



**PRESS
RELEASE**

EARTH WORKS

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2010

ON MODERN EARTHEN STRUCTURES AND SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE



EARTH



»At present roughly one billion of people, most of them in developing countries, live in rudimentary accommodation that cannot satisfy even the most elementary basic needs. Only a minority of the world's population can afford a healthy and safe living environment. The built environment is generally constructed with materials (for instance cement and steel) which, for their production, require raw materials and enormous amounts of energy that are not available to seven billion people. Building with natural construction materials offers a convincing alternative to such methods. Among the most economic of the resources that occur naturally throughout the world are cohesive earth.«

MANIFESTO: **FOR A HUMANE AND SUSTAINABLE HABITAT**, BASEhabitat

EARTH WORKS

Although earth plays a crucial role for a social, fair economic and ecological development of the building future, it lacks in the training of architects, engineers and craftsmen/women.

BASEhabitat launched for the first time an international summer school on modern earthen structures together with the Technical University Munich, the University of Architecture Grenoble (CRATerre - ENSAG), the International Union of Architects (UIA), the city of Gmunden and the brick factory EDER.

29 participants from 17 countries from all over the world came to work with raw earth. The main focus of the summer school - supervised by Martin Rauch and Anna Heringer - was to get an intensive hands-on experience and a profound practical and theoretical understanding of the material.

In model tests the participants worked out different techniques, material mixtures and designs. Top-class lectures, seismological tests and an excursion to realized earth buildings in Vorarlberg completed the multi-disciplinary approach of the summer school.

During the summer school the participants built two structures, a bath house at the lake beach and sculptural steles on the esplanade of the lake Traunsee.

These two buildings are a lasting memory of the days in Gmunden and a statement of the participants to promote earthen structures.

»We want to gain the trust of the people in that beautiful, sensual, and highly sustainable building material. The biggest challenge to re-anchor earth as an important building material - just as brick or concrete - is to overcome the doubts people have. The biggest fear is, that earth buildings cannot resist the rain. That is why we exposed our structures to extreme weather conditions. The calculated erosion, the aging process is part of the design unlike the current high-tech, hyper-perfect architecture. To feel the comfort and the sensuality of the rammed earth, we created two womb-like niches that invite the people to retreat from the frequented zone at the lake's Esplanade and give them a possibility to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere within the massive earth pillars.« (Anna Heringer)

The enthusiasm and commitment of the participants led to the formation of a network under BASEhabitat and a manifesto for building with earth. Therewith the summer schools gain a new level of sustainability.

The participants - below them students, university teachers and professionals - act as multipliers for an economic, ecological and social development of the future building culture - all around the world!

MARTIN RAUCH



Martin Rauch was born 1958 in Schlins (Vorarlberg) Austria. In 1978 he visited the academie of applied arts, Vienna Master class for ceramics. In 1983 he made his dissertation „Loam - Clay - Earth“ and got an award from the Federal Ministry of Science and Research.

Over the course of two decades of research in theory and practice, Martin Rauch has been able to update traditional rammed earth techniques for a wide range of contemporary building tasks. As a result, he has become a leader in his field, an expert of international stature, who is sought out as a collaborator by world-famous architects and artists. He did not come to earth building as an architect, but as a ceramicist and sculptor. This „hands-on“ creative work with earth and clay is at the very core of his development: it is both deeply emotional and profoundly technical. With the sensitivity of the ceramicist for composition and for the chemical reactions, physical properties and the effects of his material, Martin Rauch exposes us to the language of building with earth taking advantage of the material. In this process, technical improvement and aesthetic enrichment go hand in hand.

Since April 2010 Martin Rauch is Honorary professor of the UNESCO Chair Earthen architecture, building cultures and sustainable development.

ANNA HERINGER

born 1977, spent one year in Bangladesh (1997/98) as development learner. Since then she is involved in development work. She studied architecture at the University of Art Linz / Prof. Roland Gnaiger (Austria), where she graduated in 2004 with her diploma: „School-handmade in Bangladesh.“ An important focus of her work is the training of young architects. She has conducted hands-on workshops for students with BASEhabitat in South Africa, Austria and Bangladesh. In 2008 she was teaching at the Stuttgart University and since 2008 she is heading the studio „BASEhabitat“ where she is a visiting professor. In 2010 she received the nomination as Honorary Professor of the UNESCO Chair „Earthen Architecture“. Anna Heringer won several international awards, amongst them the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the AR Emerging Architecture Award (2006 and 2008)

FACTS



TITLE

EARTH WORKS - international summer school on modern earthen structures and sustainable architecture

LOCATION

Gmunden, Upper Austria

PERIOD

01.-19. September 2010

TEACHING STAFF

13 teachers from Germany, France, Austria and Switzerland
Martin Rauch (University of Art Linz, supervision)
Anna Heringer (University of Art Linz, supervision)
Jean-Marie Le Tiec (CRATerre - ENSAG, supervision)
Laetitia Fontaine (CRATerre - ENSAG, material sciences)
Romain Anger (CRATerre - ENSAG, material sciences)
Susanne Gampfer (Technical University Munich)
Konstanze Elbel (Technical University Munich)
Dominique Gauzin-Müller (Chief editor EcologiK, Germany / France)
Andrea Rieger-Jandl (Technical University Vienna)
Norbert Gebbeken, Martein Teich, Tobias Linse (University of the German Federal Armed Forces Munich, Seismology)
Sebastian El Khouli (UIA - International Union of Architects)

PARTICIPANTS

29 participants from 17 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brasil, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Iran, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Uganda, Vietnam

BUILDING

Steles esplanade: Prefabricated rammed earth steles, dimensions approx. 2 x 1m, height approx. 3,5m

Bath house: dressing room, on site rammed earth, dimensions approx. 1,8 x 1,8m, height approx. 2m

LINKS

<http://www.basehabitat.org>
<http://www.network.basehabitat.org>
<http://craterre.org>
<http://www.ar.tum.de>
<http://www.uia-architects.org>
<http://www.gmunden.at>

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MANIFESTO: FOR A HUMANE AND SUSTAINABLE HABITAT



At present roughly one billion of people, most of them in developing countries, live in rudimentary accommodation that cannot satisfy even the most elementary basic needs. Only a minority of the world's population can afford a healthy and safe living environment. The built environment is generally constructed with materials (for instance cement and steel) which, for their production, require raw materials and enormous amounts of energy that are not available to seven billion people.

Building with natural construction materials offers a convincing alternative to such methods. Among the most economic of the resources that occur naturally throughout the world is cohesive earth.

As a result of their research work, experience and projects throughout the world the signatories have been able to prove that earth building is a sustainable answer to ecological and social problems encountered globally. Thanks to its insignificant consumption of energy and its excellent potential for providing comfort a building made of earth is the ecologically, socially and economically most sustainable contribution to housing mankind, to climate protection and to activating labour forces, above all in the most densely populated countries on our planet.

In order to exploit this potential certain challenges must be faced and tasks undertaken, these include:

- strengthening the social and political support for building with natural materials;
- promoting research (into materials, construction and building methods);
- carrying out pilot projects and evaluating them;
- examining and disseminating existing knowledge;
- depicting the strengths, possibilities and limits of building with natural materials;
- increased training and further education;
- effective public relations work.

The goal of the signatories is to significantly improve the image of earth and natural materials as building materials and of earth building in general. To achieve this handed-down experience must be combined with efficient modern technologies while maintaining high design and creative standards.

This is where the joint answer lies to meeting the legitimate need of people in developing countries for a living environment fit for human beings and of those in industrialised countries for ensured comfort.

The signatories came together with these intentions and goals in order to make this experience accessible to as many people as possible through the world-wide network of BASEhabitat.

The next steps necessary include an in-depth exchange of experience and knowledge, the implementation of pilot projects, the dissemination of knowledge, and the formation of an image through national and international means of communication and media.

In the interest of achieving these goals the network BASEhabitat is looking for pilot projects, tasks, partnerships, organisations (business and industrial firms, universities, research institutions, political and development associations) and, naturally, financial means for research and development as well as for training and further education. Important are, above all, the people – within and outside the institutions – who support and promote the goal of a humane, liveable and sustainable housing and living environment according to their possibilities.

SIGNEES

CAROLINA AGUAYO-ARELLANO (CHILE/AUSTRIA)
CORNELIA BRÄUER (AUSTRIA)
SOPHIE BRECHET (FRANCE)
QUENTIN CHANSAVANG (FRANCE)
KEN DECOOMAN (BELGIUM)
HANNES DERNTL (AUSTRIA)
TRONG HIEP DO (VIETNAM)
ESPEN FOLGERO (NORWAY)
HUGO GASNIER (FRANCE)
ALICE GRAS (FRANCE)
RASMUS HAMANN (DENMARK)
ANNA HERINGER (GERMANY/AUSTRIA)
DIVYA JAYRAM (INDIA)
ZOONA JERRAL (PAKISTAN)
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LAURENCE KISUULE (UGANDA)
FRANZ KOPPELSTÄTTER (AUSTRIA)
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LIGIA MARTINS (BRASIL)
MU JUN (CHINA)
GIAN FRANCO NORIEGA (PERU/FRANCE)
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SAURABH PHADKE (INDIA)
SULAVA PIYA (NEPAL)
VALENTIN POPP (GERMANY)
SASCHA POSANSKI (GERMANY)
CLEMENS QUIRIN (GERMANY/AUSTRIA)
MARTIN RAUCH (AUSTRIA)
ALIREZA TAHMOURESIE (IRAN)
JOHANNE VESTERGAARD (SWEDEN)

PHOTOS (SELECTION)



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