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A Masterpiece of Sustainable Construction

The golden pinnacle – the Futurium Centre in Berlin has been awarded the highest ever score for BNB Sustainability Certification.



The freshly-inaugurated Futurium building in the Spreebogen district of Berlin features groundbreaking architecture and innovative levels of sustainability. During certification for sustainable construction according to the German BNB system, the building achieved the highest score ever awarded and the best possible rating for material ecology. WSGreenTechnologies, a Werner Sobek Group company, was on board the project from day one as specialist planner and advisor. "A comprehensive and holistic approach to planning is crucial for the successful realization of such a special building", according to company founder, Professor Dr. Werner Sobek.

Penned by Berlin architects Richter Musikowski, Futurium was opened in autumn 2017. The striking sculptural building in the Berlin Spreebogen district will be

used to showcase future-orientated developments of national and international importance, presenting them to the general public as part of exhibitions and events to be held in the building.

The sustainability credentials of the Futurium building are derived from a concept developed by WSGreenTechnologies. The new construction project benefitted from holistic planning and optimization right from the beginning in terms of its economic, ecological and socio-cultural footprint. Thanks to the comprehensive and timely consideration of all aspects of sustainability during the planning and execution phases of the project, Futurium was able to achieve the highest score ever attained during sustainability certification. The building was also awarded the best possible rating for material ecology. The certification procedure was carried out in accordance with the BNB rating system for sustainable building.

The Futurium – an inner-city 'power station'

Notwithstanding its ambitious architectural design, designated usage as an event venue and high level of comfort, the Futurium is an energy plus building in terms of primary energy consumption, thanks to a compact design, passive construction features appropriate for the usage of the building (particularly with regards to the building envelope), a strict policy of needs-based air and energy provision as well as highly-efficient building services technology. As well as making extensive use of solar thermal and photovoltaic installations, the building relies exclusively on a highly-efficient trigeneration system (combined power, cooling and heating) for the provision of energy. Latent cold and electricity storage units allow peaks in supply and demand to be evened out, thus completely eliminating the need to install any peak load boilers. Viewed over the space of a year, the building produces a primary energy surplus of 8 kWh/m²a or 99,000 kWh/a (relative to demand as defined in the EnEV Energy Saving Directive).

WSGreenTechnologies was on board the project from day one as specialist planner and advisor; close collaboration between architects, client and other planning experts was key for the extremely successful realization of this particularly sustainable building.

"We were able to continually optimize the energy quality and sustainability of the building thanks to the use of the BNB system during the project planning phase", explains Kurt Denzel, Managing Director of WSGreenTechnologies.

A plea for the careful use of resources in the urban environment

"The fundamental aim of this project was to design a building featuring a high level of user comfort with excellent energy properties, whilst ensuring the careful use of the construction materials at our disposal. We aim to plan buildings, urban areas and cities that are all sustainable." This is Sobek's vision.

WSGreenTechnologies, the Werner Sobek Group specialist in sustainability and construction technology, is also behind the sustainability concept of the Futurium building.

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Facts and Figures:

Architects: Richter Musikowski, Berlin/Germany

Client: Federal Institute for Real Estate (BlmA), Berlin/Germany

Tenant: Futurium gGmbH, Berlin/Germany

Energy/Sustainability: WSGreenTechnologies GmbH, Stuttgart/Germany

Planning period: 2013 – 2015

Construction period: 2015 – 2017

Landscape Architects: JUCA, Berlin/Germany

General Contractor: BAM Deutschland AG, Stuttgart/Germany

About Werner Sobek

Named after its founder, the Werner Sobek Group was set up in 1992 and stands worldwide for engineering, design and sustainability, with over 300 employees located between Stuttgart, Buenos Aires, Dubai, Frankfurt, London, Moscow and New York. Each and every project penned by Werner Sobek features a winning combination of superior design and premium engineering, incorporating ingenious concepts to minimize the use of energy and material resources. In 2015, company founder Professor Werner Sobek was awarded the Fritz Leonhardt Prize for lifetime achievements.



Thanks to the holistic consideration of all aspects related to sustainability during the planning and execution phases of the project, the Futurium building has attained the highest score ever awarded for sustainability certification. The certification was carried out according to the German BNB rating system for sustainable building.
Photo: Dacian Groza, Berlin



The sustainability properties of the Futurium building are based on a concept developed by WSGreen Technologies. Right from the beginning, the project was holistically planned and continually refined in terms of economic, socio-cultural and ecological aspects.
Photo: Dacian Groza, Berlin



The Futurium is an energy plus building in terms of its primary energy consumption, thanks to its compact design, passive construction measures appropriate for the usage of the building (the building envelope in particular) and a strict policy of needs-based air and energy provision as well as highly-efficient building services technology.
Photo: Dacian Groza, Berlin



Professor Dr. Dr. E.h. Dr. h.c. Werner Sobek
The Werner Sobek company was founded in 1992 by Werner Sobek, the renowned architect and engineer. The Werner Sobek Group company WSGreenTechnologies has become the corporate expert for sustainability and building technology and is behind the sustainability concept for Futurium.
Photo: Tillmann Franzen, Düsseldorf