



## 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.

November 2009

### Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

#### TG77 - Health and the Built Environment

### Introducing a new Task Group

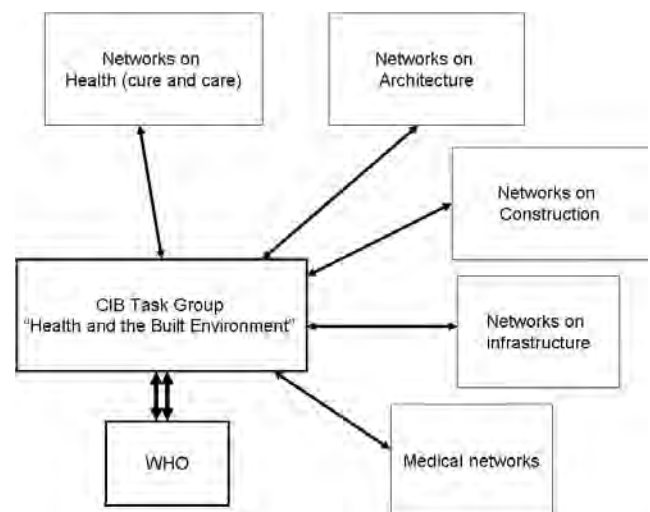
The CIB Board established a new Task Group: TG77 on Health and the Built Environment, with Dr. Marinus Verweij from TNO Built Environment and Geosciences in Utrecht, The Netherlands as its Coordinator. A short description of the Task Group and a brief introduction of the Coordinator follows.

#### Background

Healthy built environments are of utmost importance worldwide. On average we spend 80% of our time inside buildings so the impact of buildings on our well-being is huge. There's also a global trend towards models of healthcare services delivery in which physically impaired or (chronically) ill people receive care in the home, instead of being admitted to nursing homes. This trend is informed by accelerating increases in healthcare costs on the one hand, and by increasing shortages in available staff on the other. The trend has enormous impact on the built environment. New homes and housing projects will have to be designed and constructed not only to meet stringent energy and cost efficiency standards, but also to provide durably healthy environments. A tough challenge, given that homes will generally stand for at least 50 years, while innovations in housing concepts and building technologies are slow to be implemented. Added to that, most available housing actually consists of existing building stock, so there is a major challenge to find ways and means to turn this existing stock into healthy built environments.

At the moment, there are no globally accepted criteria for healthy indoor environments and lifetime buildings. Added to that, the state of the art and best practice in this field varies widely from country to country. Moreover, designing healthy built environments is a complex process involving many different areas of expertise. Among those are accessibility issues, assistance alert systems, use of healthy construction materials, a good indoor climate, easy to use apparatus/systems, lifespan homes, et cetera.

Most journals and networks address only one or two of the relevant topics. Some have a technical or domain focus and deal with e.g. noise, indoor climate, energy, safety, etc.. Other journals and networks focus on specific issues like healthcare service models (care and cure), construction, specialized medical issues or architecture. What is lacking at the moment is a platform where all research and evidence pertinent to the built environment and health is brought together. The CIB Task Group aims to provide such a platform to enhance this integrated knowledge in the public arena.



Such a platform is necessary to get a good focus on and develop best practices for implementation aspects of the construction side as well as the medical side of the issue. To this end, the platform will cooperate and align its scope and objectives, with ongoing activities in other CIB Task Groups and Working Commissions that address aspects of the integral issue of Health and the Built Environment.

The CIB's world wide network can provide an effective conduit for participation, conferences, publications, cooperation, etc.

## Aim and Objectives of the Task Group

The Task Group's main objective will be to promote healthy buildings and a healthy indoor and outdoor environment, thereby raising awareness of these issues at governmental levels. This will be done by providing a platform where all types of guidelines, research and evidence related to health in the built environment is brought together to establish:

- World wide awareness, criteria and guidelines in legislation for healthy buildings
- Consensus based worldwide R&D Roadmaps and Agendas
- Practical guidelines for lifetime buildings
- Best practices related to WHO guidelines and criteria for healthy housing
- Knowledge exchange by organizing workshops, developing course materials for different educations, publications, etc.
- Cooperation between different disciplines

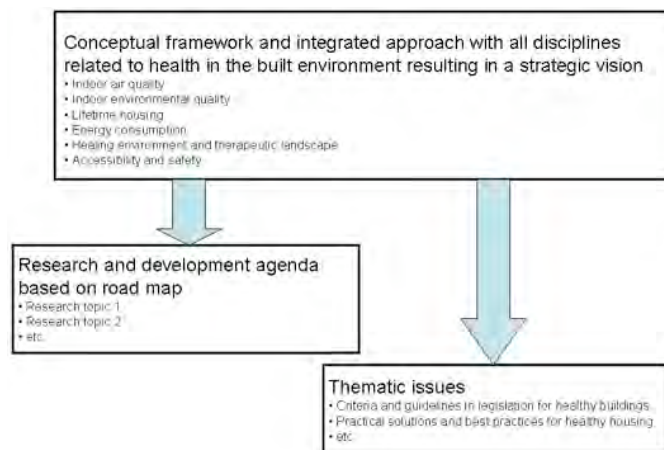
## Scope

The scope of the Task Group is health in the built environment based on an integrated approach with all relevant disciplines (construction side and health care side). This will lead to a conceptual framework and strategic vision for the Task Group including specific emphasis on areas such as houses, nursing homes, schools and day care centres and on the urban built environment as a whole.

Focal topics will be:

- Indoor air quality (ventilation, emissions of building materials)
  - Indoor environmental quality (temperature, humidity, noise, light, air flow)
  - Lifespan housing (buildings that can easily be adapted to the living stage of the inhabitants)
  - Energy consumption, efficiency and emissions
  - Healing environment and therapeutic landscape architecture in connection to the buildings
  - Accessibility and safety issues,
- but the emphasis will be on the integration of these and related topics.

From this conceptual framework a road map will be developed. Based on the road map a research agenda will be established resulting in specific research topics. There are also thematic issues to deal with. These thematic issues are to be decided on in the Task Group and can be proposed by all members of the Task Group.



## Work Programme

In a three-year programme the Task Group will engage in the following tasks, working closely with the WHO on the subject of guidelines for healthy housing:

- Organize a series of international worldwide meetings to align with existing networks in order to create a conceptual framework and integrated approach (holistic view), combining all aspects relevant to health in the built environment
- Organize an international conference that will bring together the relevant networks
- Establish an international research and practice community supported by a web-based infrastructure within the field of health in the built environment
- Formulate evidence-based practical solutions to implement the guidelines and criteria for healthy housing defined by the WHO

## Planned Output

- World wide network
- A strategic vision and conceptual framework on health in the built environment
- A research agenda with research topics related to a road map and an identification of research gaps
- A web-based infrastructure for disseminating knowledge about health in the build environment (guidelines, etc.)
- Practical solutions based on the guidelines and criteria for healthy housing defined by the WHO
- A platform for counselling governments on research topics and directives

## Time Schedule

The final reports, publications and books prepared by the Task Group are available free of charge in the public arena.

October 2009      Proposal to establish a Task Group to CIB world (board meeting)

October 2009 – May 2010	Predatory phase of the Task Group
May 2010	Inaugural meeting during the CIB World Triennial conference Salford
September 2010	Scoping conference of the Task Group
October 2011	Practical elaboration of the Guidelines and criteria for Healthy housing of the WHO
October 2012	Publication, web based infrastructure, books (the aim is to link these to WHO publications)

### Coordinatorship

The activities of the Task Group will be coordinated by Dr. Marinus Verweij TNO Dutch Centre for Health Assets in close alignment with the WHO. Mr. Roberto Traversari (TNO Dutch Centre for Health Assets) will act as secretary of the Task Group.

### Initial Members

The membership of this world wide Task group will be CIB members or appointed representatives of other networks. The aim is to start with a group consisting of:

#### Architects

- ECHAA (European Centre for Healthcare Assets and Architecture)
- AIA Academy of Architecture for Health (American Institute of Architects)
- GUPA (Global University programs healthcare Architecture)
- London South Bank University (MARU, Medical Architecture research university)
- UIA Public Health Group (Union of International Architects)
- Texas A+M University

### Hospital

- International Hospital Federation
- MCC Hospital World

### Construction

- ASHE (American Society of Healthcare Engineers)
- European Congress healthcare Planning and Design
- International Academy for design and Health
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Network
- HaCIRIC (Imperial College London and the Universities of Loughborough, Reading and Salford)

### Health and medical networks

- WHO
- Medical experts in the field
- ISIAQ (International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate)

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Quality in Health Care

### Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG77 meetings please contact the Coordinator: Marinus Verweij [marinus.verweij@tno.nl](mailto:marinus.verweij@tno.nl).

You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG77 at [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl) - Databases - select "Go to Database" – in the shown search engine: type TG77 in the field "Commission number".

## Introducing the Coordinator

### Dr. Marinus Verweij



### Current Positions

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|-----------|---|
| 2009-     | Director, Dutch Centre for Health Assets, part of TNO Built Environment and Geosciences, Utrecht, the Netherlands. This new Centre was recently established when the research arm of the former Netherlands Board for Hospital Institutions was transferred to TNO. |
| 2008-     | Chairman of the European Centre for Health Assets and Architecture (ECHAA), a partnership of European research organizations in the field of health design and infrastructure.  |
| 2006-2008 | Member of the Board of Directors of the Netherlands Board for Hospital Institutions, a government related body responsible for licensing of all major health infrastructure investment in the Netherlands and actively involved in related research activities.     |
| 2002-2008 | Chairman of the EU Health Property Network, a pan-European platform of government related organisations in Europe responsible for health infrastructure planning, design and procurement.   |



## Past Positions

- 2000-2006 Deputy Director of the Netherlands Board for Hospital Institutions.
- 1996-2000 CEO of ZOA Refugee Care in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, an organisation for worldwide humanitarian relief work.
- 1992-1996 Senior health researcher and advisor for the Netherlands Board for Hospital Institutions.
- 1988-1992 Medical Director of Bonda Mission Hospital, Zimbabwe, a district and training hospital in the Eastern Highlands serving a population of 200.000 people with a wide network of decentralized health services.
- 1990-1992 Chairman of the Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals (ZACH), a member organisation representing 115 non-governmental health facilities.
- 1986-1988 Medical Officer at Scott Hospital, Morija, Lesotho.
- 1984-1986 Medical Officer at Donald Fraser Hospital, Northern Limpopo, South Africa.