



**4th International  
Green Roof Congress**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**22 April 2015**

**4<sup>th</sup> International Green Roof Congress brought together 500 experts from 35 countries**

**Congress of Superlatives - "Explore the Nature on Rooftops" in Turkey**

**It was a congress which has no equal. Superlative Green Roof projects, outstanding speakers, top-class presentations and an international collegial atmosphere made the two days at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Green Roof Congress in Istanbul from April 20-21, 2015 a Green Roof industry highlight.**

This year's congress of the International Green Roof Association (IGRA), under the patronage of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, was a Green Roof conference that may be considered unique in the world, not only in terms of its 500 participants from 35 different countries.

Featured Green Roofs included projects such as Marina Bay Sands, a landscape park in Singapore standing almost 200 meters above sea level, Bosco Verticale, a double-towered skyscraper in Milan with a façade-forest hosting more than 700 trees, and the congress venue itself, the Zorlu Center in Istanbul, whose roof garden is built on an elevated grade of 33 meters and has an area of 62,000 m<sup>2</sup>, complete with swimming pools.

The organizers intentionally chose Istanbul, the transcontinental metropolis, as the congress venue where Green Roof experts from East and West came together for an intensive personal exchange. Even in the digital world personal interaction remains to be irreplaceable to establish cross sector contacts and develop new fields of application

"The Sky is the limit - Nothing is impossible" - renowned speakers from various disciplines led the participants to the realization that the green building industry is advancing into new dimensions and that, true to the congress motto: "Explore the Nature on Rooftops," there is much to discover in terms of new form and spatial utilization.

The programme over the two days was begun by Roland Appl, President of the hosting International Green Roof Association, Jean-Nöel Fourel, CEO of Onduline Group and Murat Ermeydan; President of Istanbul Branch of Turkish Chamber of Landscape Architects. Following the introduction, a volley of expert lectures was delivered by a cast of experts

ranging from Jaron Lubin, Dr. Ken Yeang, Emre Arolat, and Prof. Herbert Dreiseitl. The discussion flowed through the fields of engineering and design, eco-masterplanning and urban infrastructure, investor interest and technical precision.

The IGRA Green Roof Leadership Awards ceremony – prizes for especially exemplary Green Roof projects and initiatives – rounded off the first day of the congress and were divided into three categories: Trendsetting Architecture Projects, Municipal Green Roof Strategies and Green Roof Pioneers. Tim Flynn (Tim Flynn Architects, UK) and Udo Dagenbach (Glasser and Dagenbach Landscape Architects) were awarded for their Armenian project "United World College Dilijan." Ömer Selçuk Baz (Yalin Architects ) won an award for The Troy Archaeological Museum near Çanakkale. And for the Zorlu Center, their joint mixed-use project with congress venue, wide green public spaces and grand-scale buildings, the investor Zorlu Property Group (Mesut Pektaş), the architectural planners Emre Arolat Architects (Emre Arolat) and DS Architects (Dr. Deniz Aslan) and the executive company Karaoğlu Peyzaj (Nesrin Karaoglu Otuzoglu) were awarded.

Further prizes were given to Caroline Haas on behalf of the city of Paris for its plan to realize 1 million m<sup>2</sup> of Facade and Green Roofs. Also, the research project "Remote Sensing - Green Roof Inventory and Potential Analysis", led by the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) in collaboration with the German Roof Gardener Association (DDV) and supported by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU). The prize was awarded to Julian Zeidler (DLR) on behalf of all partners.

Extra events on the first day included an exclusive guided tour of the Zorlu Center Green Roofs and a fabulously catered evening boat cruise on the Bosphorus, offered by Platinum Sponsor Zorlu Property Group and title Sponsor Onduline, respectively.

The second day was initiated in the dual Workshop format, with "Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Green Roofs" and "Green Roof Policies and Research." Experts from Onduline Avrasya, Karaoğlu Peyzaj and DS Architects of Turkey, ZinCo of Germany and Green Studios of Lebanon spoke on their technical experience in the first, and representatives of the cities of Paris, Istanbul and Hamburg spoke about those cities' municipal Green Roof plans in the second. Additionally, Wolfgang Ansel, director of IGRA, presented The International Green Roof City Network, an ongoing project enabling networking in the field of municipal Green Roof policies (regulations, incentives, public relations), and Dr. Heleen Mees described the basis of her recent doctoral work, "Green Roofs and Climate Adaptation."

In the late afternoon, memorable projects were presented by their respective designers under the lecture theme of "Green Roofs in Dry and Mediterranean Climates". Laura Gatti spoke on the experience and philosophy of her Bosco Verticale in Milan, Maria Kokkinou and

Helli Pangalou described the Karela Office Park in Greece, the first LEED Gold certified building in that country, Durmus Dilekci delivered “Mi’costa Residences- High Class Villas and Apartments with Green Roofs,” and Julian Zeidler from the German Aerospace Center (DLR) made a presentation titled, “What’s next: Remote Sensing- Green Roof Inventory and Potential Analysis.”

The great interest of the conference participants shows that there is a pronounced and swiftly developing trend for Green Roofs in dry and Mediterranean Climates, with new and unique projects emerging. Perhaps due to this fact, the Municipality of Istanbul decided to serve as Patron of the Congress, bestowing an additional honor and emphasis on the importance of the event to the city and region. The International Green Roof Association sees great potential and a wide range of applications in these regions, with different climatic conditions than those found in the traditional Green Roof regions of Northern Europe and the US, and as such will be active in these countries in the future.

Further information about the 4th International Green Roof Congress can be found at <http://www.greenroofworld.com>. The congress volume with summaries of the speeches and contact details for the speakers can be downloaded as a PDF.

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**Pictures International Green Roof Congress 2015**



Filename: Zorlu-Center\_03.jpg

Source: Murat Germen

Caption:

The Zorlu Center venue, partial view of the 62,000 square meter roof gardens which rise to 33 meters above sea level.



Filename: Lecture room\_ Raffles-Hotel.jpg  
Source: IGRA

Caption:  
With 500 participants, the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress issue was the most well attended event in IGRA history.



Filename: Laura Gatti with Bosco Verticale.jpg  
Source: Onduline

Caption:  
The congress participants learn about the interesting background to landscape architect Laura Gatti's already multiple award-winning property Bosco Verticale.



Filename: Canakkale\_Troja-Museum\_Rendering.jpg  
Source: Ömer Selcuk Baz

Caption:  
One of the awarded projects was the Troy Museum, which is already under construction. Most of the premises will be located underground or roof.



Filename: IGRA\_Green Roof Leadership Award.jpg  
Source: IGRA

Caption:  
Rightly proud winners of IGRA Awards Ömer Selcuk Baz (Yalın Architects), Roland Appl (IGRA), Emre Arolat (Emre Arolat Architects), Nesrin Karaoğlu Otuzoğlu (Karaoğlu Peyzaj) Nihan Şeşen (DS Architects), Mesut Pektas (Zorlu Property Group), Julian Zeidler (German Aerospace Centre), Caroline Haas (City of Paris), Wolfgang Ansel (IGRA), Tim Flynn (Tim Flynn Architects), Udo Dagenbach (Glasser & Dagenbach Landscape Architects)



Filename: Zorlu-Center\_Excursion\_6503.jpg  
Source: IGRA

Caption:  
More than half of the participants took the opportunity to climb the Zorlu Center Green Roofs. (Tour commentary was provided via earphones)