;Techniques, materials and processes for construction and design&quot;</td>
<td>Martin Rauch discovered clay architecture not through architecture, but through his education and his first projects as a ceramicist, oven builder and sculptor. His tendency towards applied craftsmanship, towards the thoroughly artistic autonomy of living and environmental design, was already predetermined by his family's farming roots in Vorarlberg, although the decisive impulses for Rauch came to him abroad in that like some of his older siblings he worked for many months as an aid volunteer in Africa. The encounter with &quot;primitive&quot; means of existence and techniques of building in simple cycles and with the optimal use of resources occurred simultaneously to observing their brutal displacement by technologies from the First World that were extremely complex, ecologically far worse, difficult to repair, and non-recyclable.</td>
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<td>Anders LENDAGER, CEO and Founder of Lendager Group</td>
<td>Anders Lendager graduated as an architect from the Aarhus School of Architecture. He is recognized as a sustainability pioneer, who is known for pushing the boundaries to make the Danish construction industry more sustainable and circular. His pioneering spirit is represented on the board of the Danish Association of Architectural Firms, as a member of the SDG Accelerator’s Advisory Board by the United Nations, as visiting professor at Aarhus School of Architecture – as well as different committees leading climate action and environmental development. Anders Lendager was the curator of Lendager Group’s well received architecture exhibition Wasteland – From waste to architecture at the Danish Architecture Centre in Copenhagen.</td>
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<td>Bernd WILTSCHKEK, Austrian Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft, School Department</td>
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**Dirk VAN PEIJPE, De Urbanisten CEO**

Dirk is urban designer and director of De Urbanisten. He studied urbanism at the Academy of Architecture and Urban Design in Rotterdam. He advocates an engaged polytechnical urbanism in which the agenda of climate adaptation and ecology is integrated in the design of our urban landscapes and the daily environment of people. He was responsible for the Rotterdam Climate Adaptation Strategy, initiated the ZOHO-Climate-proof District in Rotterdam and participated in Rebuild By Design in NY (US). With De Urbanisten he realized Watersquares in Rotterdam and Tiel. He is involved in numerous climate sensitive projects in cities like Rotterdam (NL), Copenhagen (DK), Ghent (BE) and Antwerpen (BE). He lectures at the Academy for Architecture in Rotterdam and is a keynote speaker at international conferences on the topic of climatesensitive urbanism and landscape architecture.

**Matevž Čelik, Programme Director, Future Architecture**

Matevž is an architect, architectural researcher and writer. He was a co-founder of the architectural web platform Trajekt in 2002 with the Institute for Spatial Culture in Ljubljana. He contributed to Oris magazine (Zagreb) and published a book *New Architecture in Slovenia* (2007). Since 2010 he has been Head of the MAO, Museum of Architecture and Design in Ljubljana. Under his leadership the MAO has established a new programme of exhibitions and debates including Future Architecture Platform, Architecture Live, Open Depot, Designing the Republic, Under a Common Roof and Future Architecture Platform. He is a member of the team of experts for the European Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe and also a member of the international jury for the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2014.

**Mar SANTAMARIA 300.000 km’s Director**

Mar Santamaria-Varas is an architect who graduated from the School of Architecture of Barcelona. At present, she is the co-founder of 300.000 Km/s and visiting lecturer at EPFL Lausanne. Her professional activity has been related in the last 15 years to digital technologies, spatial analysis, urban planning and public policies at an international level. As the co-founder of 300.000 Km/s, she has elaborated strategic reports, diagnoses, guidelines, data observatories and master plans in the field of environmental health, regulation of economic activity, new forms of mobility, housing vulnerability, data and digital divide, among others.

**Katerina Gkoltsiou, IFLA Europe Vice President**

Katerina holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Aegean in Greece, a Master in Landscape Architecture from the University of Edinburgh, U.K., and a diploma in Agriculture from the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. She is President of the Panhellenic Association of Landscape Architects, Vice President of Professional Practice of the European Federation of Landscape Architects, member of the Geotechnical Chamber in Greece and the Landscape Committee of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. She works as a freelance landscape architect and has a practice established in Athens since 1997 ([www.katerinagkoltsiou.gr](http://www.katerinagkoltsiou.gr)).

**Maria Hansen, ELIA Executive Director**

Maria Hansen is Executive Director of ELIA, a globally connected European network of Higher Arts Education. She worked in the performing arts for more than 30 years, in Canada and the Netherlands, served as board member of the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) from 2009–2016 and received ISPA’s Patrick Hayes Award honoring transformative leadership in 2020. Maria has been passionate about environmental sustainability in the cultural field for many years. As managing director of the Municipal Theatre and Concert Hall Philharmonie in Haarlem, she was a driving force in achieving green certification for nine local cultural organisations. On behalf of ELIA, Maria currently leads the climate change package of SHIFT Culture and the establishment of a green certification program for cultural networks.
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<th>Speakers biographies</th>
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| **Dag BOUTSEN, European Association for Architectural Education – Treasurer and Council Member**  
Dag Boutsen is the former dean of the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture with campuses in Brussels and Ghent. Dag is a Belgian architect and has a lot of experience in co-creative design with projects in the Netherlands, France and Germany. His particular teamwork-experience has grown through 20 years of working with Lucien Kroll on numerous housing and school complexes developed through participatory workshops. The search for the right "spot" for the discipline of architecture, as one among the numerous other university disciplines is what keeps Dag going since 2009: the societal position, the research setting as well as the educational point. |
| **Sneška Quaedvlieg–Mihailović, Europa Nostra Secretary General**  
Sneška Quaedvlieg–Mihailović has been working for Europa Nostra - the European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage - for more than 25 years. In 2000, she was appointed as Secretary General. In this capacity, she works closely with EU institutions, the Council of Europe, the UN, UNESCO and numerous international, European, national, regional and local governmental and non-governmental bodies on heritage matters. Since the creation of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3. in 2011, she has acted as the spokesperson of this informal platform of European and international networks active in the wider field of heritage. She has played a prominent role in promoting and implementing the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH), actively contributing to the EYCH Stakeholders Group, and now ensuring the legacy of the Year as part of the European Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage. She is a regular speaker at European conferences and meetings on cultural heritage and is author of numerous publications on Europe and cultural heritage. |
| **Ruth REICHSTEIN, I.D.E.A., Advisory Board of the President of the Commission**  
Ruth Reichstein works in I.D.E.A., the Advisory Board of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. She works with Green Deal related issues and coordinates the New European Bauhaus initiative. Ruth is a trained journalist and occupied several positions before joining the Commission beginning of 2019; both as communicator in the European Parliament and as journalist for several German news outlets such as “die tageszeitung”, “ARD” and “Deutschlandfunk”. |