



The Urban Oasis Experience - 5th International Green Roof Congress 2018 Kuwait (17 – 18 February)

The International Green Roof Association IGRA is pleased to announce the 5th edition of their prestigious congress series, which is held for the first time in the Gulf region. Scheduled for the 17th -18th of February in Kuwait City, this event will focus on the challenges and benefits of Green Roofs in dry climates.

More than one-third of the world population already lives in dry climates, without considering the global metropolitan areas which often are grappling with the same problems and referred to as “city deserts”. The performance of Green Roofs in these special environments is strongly connected with the availability and scarcity of water and the limited types of plants, which are able to tolerate these harsh weather conditions - therefore the water & plantation issue is a common thread of the congress presentations and discussions (www.greenroofworld.com). The congress is 2018 is under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al Sabah - Minister of AL-Diwan Al-Amiri. The congress venue Al Shaheed Park in Kuwait City consists of 310,000 m² of greenery, featuring a modern congress center, beautiful botanical gardens, museums, a miniature of old Kuwait, walkways, jogging tracks, lakes, river landscapes and an amazing musical fountain. With almost 80,000 m² of Green Roofs the largest urban park in Kuwait represents at the same time a prime example of how to meet the challenges of hot and dry climate by using appropriate Green Roof systems.



File name: Al-Shaheed-Park-Kuwait.jpg

Picture Caption: The Green Roofs of the congress center in Al Shaheed Park

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The congress lectures will provide an inspiring mixture of progressive thinkers, new technical developments and innovative Green Roof applications in architecture, landscape architecture and climate protection. Practical Green Roof technology will be presented, discussed and taught along with the latest achievements for Green Buildings, Green Infrastructure and municipal Green Roof strategies.

For the first time the congress will showcase a pioneering compilation of Green Building initiatives in the Middle East. Eng. Sulaiman Alrashed (Kuwait Municipality) will present the 4th Kuwait Master Plan 2040 - Green Buildings in Smart Cities. AISa'fat - The New Green Building Rating System of Dubai is the topic of Ms. Fida Mohammed Alhammadi (Dubai Municipality). Sheikh Soud Al Thani (Sustainability Manager, ASTAD, Qatar) will talk about Doha 2032 - The Great Green Masterplan. Whereas Razan Nejem (Kuwait Green Building Council) gives information about the LEED Certification of Green Roofs and Jamil Corbani (GreenStudios; Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Los Angeles) will talk about Practical Experiences with Green Roofs and Green Walls in Dry Climates. In addition, the presentations of Eng. Haifa Al Muhanna (Al Diwan Al Amiri, Kuwait) and Eng. Khaled Al Fouzan (The Associated Engineering Partnership TAEP, Kuwait) will provide detailed knowledge about the Al Shaheed Park in Kuwait City, a new icon of Green Roof architecture.

This unique composition of experts from the Middle East will be accompanied by a selection of exceptional works from Europe and the United States.

Kai-Uwe Bergmann is a Partner at BIG Bjarke Ingels Group a multi-award winning group of architects, designers, and builders operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, research and development. In his presentation Hot to Cold - An Odyssey of Architectural Adaptation Kai-Uwe will showcase several case studies in harsh climate conditions in order to examine where and how we live on our planet. As we travel with him from one end of the spectrum to its opposite we will see that the more harsh the climate gets, the more intense its impact on the architecture. The central challenge is to mitigate the climatic extremes for hospitable human life, while finding solutions that can be both economically and environmentally profitable.

Patrick Blanc is the inventor of the Mur Végétal or Vertical Garden concept – plant walls, which enable the introduction of biodiversity onto the concrete walls of towns. Altogether, Patrick has created over 300 Vertical Gardens all over the world including projects in Kuwait (e.g. the 360 Mall), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Dubai. Many works are in conjunction with famous architects like Jean Nouvel, Herzog and de Meuron, Tadao Ando, Andrée Putman, Marc Newson, Francis Soler and many more.

Deborah Nevins is the president of Deborah Nevins & Associates, the New York-based landscape design firm she founded over 25 years ago. Her firm's work includes the 40-acre Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center and Park in Athens in collaboration with Renzo Piano Building Workshop.

Kyosuk Lee is taking responsibility on Asian urban & landscape projects at MVRDV. MVRDV was founded in 1993 by Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs and Nathalie de Vries in

Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The practice engages globally in providing solutions to contemporary architectural and urban issues. The results are exemplary, outspoken projects, which enable our cities and landscapes to develop towards a better future.

Roland Appl, president of the International Green Roof Association IGRA and Linda Velazquez from greenroofs.com both have an unique decade long knowledge about Green Roof projects all over the world. Their presentations will showcase that for Green Roofs “The Sky is the limit” when it comes to possibilities.

The bios of the speakers from the Middle East, the US and Europe are available at the congress website www.greenroofworld.com.



File name: Green-Wall-Dubai.jpg

Picture Caption: Green Wall project in Dubai

Copyright: Green Studios

Featured Green Roof Architecture - A series of groundbreaking and high-profile projects involving Green Roofs and Living Walls will be presented at the congress.

Al Shaheed Park is the most significant Green Infrastructure project in Kuwait and, at the same time, one of the largest Green Roof projects in the world. During the first construction phase (2013–2015) almost all buildings were fitted with roof greening. In total this is 35,000 m² of Green Roofs. In 2017 the second expansion “Phase II” was opened for the public, thus doubling the total Green Roof area of the park.



File name: Al-Shaheed-Park-2-Kuwait.jpg

Picture Caption: Al Shaheed Park narrates the story of a land, its history and culture

Copyright: Al Hani construction and trading company

The design for the new **Google Campus** at King's Cross in London is taking advantage of the contextually defined building envelope while creating continuously cascading work environments that will connect Googlers across multiple floors. By opening up the ground floor and activating the roofscape, the light and airy workspaces are sandwiched between the terraced gardens on the roof and market halls, auditoria and shops on the ground.

Seoullo 7017, a true plant village, has been created on a former inner city highway in central Seoul. The ever-changing urban area has been transformed into a 983-metre long public park. 50 families of plants including trees, shrubs and flowers are displayed in 645 tree pots, and a total of approximately 228 species and sub-species have found their home in the park.



File name: Skygarden-Seoul-South-Korea.jpg

Picture Caption: Turning grey into green infrastructures – Seoullo 7017 in South Korea

Copyright: Ossip van Duivenbode

The **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC)** in Athens, designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, includes the National Library of Greece, the Greek National Opera, as well as the creation of the 210,000 m² Stavros Niarchos Park. The “metamorphoses of a topos” has been designed with a sustainable approach, respecting the surrounding ecosystems and the landscape dynamics. The SNFCC includes 25,568 m² Green Roofs.



File name: SNFCC-PARK-Greece.jpg

Picture Caption: The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens – a new icon of Green Roof architecture

Copyright: Yiorgis Yerolymbos / SNF

Developed by the Tamdeen Group and designed by architects CallisonRTKL, the **360 MALL** in Kuwait is a unique luxury retail and entertainment complex. In 2009, the first hydroponic Patrick Blanc Vertical Gardens were planted in the main Atrium and Solar Garden, and include four freestanding double-sided vegetated walls. In 2015 the Food Lounge underwent an extension project and a major feature is the new garden-themed court with a 10-meter high waterfall as a focal point. Planted in 2017, lush vertical gardens were added including a 29 m-long narrow suspended blade known as the “Fountain Hanging Crown.” Patrick Blanc selected over 21,500 plants representing over 101 species from around the world.



File name: 360-Mall-Kuwait.jpg

Picture Caption: 360 Mall: The new complex will feature a 350 m-long and 7 m-high indoor circular Vertical Garden by Patrick Blanc.

Copyright: Patrick Blanc

The congress is for everyone whose profession brings them into contact with Green Roofs and those who wish to learn about the latest technology in this field. This includes architects, installers, landscape architects, planners, representatives of local authorities and environmental agencies, investors and manufacturers. Join us for a top-level program focusing on innovative new technologies, stunning architecture, pioneering urban development projects and many opportunities to network with international leaders in the field of Green Roofs.

The first IGRA event in the Gulf region will provide a perfect platform for the launch of a successful Green Roof campaign in this geographical area. We look forward to seeing you at the 5th International Green Roof Congress in the Al Shaheed Park, Kuwait's new urban oasis!



Author: Wolfgang Ansel

Director, International Green Roof Association IGRA

PO Box 2025

72610 Nuertingen / Germany

Tel.: +49 7022 / 7191980

E-Mail: ansel@igra-world.com

www.greenroofworld.com