



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

September 2007

Full Member Profile



Fraunhofer Informationszentrum
Raum und Bau

Introduction

Fraunhofer-Informationszentrum Raum und Bau IRB, the Information Centre for Planning and Building of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, is one of its 56 institutes and Germany's central facility for national and international knowledge transfer in planning and building. It provides technical, planning and economic information from research and practice in the specialist fields of civil engineering, architecture, building design, building



law and industry, town planning, housing and spatial planning as well as monument preservation. The institute develops and distributes information services and products which are tailored for the special requirements of target groups from the fields of planning and building, focussing on databases, technical literature and individualised services.

Fraunhofer IRB's Business Units bundle information products and services for similar information demands of target groups:

Interdisciplinary Information on Planning, Building and Research

The comprehensive bibliographic databases RSWB® and ICONDA® Bibliographic quote and link to national and international specialist publications in all fields of planning and building. They particularly satisfy the information requirements of university libraries as well as big construction or consulting companies. Additional specific research information will be offered within the business unit to research or university institutes or individual researchers that require information in a case-related and interdisciplinary manner. These are combined in the special building research portal. The

business unit provides planning personnel in public authorities, housing companies, planning agencies and research institutes with specific but nonetheless interdisciplinary information requirements with



combined information in the area »Spatial development, town planning, housing«.

Building in given Contexts, Building Pathology and Monument Preservation

Represents one core task of Fraunhofer IRB: The documentation and transfer of specialist knowledge on damages and their repair including historic buildings. Leading experts and authors publish in the media of this business unit. Apart from print media, access is provided in parallel to databases and downloads. SCHADIS® for example, is the most comprehensive online anthology of specialist publications on analysis, repair and prevention of building damages.



Construction Technologies



Develops specialist contents ranging from civil engineering, water and waste management, construction physics and building services engineering to architecture, building planning and structural design.

FID Fraunhofer Internal Services

utilises the institute's facilities and expertise as a scientific publisher for Fraunhofer scientists, and

supports Fraunhofer Institutes all over Germany with services and infrastructure for libraries and specialist information.

Publishing house: Fraunhofer IRB Verlag

With its numerous publications in the fields of building in given contexts, construction technology, renovation, building physics and research, the Fraunhofer IRB Verlag (Publishing House) is regarded as one of the most distinguished publishers in German speaking countries. The publication of research results is an important contribution of Fraunhofer IRB Verlag (Publishing house) towards the transfer of knowledge from science to construction practice. The publications in the field of construction technology offer state-of-the-art expertise in building physics and technologies. Currently there are some 3000 research reports, approx. 400 specialist books and four technical journals available, covering all fields of planning and building. Fraunhofer IRB Verlag is a member of the European Union Publisher's Forum, the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Baufachverlage.



Individual Knowledge Transfer

Some information problems cannot or can only be partially solved with the help of databases and publications. For such cases, Fraunhofer IRB provides the Bauinformations-Service (Construction Information Service). Specialist staff (architects, civil engineers) experienced in information procurement and management create individualised solutions for information problems in the fields of planning and building.

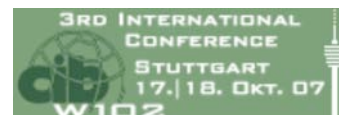
Fraunhofer IRB International Cooperations

Fraunhofer IRB has a strong focus on international networking. With the merging of markets in Europe and beyond, knowledge transfer means going cross-boarder, politically as well as in language. Against this background, Fraunhofer IRB cooperates with numerous national and international associations, institutions, publishers and companies. This facilitates access to specialist construction knowledge. Cooperation agreements exist for the provision of information and data as well as for the provision and distribution of information products and services. Lately, Fraunhofer IRB has also been involved in several EU R&D projects.

Fraunhofer IRB and CIB

Fraunhofer and CIB have a long-standing relationship, going back as far as the 1980s, when the concept for an international literature documentation database was elaborated and presented. 1986, in the frame of the CIB 10th Congress in Washington DC, ICONDA® The International CONstruction Database was launched.

Today, Fraunhofer IRB is an active member in CIB W102, co-organising and hosting the CIB W102 3rd International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management in Stuttgart, October 2007. Drawing from its expertise in the field of online information



services, Fraunhofer IRB has developed and hosts the online repository for CIB and CIB related publications ICONDA@CIBlibrary, introduced at the CIB World Congress 2007 in Cape Town. It holds records and associated full texts files of CIB related publications: monographic (books, reports, proceedings) as well as serial (journals). Its contents grow continually by inclusion of current



publications as well as re-digitalised archival documents. The service is available free of charge through CIB's homepage.

ICONDA® The International CONstruction Database

ICONDA®Bibliographic – with its 20th anniversary in 2006 – is one of the worldwide most comprehensive systems for the retrieval and access of publications in the domain of planning and building. By now, its contents exceeds 730,000 records of books, articles from more than 600 journals, research reports, conference proceeding et al sources from 45 countries, including approx 45,000 full text links. The database is produced by an international network of 22 organisations worldwide and endorsed by CIB and UICB. Its combination of thematically comprehensive scope, indexing depth (down to the scale of single journal/book articles), the increasing number of full texts directly linked to, and the expertise of the producing AEC specialists makes it unique.



Fraunhofer IRB, acting as the ICONDA®Agency, coordinates the production and promotes the use of the database.

Links

Homepage in English:

www.irb.fraunhofer.de/index.jsp?lang=en

Online Shop for shippable planning & building titles from many publishers (mostly German language):

www.baufachinformation.de/

ICONDA®Bibliographic: www.irbdirekt.de/iconda

ICONDA®CIBlibrary: www.iconda.org/CIBlibrary/

CIB W102 3rd International Conference:

<http://cib-w102.iconda.org/conference2007stuttgart/index.html>

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