

New European Bauhaus

The festival 2026

Satellite event

Democratic Placemaking by Nature (Healthy Materials and Nature-Based Solutions): Affordable Housing for Well-Being

Organisation: AARCH - Alfieri Architecture, in partnership with iMED - Istituto Mediterraneo del Design APS ETS

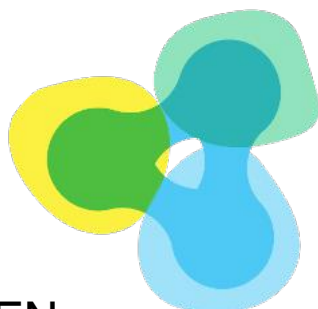
Date: 13 June 2026, 10:00–17:00 CET

Venue: Catanzaro (Italy), via dei conti Falluc, 70/A

Participation: Free of charge, upon registration at <http://bit.ly/43s7ou3>

Programme of the day

| Time | Activity | Description |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| 10:00–10:30 | Opening plenary | Welcome and NEB Festival agenda. Keynote “ <i>Why Democracies Must Reimagine Affordable Housing</i> ” Participant expectations-setting. |
| 10:30–11:30 | Material Experience Workshop | Participants rotate through four experiential stations dedicated to timber, clay and earth materials, cork and natural insulation, Nature-based Solutions |
| 10:30–13:00 | Co-Design Lab | Co-design of affordable housing prototypes with healthy natural materials, nature-based solutions, community spaces, democratic decision-making processes, realistic budget constraints and a 30-year life-cycle perspective |



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| 13:00–14:30 | Lunch & Networking | Sustainable, locally-sourced catering; informal peer dialogue; prototype documentation. |
| 14:30–15:45 | Screening of the film “Our Future: Built by Nature” | Introduction: presentation of the film, of Built by Nature and of the links with the NEB themes and the event. Screening: full viewing of the documentary Discussion/Q&A: facilitated dialogue with the audience on the key messages and links with the subsequent policy round table. |
| 15:45–17:00 | Policy Round table: “From Vision to Reality” | Facilitated discussion with local representatives, officials, community advocates, researchers, technical professionals (architects, engineers, surveyors etc.), construction companies, material manufacturers and experts aimed at transforming creative ideas into real and democratic policy actions for healthy and joyful living. |

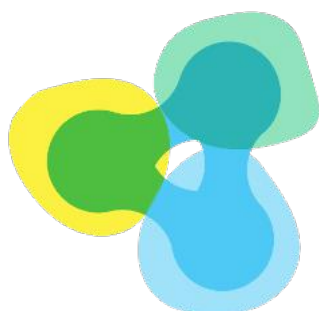
Event focus

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is an initiative of the European Commission that redefines how we conceive and build the environments we live in: beautiful, sustainable and inclusive. It is not only a policy; it is a movement involving architects, designers, businesses, communities and governments across Europe.

Its most visible moment is the NEB Festival, which in 2026 reaches its third edition. It takes place in Brussels from 9 to 13 June 2026 and brings together thousands of participants from across Europe and beyond who share the vision of a future built with more beauty, greater care for the environment and more attention to people.

Alongside the central event in Brussels, the European Commission promotes and officially recognises a network of satellite events, organised independently by selected organisations throughout Europe and beyond. These events run in parallel with, or in conjunction with, the Festival, share its values and themes and bring the European conversation into local territories.

Satellite events are not just stand-alone local initiatives: they form an integral part of the official programme of the NEB Festival 2026. Our event is one of them: the application has been officially



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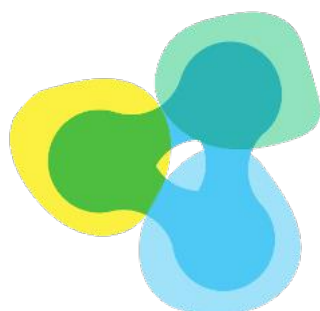
accepted by the European Commission, which recognises satellite events as “an important part of the Festival programme, connecting participants to NEB-aligned initiatives across Europe”.

Our satellite event will be held on 13 June 2026 – the closing day of the Festival – in Catanzaro, organised by AARCH – Alfieri Architettura srl in collaboration with iMED – Istituto Mediterraneo del Design, a Social Promotion Association and Third Sector Entity.

The event is designed as an intensive one-day format and brings together 40–60 multidisciplinary participants to explore how affordable housing can become a driver of democratic participation and well-being in European communities. The format combines hands-on material experience, co-design, a thematic film screening and policy dialogue to produce prototypes and operational recommendations.

Target audience

- Municipal and regional authorities
- Architecture and design professionals
- Producers and suppliers of construction materials
- Construction companies and building contractors
- Policy-makers and national representatives
- Academic and research community
- Community representatives and civil society organisations
- Cultural organisations
- Citizens.



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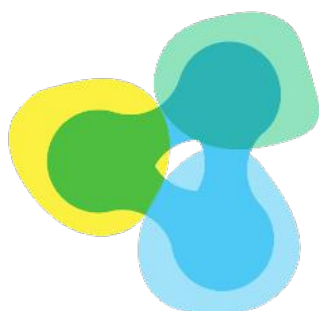




Film information and credits

Title: *Our Future: Built by Nature*

Description: During the Catanzaro satellite event, we will screen the film *Our Future: Built by Nature*. This docufilm follows six pioneering projects and their supply chains to show how it is possible to transform a sector responsible for almost 40% of global emissions. The film presents the six winners of the Built by Nature Prize 2025 and asks a central question: how can our homes – and the way we build them – help to solve the climate crisis? Through international perspectives, it highlights scalable, place-based solutions that rethink the built environment through timber and bio-based materials.



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Key credits:

- Production: Open Planet Studios
- Associate production/film promoter: Built by Nature
- Narration: Kevin McCloud
- Featuring: Sir David Attenborough and Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
- Projects presented: six winners of the Built by Nature Prize 2025
- World premiere: COP30, Belém, Brazil

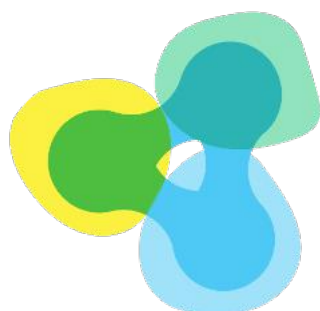
Contacts

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