

Sustainable real estate - Shaping our future

Expanding knowledge & exchanging best practices

Program

14:00 **Registration**

14:30 **Welcome**

14:30 Welcome – **Isabelle Grippa** – CEO hub.brussels

14:35 **Richard C. Yancey** - Executive Director Building Energy Exchange

14:40 **Pitches**

14:40 [SUNSOAK DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE](#) STEENACKERS

14:50 [TRANE BELGIUM](#) GORGEMANS

15:00 [SUREAL](#) VAN HEERS

15:10 [AGC](#) GLORE

15:20 [CITIZENLAB](#) MUYLEAERT

15:30 [B2AI](#) CLAEYS

15:40 [ORG PERMANENT MODERNITY](#) D'HOOGHE

16:50 [A2M](#) MORENO VACCA

16:00 **Closing remarks** by **Emmanuel Malfeyt** – Coordinator ecobuild.brussels

16:05 **Networking**

Speakers bios



Isabelle Grippa

CEO hub.brussels

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At 18, Isabelle Grippa had no qualifications and worked in a multinational company. She later became an usherette in a cinema. It was only three years later, after the Central Examining Board and with her first child in her arms, that she started studying International Relations at the ULB. She would complete an additional Master's degree at the Institute of European Studies, finishing with a distinction. As a specialist in social dialogue, she began a career in the Brussels institutions on socio-economic issues, first as a parliamentary attaché and then as coordinator of the Brussels New Deal for employment and training. Minister-President Picqué seconded her to his cabinet as an economic advisor. On the arrival of Minister-President Vervoort, she became responsible for the launch and coordination of the 2025 strategy for Brussels and then briefly worked for Actiris.

A lover of Brussels, a feminist activist and the mother of six children including three stepchildren, Isabelle became Managing Director of hub.brussels in September 2018. She became the youngest CEO of a Brussels institution. Isabelle Grippa at hub.brussels brings new wind to a new Agency... With her 350 hubsters, she ardently defends the themes dear to her, namely entrepreneurship as a driver of positive impact and emancipation of society, its accessibility to all, the environmental transition, resilience, and more. She proves that the destination always justifies the route.



Richard C. Yancey

Executive Director [Building Energy Exchange](https://be-exchange.org)

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Richard C. Yancey, AIA, LEED AP, is the founding Director of the Building Energy Exchange, Inc. (BEEEx), an independent, nonprofit organization that connects the New York real estate and design communities to energy and lighting efficiency solutions through education, exhibitions, technology demonstrations, and research. BEEEx identifies opportunities, navigates barriers to adoption, broker's relationships, and showcases best practices at their resource center in downtown Manhattan.

Prior to leading BEEEx, Richard has over twenty years of experience as an practicing architect, including as a Principal of Weinstein A|U Architects + Urban Designs, in Seattle, for 11 years, before returning to his native New York, in 2005, to join Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners. An early-adopter of sustainable design, Richard has led a diverse array of project types, including institutional, commercial, and both single and multi-family residential, campus planning, and transit-oriented developments, including a 1.2 million SF mixed-use development in Norwalk, CT.



Jean-Didier Steenackers

Architect, solar designer, founder of [Sunsoak design](#)

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JD Steenackers is an Architect and Solar designer since 2004. He had the chance to work on great solar projects around the world with teams such as Renzo Piano, Herzog & Demeuron or Jean Nouvel. He founded SUNSOAK design in 2015 with the objective to create an architectural practice based on the solar concept. Sunsoak Design is an engineering & architecture practice focused on architectural integration of renewable energy in the city, in infrastructures and natural environments. We think that upscaling the current use of renewable technologies is a priority to meet 2050 goals. Nevertheless, large scale PV or BIPV objects have a massive impact on both built & natural environments. That impact has to be part of a plan. Part of a design. It has to be drawn with architectural sense, and engineered in order to preserve its optimal efficiency.



Xavier Gorgemans

CEO [Trane Belgium](#)

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After studying industrial engineering (2004), Xavier joined Trane Belgium in 2005 as a Quotation Engineer, putting into practice the technical knowledge learned during his studies and opening his mind to business. Very quickly business prevailed ... and Xavier started working internationally on the export markets of Trane Belgium: Iraq and Libya where he will focus on setting up a sales network in the countries. After the collapse of Gaddafi (Libya) and the invasion by Isis (Iraq), Xavier had to refocus on Belgium and Luxembourg and became in 2011 Sales Director. Since that date, Trane Belgium continued to expand the products and services ranges. After completing an MBA at Solvay in 2013, Xavier decided to take over the Trane Belgium franchise (with 2 partners in 2014, alone in 2020) and became the CEO of Trane Belgium.



Sunita Van Heers

Managing Director, [Soreal](#)

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Sunita is adept and driven to have a sustainable impact on our society. Rich in international experiences on different scales and typologies, she can provide advice on social, ecological and economic sustainability. This advice is always supported by academic research, extensive practical experience and specific studies concerning the project itself. Her starting point will always be the context, but she will consistently look for a realistic future-proof solution. She does not focus on single facts, but opts for an integrated approach within the a team. "Value co-creation" is therefore one of the core values of SuReal. The advice is further supported by the team through energy studies, (inter)national references, comfort studies, materials studies, water studies, ecology studies, ... and all this worked into a financial feasibility for the entire lifespan. Her experience with more than 100 (inter)national similar project gives her a broad sustainability perspective. Sunita is founder of SuReal and has been nominated as Young Entrepreneur of the Year (region Brussels/Vlaams-Brabant). She is a well-known sustainability expert with extensive experience in public speaking.



Bassel Glore

Sales Director, [Active Glass AGC](#)

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Bassel Glore is Sales Director and Business Development Manager at AGC Glass Europe for the Active Glass solutions: SunEwat and Glassiled. AGC is the world leader in flat glass and its Active Glass division fully commits to developing the right products for the cities of tomorrow. AGC's Active Glass business unit has been developing and continuously improving LED-embedded and photovoltaics-embedded glass solutions with numerous successful projects completed around the world.



Aline Muylaert

Head of Government Success & Impact, [Citizenlab](#)

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Citizenlab is a citizen engagement platform for local authorities. "The goal is to improve citizen participation, a kind of link between the municipality and the people." It all started with a project in college. "When I was in college, I wanted to improve the life of my neighborhood, like having more greenery...", "I realized that it was very complicated to solicit your commune. You had to attend neighborhood meetings at all costs." The platform directly receives positive feedback. Fundraising allowed the team to grow. Today, Citizenlab is used by more than 100 local authorities across three countries (Belgium, France and the Netherlands). The platform has received numerous awards (World Summit Award, among others) Concerned about her impact on the climate, the entrepreneur collaborates with young people for the climate and develops the Youth4climate platform, which has collected more than 2,000 ideas and priorities that have been submitted to governments.



Simon Claeys

Partner / Engineer-Architect, [B2Ai architects](#)

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After his studies in "Engineering: architecture" at the University of Ghent, a European Management Programme path (ManaMa) through Europe and a Postgraduate in Renovation Techniques & Monument Conservation in Bruges, he started as an engineer-architect; where all kinds of projects between Belgium and Central Africa - private and public - on both a small and complex scale from design to completion were brought to a successful conclusion. With extensive experience, he has been active as a Brussels partner at B2Ai architects since 2019 where he mainly directs innovative and programmatically complex-mixed projects.



Alexander D'hooghe

Founder and CSO, [ORG, Permanent Modernity](#)

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Alexander D'Hooghe is associate professor with tenure at MIT and founding partner of the 'Organization for Permanent Modernity', a professional firm and think tank for urbanism and architecture, with locations in Boston and Brussels. Currently, he also directs the MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism at MIT, focused on large-scale contemporary design problems. He has published internationally, notably with 'the Liberal Monument' (Princeton, Fall 2010) and with recent papers in relevant journals in Germany, Israel, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, the USA, etc. His urban designs and analyses have included sites in New York City, Shenzhen, Brussels, Ostend, The Hague, Reykjavik, South-Korea, parts of Russia, etc. D'Hooghe obtained his Ph.D. at the Berlage Institute in 2007 with T.U. Delft, after achieving a Masters in Urban Design at the Harvard GSD in 2001, and a master in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Leuven in 1996. He worked with among others Rem Koolhaas and Marcel Smets.



Sebastian Moreno Vacca

Architect - Founding partner, [A2M](#)

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As founding member of A2M, Sebastian Moreno-Vacca leads A2M's vision, design aesthetic and drives to be the most sustainable and energy efficient architecture possible. Since starting the architecture firm A2M in 2000, Sebastian has led it to international recognition through his sustainable building knowledge and his numerous roles as president of the Board of the Belgian Passive House Association. Since 2006, he has also been teaching at ULB architecture university. In 2009, he co-founded and edited the magazine 'be.passive'. He has been giving lectures regularly for several professional networks (architects, engineers and builders) for more than 15 years. He has also been giving an extensive set of presentations, conferences and training all over the world. A2M now has offices in Brussels and Lisbon, and a sister company, M2A, in the United States.



Emmanuel Malfeyt

Coordinator ecobuild.brussels

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Emmanuel Malfeyt is a green building professional and change facilitator with +20 years' experience in managing teams of craftsperson and creative talent to deliver high performance buildings or support businesses who are doing so. Always looking to build partnerships to deliver contemporary and innovative solutions to any problem given. Prior to taking on the role as coordinator of ecobuild.brussels, the network of Brussels' sustainable construction and renovation actors, he was the managing director of a construction company specialised in passive single-family wooden dwellings. Emmanuel presides the Governing Board of CERAA, Center for Study, Research and Action in Architecture. He's a French speaking Flemish working in Brussels.