Promoting sustainable construction since 2003
Sustainable construction – an obligation
Sustainable construction aims to meet present day needs for housing, working environments, and infrastructure without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in times to come. It incorporates elements of economic efficiency, environmental performance, and social responsibility. It has the greatest impact when architectural quality, technical innovation, and transferability are included.

LafargeHolcim Foundation – a commitment
Founded in 2003, the LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction raises awareness of the important role that architecture, engineering, urban planning, and the building industry have in achieving a more sustainable future. The Foundation expresses the commitment of its sponsor LafargeHolcim to drive sustainability in building and construction.


This page: “Post-War Collective – Community library and social recuperation” aims to re-integrate former soldiers into post-civil war Sri Lankan society. Young men are trained in building techniques through their involvement in the construction of public structures, such as this community library by Robust Architecture Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Global Awards Silver 2015).
Creating awareness, promoting excellence
The LafargeHolcim Foundation seeks to globally interlink knowledge and to encourage sustainable responses to the built environment. It promotes outstanding approaches to sustainable construction via print and online publications, maintains a comprehensive Internet presence, and engages on social media.

LafargeHolcim Awards
The world’s most significant competition for sustainable design (page 13). Projects and visions from architecture, engineering, urban planning, materials science, construction technology, and related fields are eligible for entry.

LafargeHolcim Next Generation Awards Lab
The Foundation’s workshop laboratories on sustainable construction (page 19) offer Awards winners in the Next Generation category a platform to exchange ideas on a global level.

LafargeHolcim Forum
The tri-annual series of conferences on sustainable construction (page 17), conducted in collaboration with the Foundation’s associated universities, advance the international and interdisciplinary dialog.

“Sanitation system in informal communities”, Brazil, by Eva Pfannes and Sylvain Hartenberg, Ooze Architects, Netherlands (Awards Bronze 2017 Latin America). The design focuses on water as a resource (streams, rainwater and waste water) and uses constructed wetlands to clean waste water, closing the loop at a local scale.
Network of experts and universities
Through its activities, the LafargeHolcim Foundation has developed a close-knit global network of academic and professional experts and acts as information hub connecting professions, geographies, and generations. To pursue its goals, the Foundation collaborates closely with some of the most renowned technical universities worldwide:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>American University of Beirut ( Aub ), Lebanon</td>
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<td>American University in Cairo ( AUC ), Egypt</td>
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<td>École Supérieure d'Architecture de Casablanca (EAC), Morocco</td>
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<td>Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), USA</td>
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<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA</td>
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<td>National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne), Switzerland</td>
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<td>Tongji University (TJU), China</td>
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<td>Tsinghua University (THU), China</td>
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<td>Universidad Iberoamericana (IBERO), Mexico</td>
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<td>Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil</td>
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<td>University of Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<td>University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa</td>
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“The Dryline – Urban flood protection infrastructure” addresses the vulnerability of New York City to coastal flooding and proposes a protective ribbon around southern Manhattan. The infrastructural barrier offers multiple design opportunities, fostering commercial, recreational, and cultural activities. Designed by a consortium led by BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, Copenhagen, Denmark, and New York, USA (Global Awards Bronze 2015).
An initiative of LafargeHolcim
The Foundation is an initiative of LafargeHolcim, the global leader in building materials and solutions. LafargeHolcim is active in the business segments cement, aggregates, ready-mix concrete, and solutions & products. With leading positions in all regions and a balanced portfolio between developing and mature markets, LafargeHolcim experts solve the challenges that customers face around the world. Some 75,000 people work for the company in around 80 countries.

Integrated sustainability framework
Population growth, greater urbanization and rising living standards offer significant business and growth opportunities. At the same time, these trends bring major challenges for the planet. Sustainability needs to bridge the gap and create value for business and society. The sustainability framework of LafargeHolcim focuses on four fields of action: climate, circular economy, environment, and communities. LafargeHolcim supplements this with operating principles, stipulating the standards on key environmental, social, and corporate governance topics.

Initiated by Lord Norman Foster (center image) and his Foundation, the prototype of a Droneport shell was built at the Architecture Biennale 2016 in Venice, Italy. The LafargeHolcim Foundation enabled the self-supporting structure to be made of customized Durabric compressed earth tiles, produced by the LafargeHolcim Research and Development Center in Lyon, France. With record visitor numbers of more than 260,000 in 2016 and keen interest again in 2018, the Droneport prototype continues to inspire architects and building professionals to pursue innovation in sustainable design.
Drivers for sustainability
The LafargeHolcim Foundation and its associated universities have identified five “target issues” that aim to clarify principles for sustaining the human habitat for future generations. These “target issues” serve as criteria for projects submitted in the LafargeHolcim Awards, and as a road map for other related activities of the Foundation.

Progress

Innovation and transferability
Projects must demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainable development, pushing the envelope of practice and exploring new disciplinary frontiers. Breakthroughs and trend-setting discoveries must be transferable to a range of other applications. Materials should be recyclable and integrated within circular economies.

People

Ethical standards and social inclusion
Projects must adhere to the highest ethical standards and promote social inclusion at all stages of construction, from planning and building to use and servicing, to ensure an enduring positive impact on communities. Proposals must demonstrate how they enhance the collective realm and contribute to an affordable and socially inclusive habitat.

**Planet**  
**Resource and environmental performance**  
Projects must exhibit a sensible use and management of natural resources throughout their entire life cycle. Long-term environmental concerns, especially pertaining to stocks and flows of material, water, and energy, should be an integral part of the design philosophy.

**Prosperity**  
**Economic viability and compatibility**  
Projects must be economically feasible and able to secure financing – whether from public, commercial, or concessional sources – while having a positive impact on society and the environment. Avoiding the wasteful consumption of material resources and limiting CO$_2$ emissions, an economy of means in construction is to be promoted. Construction must adhere to the logic of circular economy.

**Place**  
**Contextual and aesthetic impact**  
Projects must convey a high standard of architectural quality as a prevalent form of cultural expression. With space, form, and aesthetic impact of utmost significance, the material manifestation of the design must make a positive and lasting contribution to the physical, human, and cultural environment.

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Recognition of forward-looking projects
Flagship activity of the Foundation is the Lafarge-Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction. It rewards projects and visionary concepts that go beyond balancing environmental performance, social responsibility, and economic growth, thereby exemplifying architectural excellence and a high degree of transferability. Each competition cycle spans three years, and a total of USD 2 million in prize money is awarded.

Engaging the next generation
The LafargeHolcim Awards competition for projects and visions from architecture, engineering, urban planning, materials science, construction technology, and related fields has two categories: The main category is open for exemplary projects in sustainable construction at an advanced stage of design with high probability of realization. The Next Generation category for visionary design concepts and bold ideas is restricted to authors up to 30 years of age.
Two-stage international competition
The competition is handled in two stages. In the regional phase, independent juries hosted by the associated universities of the Foundation evaluate submissions in each of the geographic regions: Europe, North America, Latin America, Middle East Africa, and Asia Pacific. In the global phase, an independent panel of internationally renowned experts allocates Global Awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze among the 15 projects that received Awards in the regional phase.

Entries from across all regions
The 5th International LafargeHolcim Awards competition attracted a total of 5,085 entries by authors in 121 countries. 3,606 entries were deemed valid, and 1,836 passed the formal and quality checks. The validated submissions were assessed by one of five regional juries, and global finalists further assessed by the global jury.

The 6th International LafargeHolcim Awards competition is open for entries until February 25, 2020.
Fostering interdisciplinary dialog
To advance the international and interdisciplinary dialog, the LafargeHolcim Foundation conducts symposiums at different scopes.

LafargeHolcim Roundtable
To prime the respective LafargeHolcim Forum, the Foundation organizes Roundtable workshops. They bring together experts who devise a clear agenda in preparation of the Forum.

LafargeHolcim Forum
The LafargeHolcim Forum for Sustainable Construction is a tri-annual series of conferences, conducted in collaboration with the Foundation’s associated universities. The multi-day event is an academic platform for architects, engineers, urban planners, materials scientists, and construction specialists of all generations and geographic locations.

The 6th International LafargeHolcim Forum was hosted by the American University in Cairo, Egypt. It was dedicated to the topic of “Re-materializing Construction”. Keynote speeches, workshops and site visits focussed on strategies to reduce consumption throughout the material cycle from extraction to processing, transport, installation, maintenance, and removal.

Top: The 6th International LafargeHolcim Forum brought together more than 350 leading thinkers from 55 countries. Center: Full-day excursions relevant to “Re-materializing Construction” visited sites in the proximity of Cairo and provided a local contextualization of the global discussions. Bottom: Expert exchange at the LafargeHolcim Roundtable 2018 dedicated to “Re-materializing Construction” in Stuttgart, Germany.
Encouraging young talents
Recognizing the critical importance of encour-
aging the future generation of industry profes-
sionals, the LafargeHolcim Foundation supports
promising talents on various levels.

LafargeHolcim Awards
The competition features a Next Generation
category, enabling young professionals up to 30
years to participate with visionary design con-
cepts and bold ideas in sustainable construction.

Next Generation Awards Lab
The workshops offer Next Generation prize win-
ners from the Awards competition a platform to
exchange ideas on a global level.

Student Poster Competition
While the Awards competition enables young
talents to challenge their approaches against
their peers, the Foundation’s invitation to exhibit
posters and participate at the Forum makes the
experts of tomorrow a part of today’s debate.

Research in Practice Grants
To support the development of knowledge re-
quired to meet the challenges in the construction
industry, the Foundation offers three Research
in Practice Grants for a two-year period. The
program mentors and financially supports young
practitioners in conducting ground-breaking,
practice-related research.
The Board of the LafargeHolcim Foundation ensures that the activities of the Foundation are aligned with current interpretations of sustainable construction.

The members are:

1. **Roland Köhler, Chairman**  
   Chairman of the Board, Noser Group, Switzerland.

2. **Marilyne Andersen**  
   Professor of Sustainable Construction Technologies, Head of the Laboratory of Integrated Performance in Design, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL Lausanne), Switzerland.

3. **Marc Angélil**  
   Professor of Architecture & Design, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Switzerland.

4. **Alejandro Aravena**  
   Partner Architect & Executive Director, Elemental, Chile.

5. **Maria Atkinson AM**  
   Founding CEO, Green Building Council of Australia, Australia.

6. **Jens Diebold**  
   Head of Sustainable Development, LafargeHolcim, Switzerland.

7. **Harry Gugger**  
   Professor of Architecture, Chair of Laboratory Basel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL Lausanne), Switzerland.

8. **Jan Jenisch**  
   Chief Executive Officer, LafargeHolcim, Switzerland.

9. **Enrique Norten**  
   Principal and Founder, TEN Arquitectos, Mexico/USA.

10. **Stuart Smith**  
    Director, Arup, United Kingdom.

11. **Brinda Somaya**  
    Principal Architect and Managing Director, Somaya & Kalappa Consultants, India.