

W098 - Intelligent and Responsive Buildings



W098 Coordinator Georges Klepfisch professed himself as being extremely satisfied, and justifiably so, at the outcome of the W098 International Conference on Intelligent and Responsive Building which took place in Bruges, Belgium on 29th and 30th March 1999.



Georges Klepfisch

Around 130 participants from 16 countries as far afield as Australia, Japan and the USA took part, a striking sign of the continued interest around the world in the topic of Intelligent Buildings.

The Conference was organised in an exemplary manner by Ms. Rita Peys and her devoted team from the Technologisch Instituut - KVIV in Antwerp.

It was held in the historic Conference Center Oud St. Jan in the Centre of Bruges (See photos).

Generous sponsorship was forthcoming from the Belgium Building Research Institute, the Belgian Centre for Domotics and Immotics, and the TIDE Unit of the European Commission (DGXIII).

Valuable logistic support was provided by the Organising Institute KVIV and by Cobomedia.

Aim of the Conference

CIB Board Member Carlo De Pauw who was a Co-Chairman of the Scientific Committee stated prior to the Conference that he saw the main goals as being:

- o to present the state of the art of the various aspects of intelligent buildings and smart homes
- o to provide a survey of the accessible environments and the improvement of housing for elderly and handicapped people
- o to describe the best practices in the field of intelligent and responsive buildings

In fact it was Carlo himself who kicked off the Programme on 29th March 1999 in his capacity as General Director of the Belgian Building Research Institute with an Introductory Address on Building Construction on the verge of the new millennium.

This was followed by two Keynote Addresses:

- Changing the way we live and work in a new building environment by F. Garas, Consulting Engineer, United Kingdom and
- European Commission research and technical development in the field of smart home technologies for the disabled and elderly by Ivor Ambrose, Coordinator of W069 and currently on Secondment to the European Commission TIDE UNIT, B

Two Paralled Sessions

The Conference then split up into two Parallel Sessions which covered the themes:

- Intelligent and Responsive Buildings AND
- Creating the Productive Workplace

Among the Speakers in these Sessions were:

- W077 Coordinator Dr. E. Mayer on Individual thermal comfort by infrared radiation
- W098 Coordinator Georges Klepfisch reporting on a study into Construction trends and teleworking and
- C.J. Walsh, Sustainable Design International, Dublin on Person- centred design : the keystone of an intelligent, responsive and sustainable building.

This two stream arrangement was also followed during the first part of the afternoon when the titles of the Sessions were: Accessibility of Buildings for Elderly and Handicapped People and Integration of Building Automation in the Intelligent Building.

The varied presentations in these sessions included:

- Applicability of smart house features for homes for the elderly by M. Lehto, VTT Building Technology, Finland.
- Improvement in the housing of the elderly living in a nursing home by Ch. Willems, R. v. Hoensbroek, Netherlands and M. Louwerse, Interkerkelijk Verpleeghuis De Meent, Veenendaal, Netherlands.
- Implementing the latest technology in building automation : a project-oriented methodology by W. Boone, Ingenium NV, Bruges, Belgium.
- The role of the Internet in the intelligent house by H. Reiter and M. Goossens EIBA sc., Brussels, Belgium and D. Dietrich, Vienna University of Technology, Institut für Computertechnik, Austria.

Two more Sessions completed the first day.

One chaired by Ivor Ambrose presented a detailed and multinational view from those participating in it of the Facile Project.

Ms. M. Melchiorri ICIE Italy (See picture) described the background to FACILE and discussed the use of telematic systems as support for revalidation of patients in hospitals and the follow-up and security of patients in their homes.

Others closely involved talked about their particular roles in FACILE and some of the impressive achievements to date.

The thrust of the alternative session was the Integration of building automation in the intelligent building.

Papers given in this session included:

- Integration of Facility Management and Building Automation: A Basis for Intelligent Buildings by A. Redlein and G. Schildt, Vienna University of Technology, Institut für Automation, Austria and
- Technology and Industry Trends for Building Controls and Facility Automation by S. Thompson and R. Plouffe, Johnson Controls Ltd., USA

An Enjoyable Social Programme

That concluded the technical content of the first day but was certainly not the end of the events.

In the evening participants were entertained to a highly enjoyable Banquet at the Hof Langehals where they sampled the famous Belgian cuisine at its best. This was followed by a delightful boat trip along the canals.

The Second Day

Two sessions took up the second day (30th March) whose theme was International inventory of "Best Practices" in the field of intelligent and responsive buildings. The respective Chairmen were Frans Henderieckx and Georges Klepfisch.

As examples of papers given, the following may be cited:

- The intelligent skin: a case study review by J. Harris and M. Wigginton, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom
- The ENEA laboratory building "La casa intelligente" by G. Fasano and G. Giorgiantoni, Department of Energy, Rational Uses Div. ENEA, Rome, Italy
- Televillage ®: The Village everyone wants to work in by L. Peeters, Innotek, Geel, Belgium
- IN-HAM - Demonstration and training centre for handicapped people by J.J. Sabbe, Skil nv, Gent and B. Vauteren, Architect, Belgium

Proceedings

Those interested by the titles of the papers quoted in this report but who were unable to be at the Conference will be glad to know that comprehensive Proceedings were produced.

Click [here](#) for how to order.

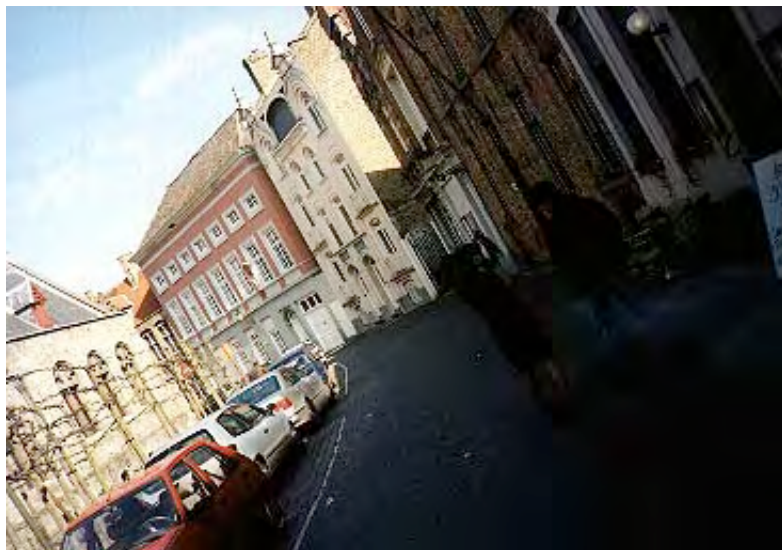
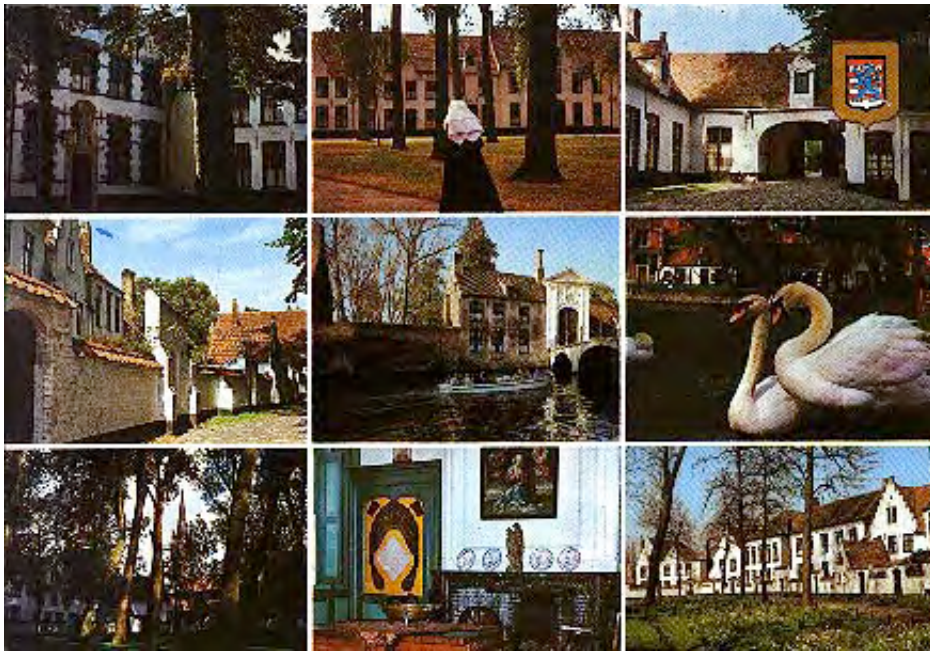
W098

It did not prove feasible to organise a business meeting for W098. However, Coordinator Georges Klepfisch is actively seeking new members from the Intelligent Buildings Community.

He may be contacted at:

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Photographs of the W098 - International Conference "Intelligent and Responsive Buildings"





With members in more than 100 countries CIB certainly does not lack for picturesque venues. Just look at the report on the W099 Conference in Honolulu! However few places can rival the charms of Bruges in Belgium which was the scene of the W098 International Conference held on 29th and 30th March 1999.



The venue was the historic building Oud St. Jan now converted into an ultra modern Conference Centre.



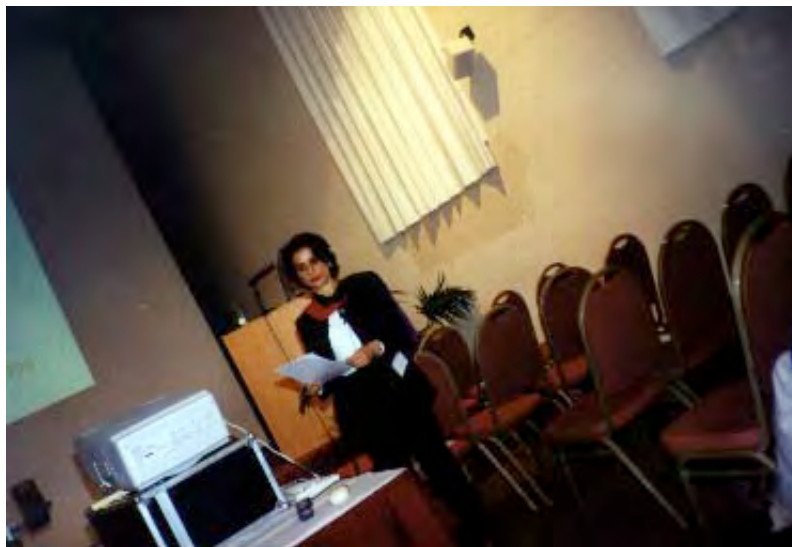
W098 Coordinator Georges Klepfisch played a pivotal role throughout as Chairman of the International Organising Committee and Co-Chairman of the International Scientific Committee. As well as presiding over Sessions Georges delivered an extremely interesting presentation detailing the results of a study undertaken by the Belgian Centre for Domotics and Immotics into Construction trends and teleworking.



Another key figure was CIB Board Member and General Director of the Belgian Building Research Institute Carlo De Pauw. He is seen here on the left of the picture with CIB Deputy Secretary General Chris Pollington, W069 Coordinator Ivor Ambrose, Jay Yang from QUT Australia, Fikry Garas one of the keynote speakers and Frans Henderieckx who has been associated with so many successful CIB events over a long period.



Also featured as a Speaker was W077 Coordinator Dr. E. Mayer from the Fraunhofer Institute für Bauphysik in Holzkirchen. He gave a paper on Individual thermal comfort by infrared radiation.





Other contributors included from left to right Ms. Melchiorri Italy on the FACILE Project, C.J. Walsh Ireland on Person - centred design and L. Peeters Belgium who gave a fascinating account of the Televillage - The Village everyone wants to work in.



It was the future rather than the past which characterised the thrust of the presentations as exemplified by Bruno de Latour who talked about the house of the future in Paris on the Seine.





The capacious premises in which the Conference was housed readily lent itself to a small but effective manned poster display. Above the Belgian Centre for Domotics and Immotics had a highly relevant message for participants.