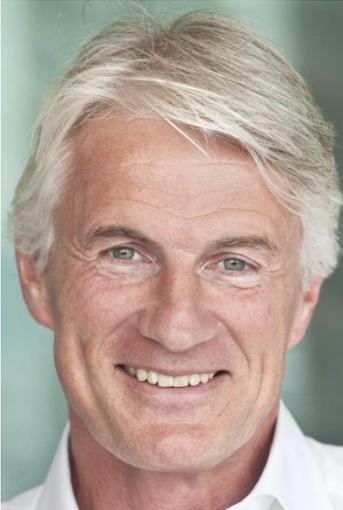


Welcome address by Christoph Ingenhoven



ingenhoven

Christoph Ingenhoven founded the architect's office ingenhoven architects in 1985. His office has won numerous first prizes in international competitions and awards for projects realized. The firm is renowned for an open, team oriented and communicative working atmosphere. The ecologic and sustainable approach is essential for all its projects as well as the well-being of the buildings' dwellers, the technological innovation, the flexibility and efficiency, the plausible construction and the precise finish. Among others the firm has designed the new main train station of Stuttgart, which greenXchange visited in 2014.

Dear participants,

Just ask yourself, what role architecture is supposed to play in the 21st century. To my mind one of the most important questions is going to be how we are going to live in our world. Until 2050 the world population is going to increase to 9.3 billion. Megacities are going to come up, like in the regions Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, with up to 100 million inhabitants. Those are often connected with negative associations: dirt, dust and a high crime rate.

For the future we need an urban planning culture, which is able to cope with high population density. Examples for well-functioning metropolises already exist: Tokyo, Shanghai, New York. I believe that the construction of high-rise buildings is going to be the key technology of the 21st century. We are going to be able to construct buildings in which humans live in line with the available resources of our planet. Just imagine that 50% of the world's waste and 50% of the energy consumption in Germany comes from the construction and operation of buildings. Consequently, an architect really can have an impact.

Sustainable construction involves many technical questions – double facades, activation of building parts, usage of photovoltaic... Nonetheless, for me those issues are not the priority. Dwellers should sustainably use their object and should derive pleasure from it long-term. I have coined the term "supergreen". This term describes projects, which quite naturally receive the highest rating regarding sustainability. Additionally, each of those projects is able to contribute to issues, which are indirectly regarded as "green". Just think about how good architecture is able to increase people's well-being. For me as architect it is the best compliment if dwellers adopt their buildings, like to live in and vivify it.

The future is about working in an intercultural and interdisciplinary way. I'd like to wish you much fun and success in your German-Israeli Environmental Exchange Program.

Yours - Christoph Ingenhoven -
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