To enhance the international co-operation and the transfer of knowledge about earth construction, Umbra GmbH organizes the international conference Modern Earth Building 2005 in Berlin. The aim of the conference is the idea of working together and learning from one another in an international context.

The business field of earth building products is increasing in the last years and new technological developments can be presented. First steps of certification of earth plasters with the new European label for sustainable building products “natureplus” are done.

In a basic lecture about earth plasters you will be informed about their characteristics and changes caused by additions, handling and surface treatment. The process and the requests to get the seal of quality “natureplus” for earth plaster will be explained. The decision to use earth building products in the new office of the Federal Environmental Agency in Dessau emphasize the sustainable aspects for the future development.

Furthermore you will be informed about new products and technical developments and get a widespread knowledge about modern earth building.

On the exhibitions you will have the possibility to be informed about new modern earthen architecture.

We welcome you on the conference in Berlin! Umbra Umwelt- und Unternehmensberatung GmbH
Monday, 18 November 2005

9.00 a.m. Admission
9.15 a.m. Opening
Christian Gurol, Managing Director, Umbra GmbH, Berlin
Peter Steingass, Project Manager, Umbra GmbH, Berlin

Earth Building and preservation of ancient monuments
9.30 a.m. Failures of clay buildings in the Czech Republic
Dr. Ivana Zabickova – BUT Brno, Czech Republic
10.00 a.m. Rehabilitation of earth buildings in Saxony/Thuringia – Experiences and perceptions about preservation of ancient monuments
Eckhard Beuchel – Lehmbauzentrum Blankenhain, Germany
10.30 a.m. Housing and Cooperation – Cátedra UNESCO
Sandra Brestaten and Emilio Hormias, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
11.00 a.m. Pause

Healthy living with earth
11.30 a.m. Ecological construction or healthy living?
Baron Dietrich von der Ropp, doctor, Peissen, Germany
12.00 a.m. Vaastu Architecture: Incorporating Nature’s Healing
Cosmic Energies in Natural Buildings
Michael Borden, Architect, Fairfield (Iowa), USA
12.30 p.m. Lunch break

Innovation Earth Building – New Projects
2.00 p.m. Dividing wall with clay in office construction – The federal agency of environment in Dessau
Andrew Kiel, sauerbruch hutton architects, Berlin, Germany
2.30 p.m. Raw earth architecture in Italy between tradition and actuality
Barbara Narici, Architect, Milan, Italy

Saturday, 19 November 2005

9.15 a.m. Admission

Material characteristics of loam
9.30 a.m. Innovative constructions in rammed earth – Material characteristics and technical aspects
Dr. Christof Ziegert, Ziegert Roswag Seiler Architekten + Ingenieure, Berlin, Germany
10.00 a.m. Compressed Earth Blocks reinforced with natural fibres
Saul Namango, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
10.30 a.m. Basic lecture: Earth plasters – their characteristics and changes caused by additions, handling and surface treatment
Quality symbol „natureplus” for earth plaster
Prof. Dr. Gernot Minke, University of Kassel, Germany
11.30 a.m. Pause

Earth plaster and design
12.00 a.m. Art in the architecture – Natural surfaces and colours
Manfred Fahnert, Lehmkunst, Mehrnen, Germany
12.30 p.m. Observe – Recognize – Design
Daniel Duchert, Architect, Berlin, Germany
1.00 p.m. Lunch break
2.30 p.m. The aesthetics of earth plasters
Carl Giskes, Leembouw Nederland, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Future developments in Earth Building
3.00 p.m. Rammed Earth in the UK: recent developments and future prospects
Dr. Peter Walker, University of Bath, England
3.30 p.m. Transformation of the qualification „Specialist for Building with Earth” in a nationwide structure
Ulrich Röhnen, Dachverband Lehm e.V., Weimar, Germany
4.00 p.m. Conceptual approaches to earth buildings
Dr. Arbabian and S. Khoshbakht, School of Architecture IUST, Teheran, Iran
4.30 p.m. Closing discussion
5.30 p.m. End of the conference

Sunday, 20 November 2005

Excursions (10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.)
I „Makunaima 2005” – Creativity in Earth Building
Leader: Rainer Warzecha, Interglotz Visionen, Berlin
II The “soul” of the building - 32 meter rammed earth wall
Leader: Jörg Depta, LehmbauWerke GbR, Berlin
III Earth Building and Vaastu Architecture - Family house in Liepe
Leader: Michael Nothelfer, Architet, Überlingen
IV Earth Plasters in public housing – The ACUD cinema
Leader: Dagmar Kaczor, ACUD, Berlin

Conference Admission fee
Three-day-ticket
Day-ticket 18-11-05
Day-ticket 19-11-05
Excursion 20-11-05

normal  reduced*
250 EUR  175 EUR
135 EUR  100 EUR
30 EUR  25 EUR

* Students, pensioners and the unemployed (with valid card only!)
Profit from our early payment discount! If you pay until 15 August 2005 you get a discount of 30 EURO (not valid for excursions). All prices for three-day and day-tickets including conference reader, pause drink and midday snack. The quoted prices include the statutory value added tax and are in Euro. The programme has been thoroughly elaborated, but it is subject to change without prior notice. Conference languages: English and German. The lectures will be translated simultaneously.