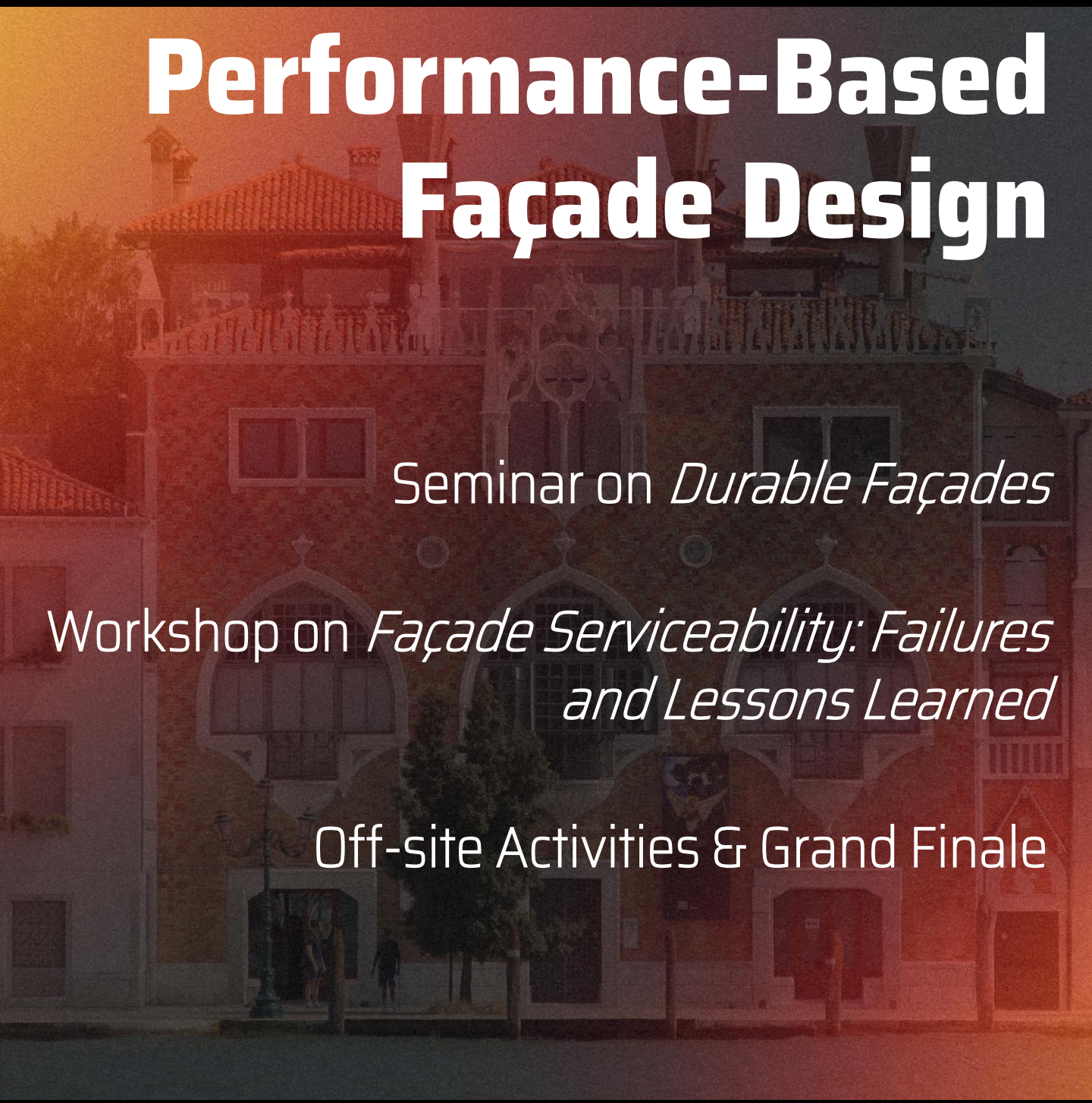
PBFD
Performance-Based Façade Design

Performance-Based Façade Design



Seminar on *Durable Façades*

Workshop on *Façade Serviceability: Failures and Lessons Learned*

Off-site Activities & Grand Finale

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

VENICE 2026
BY ANGELA MEJORIN

PBFD
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PBFD
The Mission

Performance-Based Façade Design (PBFD) serves as a pivotal platform for industry and academic experts at the forefront of innovation across companies and associations involved in façade development, design, consulting, manufacturing, testing, and standardization.

It goes beyond the technical aspects of façade design to explore how companies, developers, and industry leaders shape their external presence, credibility, and influence. PBFD brings together global professionals to explore the future of façade design, fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

Interactive discussions and activities centered on performance-based design best practices, recent advancements, and emerging possibilities for building envelopes act as catalysts for developing technical solutions within the industry. Attendees include founders and consultants from façade firms, technical directors, business development managers, researchers, contributors to standardization bodies, and façade enthusiasts.

Given the exclusive and niche nature of the event, participants have the opportunity to interact closely and drive innovation forward.

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

PBFD 2026 Programme Overview

The PBFD 2026 program brings together leading architects, engineers, researchers, and industry experts to explore the evolving frontiers of performance-based façade design. Across three days in Venice, the conference moves from foundational discussions on durability to the practical realities of serviceability, failure, and long-term façade performance.

The first day (September 16), *Durable Façades* – Seminar, examines how façades respond to time, climate, and use through keynote presentations and technical papers on adaptive envelopes, circularity, ageing, digital continuity, and climate resilience.

The second day (September 17), *Façade Serviceability: Failures and Lessons Learned* – Workshop, focuses on real-world façade behaviour through forensic investigations, case studies, testing methodologies, wind and environmental loading, fire safety, and interface-driven failures.

The third day (September 18) extends the PBFD experience through curated Off-site Activities across Venice and the Veneto Region, combining architecture, craftsmanship, landscape, and networking. Participants can choose among experiences including visits to *CastelBrando*, architectural tours at *Palazzina Masieri*, and exclusive visits at *Orsoni Furnace*.

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PBFD 2026
Why Attend?

Presentations

This is a premier opportunity to gain insights from 6 outstanding keynotes and 25 international speakers, offering the latest thinking on performance-based façade design and future-proof building envelope solutions from some of the world's leading experts in architecture, engineering, and sustainability.

Networking

Attendees can build international connections and partnerships while engaging with leading industry experts. These exchanges contribute to shaping best-practice approaches and influencing future standards and policy worldwide.

Professional Development

Every registered participant will receive an official PBFD Certificate of Learning, recognizing their commitment to advancing knowledge in façade engineering and building performance.
PBFD delivers three days of high-level technical education through internationally recognized speakers, interactive workshops, and cutting-edge case studies.
The certificate may be used as supporting documentation for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or other professional learning requirements, subject to the policies of each attendee's professional licensing, registration, or professional body.

Curated Off-Sites

Off-site activities take place in landmark architectural sites, historic buildings, and leading craftsmanship locations across Venice and the Veneto region, offering attendees immersive, place-based learning experiences. Through guided tours and expert-led presentations, participants gain direct insight into context-specific themes, with each visit designed to combine technical exploration with meaningful networking opportunities.

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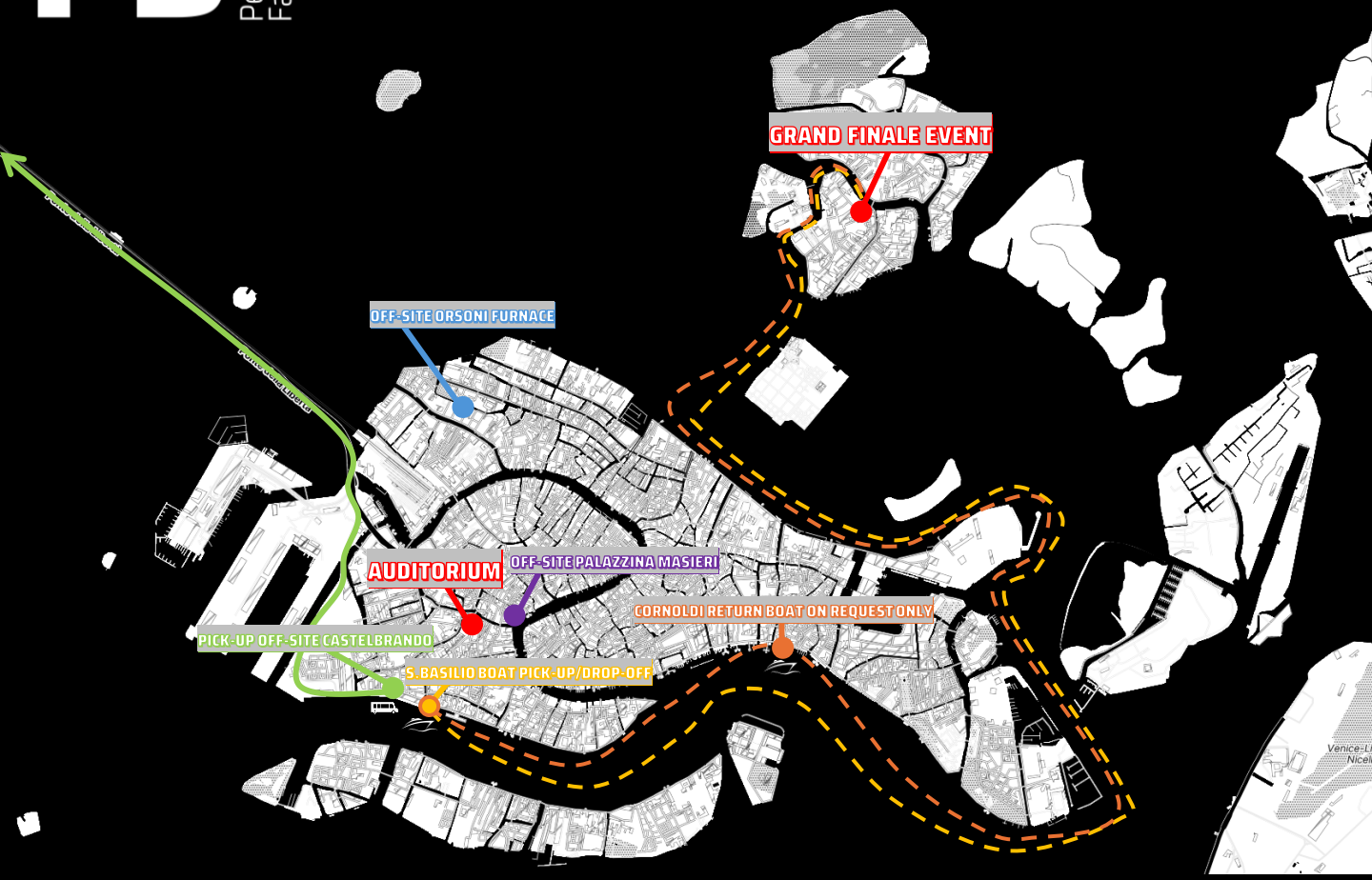
PBFD 2026
Locations and Times



MAIN PROGRAM LOCATIONS AND TIMES

AUDITORIUM
Campo Santa Margherita, Dorsoduro 3689
16 SEP · Seminar · 9:15 AM – 5:40 PM
17 SEP · Workshop · 9:10 AM – 5:00 PM

S.BASILIO BOAT PICK-UP/DROP-OFF
San Basilio vaporetto stop
17 SEP · 6:40 – 11:00 PM

GRAND FINALE EVENT
Wave Murano Glass, Fondamenta da Mula 152, Murano
17 SEP · Grand Finale · 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM

CORNOLDI RETURN BOAT ON REQUEST ONLY
Pontile Cornoldi, Riva degli Schiavoni 4142
17 SEP · Return boat on request only · 10:50 PM

OFF-SITES LOCATIONS AND TIMES

OFF-SITE ORSONI FURNACE
Calle dei Vedei, 1045/A · Networking Lunch in a Restaurant
18 SEP · 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM (including lunch)

OFF-SITE PALAZZINA MASIERI
Dorsoduro 3900 · Networking Lunch in a Restaurant
18 SEP · 10:40 AM – 1:30 PM (including lunch)

PICK-UP OFF-SITE CASTELBRANDO
Calle Dietro Ai Magazzini, 3 · CastelBrando
18 SEP · 9:30 AM – 5:40 PM
18 SEP · 5:00 PM drop-off on request · Venice Airport VCE
18 SEP · 5:20 PM drop-off on request · Mestre Train Station

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Keynote Speakers

Silvia Prandelli | Senior Principal, Populous

Director of the Milan office of Populous, the global architecture and design studio specializing in sports and entertainment venues, Silvia Prandelli leads the practice's business in Italy and Southern Europe. Her portfolio includes award-winning projects in the USA, UK, Middle East and Far East – ranging from sporting and cultural to civic and public-use buildings. With an engineering background, she leads teams on complex, large-scale projects from early feasibility through delivery and lifecycle monitoring. She is the author of several scientific publications, serves on Technical Committees in the ESG field, and has worked in Academia where she has contributed in Adjunct Professor roles.

Astrid Piber | Partner, UNS

Astrid Piber is Partner and Senior Architect at UNStudio, and a member of the studio's Global Management Team. She brings strategic architectural and development expertise to large-scale, complex projects, aligning design solutions with business objectives and broader urban and social contexts. Educated at Columbia University, she joined UNStudio in 1998 and has played a key role in the firm's international growth. Her portfolio spans major transport hubs and mixed-use developments, with a strong focus on inclusive, sustainable and high-density environments. She regularly contributes to international professional forums, including the Council on Vertical Urbanism.

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Keynote Speakers

Balázs Bognár | Partner and Executive Vice President, Kengo Kuma & Associates

Partner and Executive Vice President at Kengo Kuma & Associates, and President of the Japan chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Based in Tokyo, he has worked alongside Kengo Kuma since 2007, leading international projects and contributing to the studio's design direction and mentorship. His work explores the relationships between architecture, place, culture, and nature across diverse contexts. His portfolio includes projects such as Alberni in Vancouver, the Portland Japanese Garden Cultural Village, and the Amanpuri Retail Pavilion in Phuket. Bognár lectures internationally and writes on architecture, with publications addressing materiality, cultural context, and contemporary practice. He holds a Master of Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design and a B.A. in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis.

Francesca Vagliani | Co-Head of Development Italy, Covivio

With a PhD in Engineering and a degree in Architecture from the Politecnico di Milano, Francesca Vagliani has been Co-Head of Development Italy at Covivio since 2016. She coordinates a team of professionals and primarily oversees the refurbishment of historic and prestigious buildings, whilst also managing greenfield projects, including the L'Oréal Italia headquarters in Milan. Before joining Covivio, she gained extensive experience as a Project Manager in consultancy and engineering firms, overseeing complex projects in the office, residential, retail and hotel sectors.

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Keynote Speakers

Andrei Koshelev | Real Estate Management, ETH Zurich

Andrei's team currently leads several high-profile construction projects at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich). In his architectural and consulting practice in Zurich, as well as at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in Chicago and London, Andrei has completed multiple large-scale projects in the USA, the UK, Russia, and Switzerland. Holding master's degrees in architecture from Russia and the USA, he is a licensed architect in the United States and a member of the American Institute of Architects and the Swiss Union of Architects and Engineers. Andrei speaks on building design for science and education, laboratory architecture and high-rise labs, architecture and patents, facade design and sustainability, the client's role in construction, and other industry-relevant topics.

Massimo Colomban | Founder, Permasteelisa Group

Founder and former President of the Permasteelisa Group, one of the world's leading companies in the design, engineering, and construction of architectural envelopes. Massimo began his professional path at the age of fourteen working in a window manufacturing factory while attending evening school to obtain his technical diploma. After briefly studying architecture at the IUAV University of Venice, he founded ISA S.n.c. (Industria Serramenti in Alluminio) in 1973, laying the foundations for what would later become a global façade engineering group. Under his leadership, the company expanded internationally, notably through the acquisition of the Australian firm Permasteel Industries—known for delivering the glass cladding of the Sydney Opera House—which led to the creation of the Permasteelisa Group and its worldwide growth.

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PBFD
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Seminar
Durable Façades

September 16

Auditorium Emanuele Severino

Campo Santa Margherita

Dorsoduro 3689 - 30123 Venezia (VE)

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

VENICE 2026
BY ANGELA MEJORIN

PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Programme

Seminar September 16, 2026

9:15-9:30 AM | **Opening Remarks | Angela Mejorin and Mikkel K. Kragh, PBFD**

Angela Mejorin will open the seminar with introductory remarks, setting the stage for the 2026 discussions. She will introduce the key themes of this edition, as well as the first PBFD book published within the Springer Nature series. Angela will also introduce Co-Chair and PBFD Advisor Mikkel K. Kragh, who will co-moderate the Seminar on *Durable Façades* alongside her. Additional welcome remarks will be delivered by institutional partners.

9:30-10:10 AM | **KEYNOTE | Dancing Enclosures: Living Buildings for the Entertainment Industry | Silvia Prandelli, Populous Architects**

External skins have always been the first point of contact for building visitors. The evolution of materials and systems in the façade industry allowed designers to implement adaptive strategies to the environment and the building everyday life, including special features tailored to the entertainment sector.

10:10-10:30 AM | **Beyond Static Strength: Accelerated Serviceability Testing for Durable Porous Façades | Shane Hart, Insol**

Porous architectural screens carry risks that conventional structural and weather-tightness codes do not adequately address. Wind-induced noise, dynamic excitation, hardware degradation, and connection fatigue are common in-service issues, and none are reliably predicted by static load testing alone. Drawing on more than two decades of bespoke screen projects, this presentation reviews how full-scale wind testing has been used to identify and resolve aerodynamic, acoustic, and dynamic issues during design, in line with the framework set out in AWES-QAM-2-2024. It then introduces a new full-scale accelerated serviceability test methodology developed at Insol's WindLab facility, which extends full-scale testing into the long-term durability domain that existing standards do not cover. This new test method is particularly applicable to projects where the consequences of in-service failure are unacceptable.

10:30-10:50 AM | **Digital Continuity as a Durability Strategy: How Persistent Digital Records Extend Façade Lifespan | Shorena Gudzhabidze, Staticus**

The façade industry has extended the physical lifespan of building envelopes, yet a parallel risk remains: the loss of knowledge about the façade itself. As teams disperse and records degrade, critical information becomes incomplete or unverifiable—often within 10–15 years—undermining maintenance, certification, and value. This paper defines Information Half-Life as the rate at which façade knowledge decays over time, arguing that durability is both a material and informational property. Drawing on regulatory shifts such as the UK Building Safety Act and EU digital frameworks, it positions continuous, verifiable data as essential to asset performance. A façade's long-term value depends not only on how it is built, but on what remains reliably known about it.

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Seminar September 16, 2026

10:50-11:10 AM | **Beautiful Waste: Designing Circular Façades for Durability | Nebojsa Jakica, University of Southern Denmark**

Circularity in façade design is largely framed through carbon reduction, resource efficiency, and lifecycle assessment, while durability is understood as extending the service life of new products in a pristine state. Although essential, this approach limits circularity to technical optimisation. *Beautiful Waste* challenges this paradigm by proposing a broader design framework in which durability emerges from programmed change rather than preservation. Drawing on precedents such as Venetian terrazzo, the paper shows how waste materials can become cultural and architectural value—customisable, adaptable, and enduring—while retaining traces of origin and identity. Extending this logic to façade systems, it explores design scenarios where circularity is expressed through hybrid assemblies, visible ageing, and layered replacement. In this view, durability is not permanence, but the capacity to evolve. The façade becomes a system that absorbs change, accumulates meaning, and gains value through repair, adaptation, and time.

11:10-11:40 AM | **Coffee Break**

11:40-12:20 PM | **KEYNOTE | Making/Time | Balázs Bognár, Kengo Kuma & Associates**

Time is a material. Its passage yields an impact on the built environment that is both unavoidable and essential in the way that we think about design. Using numerous images to illustrate themes rather than focus on specific projects alone, Bognár's commentary will explore the notions of ageing gracefully versus deterioration, and expectations of timelessness or endurance versus change and authenticity, all guided by an inquisitive, experimental attitude toward learning through making. Materiality and technique give way to craft, and the sustainability of cultures—built, architectural, artistic, and human.

12:20-12:40 PM | **Designing for Degradation: Why Façades Fail and How We Should Design Them to Age | Timothy Soebroto and Triadi Bagus Gumilar, Meinhardt Façade Technology**

Façades are often optimized for completion—meeting performance targets, aesthetics, and budget at handover—while long-term degradation is underestimated or ignored. In climate-intensive regions such as Southeast Asia, this gap becomes critical: humidity, UV exposure, wind-driven rain, and pollution actively transform materials, accelerating deterioration and performance loss. This presentation challenges the assumption that durability is verified at the end, proposing instead that degradation be treated as an inherent design parameter. Early decisions—orientation, façade articulation, openings, and shading—directly shape long-term performance and are primary drivers of durability. It explores why façades underperform, highlighting the disconnect between testing and real exposure, and examines how digital tools can predict lifecycle behaviour. Ultimately, façades must be understood as dynamic systems, designed not to resist change, but to manage it intelligently over time.

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12:40-1:00 PM | Adapting Façade Service Life and Durability Models to Climate Change | Michael Lacasse, Concordia University

Over the past three decades, research led by the National Research Council Canada and international partners has advanced the science of building envelope durability and service life prediction. Foundational work highlighted hygrothermal modelling, wind-driven rain, and probabilistic risk analysis as key to understanding façade performance, contributing to frameworks such as CIB W080 and ISO TC59 SC14. This presentation connects these principles with current performance-based façade design under climate change. Intensified temperatures, moisture, and extreme events are challenging traditional service-life assumptions. The session explores integrating climate projections into design criteria, proposing approaches for more resilient, adaptive façades capable of addressing future environmental demands.

1:00-2:00 PM | Lunch Break

2:00-2:40 PM | KEYNOTE | From Icon to Intelligence: How UNS Reframes Façade Design | Astrid Piber, UNStudio

UNS has developed a distinctive approach to facade design through continuous iteration across demanding public, commercial, and mixed-use projects. At UNS facade design has evolved from formal experimentation into a fully integrated design method in which the building envelope is treated as an active system that mediates identity, performance, programme, and urban experience. The facade becomes a tool for organising complexity, improving environmental performance, and deepening the relationship between building and city. Across UNS's body of work, this trajectory positions facade design not only as aesthetic expression, but as a primary driver of architectural innovation in the built environment.

2:40-3:00 PM | The Building Envelope: Physics of Decarbonization and Real Estate Value | Eric Claeys, Fassada

Sustainability and circularity may well be the buzzwords of the century. Everyone talks about them, yet few truly understand where the real opportunity lies. In fact, the construction industry has spent years focusing on the wrong 20% of the carbon problem. Buildings account for approximately 36% of global CO_2 emissions. While embodied carbon represents only about 20% of a building's carbon footprint, the remaining 80% comes from operational carbon. Yet the sustainability debate still focuses primarily on materials instead of the building envelope—the physical interface between indoor and outdoor climate.

The façade determines a building's energy demand. A high-performance building envelope drastically reduces heating and cooling requirements, resulting in lower energy consumption, significantly lower operational CO_2 emissions, and higher real estate value. This presentation introduces **Fassada Hybrid**, a high-performance façade technology protected by an international patent portfolio and engineered from first principles of physics, simplicity, and lifecycle economics. It simultaneously reduces CAPEX, OPEX, operational CO_2 emissions, technical complexity, installation risk, maintenance, and future retrofit costs. This fundamentally challenges the traditional belief that sustainability requires higher upfront investment and uncertain ROI calculations. The opposite is true: better physics delivers lower CAPEX, lower OPEX, lower CO_2 emissions, and lower risk. The business case is designed into the building from day one.

Better physics. Lower CAPEX. Lower OPEX. Lower CO_2. Lower risk. Higher Real Estate value.

The façade is not merely part of the building—it is the engine of its performance, sustainability, and value.

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3:00-3:20 PM | **Durability-Focused Experimental Evaluation of Vacuum Insulating Glass for Performance-Based Facade Design | Tony Cinnamon, WJE**

Performance-Based Façade Design requires testing methods that address long-term mechanical and environmental demands. Vacuum insulating glass (VIG) offers high thermal performance with reduced thickness, but its application depends on understanding durability under wind loading, thermal differentials, and combined service conditions. This presentation outlines a laboratory testing program on full-scale VIG units, including cyclic pressure loading (per ASTM E998), sustained thermal conditioning, and combined thermal-mechanical loading. Tests examined captured and structurally glazed configurations with various glass thicknesses and edge seal technologies. Results focus on durability indicators such as vacuum integrity, edge seal performance, and glass deformation. The study proposes a repeatable experimental framework to support performance-based evaluation of VIG systems under realistic façade conditions.

3:20-3:50 PM | **Coffee Break**

3:50-4:30 PM | **KEYNOTE | Built to Last: Corte Italia and Beauty Hub L'Oréal Italia by Covivio | Francesca Vagliani, Covivio**

This keynote explores durability through a developer's lens, comparing the refurbishment of Corte Italia with the new construction of the Beauty Hub L'Oréal Italia within The Sign. Rather than focusing solely on technical performance, it frames "built to last" as a strategic investment decision. Corte Italia illustrates how heritage assets can be repositioned through targeted interventions to enhance flexibility, user experience, and long-term value. In contrast, the Beauty Hub demonstrates how performance, sustainability, and adaptability can be embedded from the outset in a new development. The keynote highlights how design choices, certifications, and façade strategies directly impact asset attractiveness, tenant demand, and lifecycle costs—offering a critical perspective on durability as a driver of return on investment and long-term asset resilience.

4:30-4:50 PM | **Renewing Old Education Assets – Preparing Midcentury Facades for the Next Century | Carl Knutson, Perkins&Will**

This presentation examines how universities are reassessing mid-century campus buildings to determine whether to renovate or replace them, balancing cost, carbon, and long-term performance. Using case studies such as Gilmer Hall and the Communication Arts building at Bowie State University, it outlines a structured approach to evaluating existing assets. Key factors include structural adaptability, future use, heritage value, and campus context. Gilmer Hall demonstrates how targeted façade renovation can enhance performance and visibility, while Bowie State illustrates when new construction better supports evolving educational needs. The session highlights strategies for durable façade design, sustainable detailing, and performance improvements, showing how informed decisions can extend asset life or justify replacement in a changing academic landscape.

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4:50-5:10 PM | **Ten Years in Service: Performance, Weathering, and Durability Lessons from the Mosaic Centre in Edmonton's Extreme Climate | Vedran Skopac, Reimagine Architects**

This presentation reviews ten years of in-use façade performance at the Mosaic Centre in Edmonton, a LEED Platinum building exposed to extreme climatic conditions. It provides rare long-term, in-situ data on material ageing, weathering, and durability in operation. Through inspections, thermal imaging, and maintenance records, the study identifies how different materials and orientations respond to UV exposure, moisture, and freeze-thaw cycles. Results highlight strong glazing performance, variable sealant durability, and the critical role of detailing and execution. The presentation emphasises the gap between predicted and actual performance, advocating for climate-responsive design, integrated systems thinking, and lifecycle-based maintenance strategies to improve façade resilience and long-term value.

5:10-5:30 PM | **Conservation and Rehabilitation of Building Envelopes in Canada | Giovanni John Diodati, Giovanni Diodati Architecture**

This presentation draws on 35 years of building envelope rehabilitation experience across Canada, from vernacular buildings to major heritage assets such as the Parliament Buildings. It examines how evolving energy, safety, and environmental requirements are reshaping approaches to existing façades. Focusing on hygrothermal behaviour, the session highlights the need to understand baseline performance through investigation, modelling, and in-situ monitoring before implementing upgrades. It explores risks associated with interventions in traditional and hybrid wall systems, particularly under changing climate loads. The presentation outlines methods for assessment, testing, and repair design, emphasising compatibility, constructability, and collaboration. Case studies demonstrate how performance-based rehabilitation strategies can extend service life while balancing heritage value, durability, and regulatory demands.

5:30-5:40 PM | **Closing Remarks | Angela Mejorin, PBFD**

Angela Mejorin will conclude the Seminar day of PBFD 2026, themed *Durable Façades*.

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Chair

Seminar September 16, 2026

Mikkel K. Kragh | Associate Director, Arup

Mikkel K. Kragh is an Associate Director at Arup, where he leads the Building Design and Advisory Practice and the Technical Specialist Services Team in Denmark. With extensive experience spanning consultancy, academia, and specialist façade engineering, he plays a key role in advancing high-performance building envelope solutions.
Prior to returning to Arup, Mikkel served as Head of the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering at Aarhus University, where he led the department following its establishment in 2021 as part of a major institutional restructuring. He previously held the role of Head of Civil and Architectural Engineering at the University of Southern Denmark and was appointed Full Professor in 2017.
Mikkel has worked internationally as a façade specialist on numerous high-profile projects with organizations including Arup, Dow Corning, and the Permasteelisa Group, leading collaborative R&D initiatives focused on advanced façade performance and building physics.

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Seminar Speakers

Shane Hart | Principal, Insol

Shane Hart is Principal at Insol Ltd, a New Zealand company specialising in porous architectural façade systems for commercial construction. Shane has years of hands-on experience with research and testing at WindLab, Insol's full-scale wind testing facility, where façade prototypes are tested under controlled wind loading, often for conditions no established test protocol yet covers. His recent work addresses long-term façade durability, an area not adequately covered by existing static design codes, giving architects and engineers the confidence to identify and avoid unexpected failures. Shane has presented at several façade conferences on this work.

Shorena Gudzhabidze | Digital Product Manager, Staticus

Shorena Gudzhabidze is a Civil Engineer by background, holding a Bachelor's degree, who spent three years as a 3D Design Engineer before making a move into digital product development. She is now Digital Product Manager at Staticus, leading the XD platform - a digital intelligence layer for building envelopes spanning early-stage façade configuration, project delivery, and operational lifecycle management. Her work sits at the intersection of engineering rigour and digital innovation and her goal is threefold: making engineering teams more efficient, bringing genuine transparency to clients, and ensuring that knowledge about a building envelope survives long after the project ends. She is currently developing the concept of Information Half-Life and a Digital Durability strategy as a new lens for understanding façade longevity.

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Seminar Speakers

Nebojsa Jakica | Associate Professor, the University of Southern Denmark

Nebojsa Jakica is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). He holds a Ph.D. in Technology and Design for the Environment and Buildings from Politecnico di Milano, where he developed and tested building-integrated photovoltaic façade systems. His career bridges academia and professional practice, with experience as an architect, computational designer, and façade consultant at leading firms including HENN in Berlin and Vittorio Grassi Architetto and Partners in Milan. Nebojsa leads FACETS Lab, an interdisciplinary research group focused on digital technologies for façade design. The lab developed FacadeGenius, an AI-powered, no-code computational design platform enabling real-time collaboration across devices and integrating design and engineering workflows.

Timothy Soebroto | Regional Director, Meinhardt Façade Technology

Timothy Soebroto is Regional Director at Meinhardt Façade Technology for Southeast Asia, providing strategic and technical leadership across the region. With over 25 years of experience, he has led the design and delivery of complex façade systems, with a specialization in unitized curtain wall solutions. His portfolio includes major international developments such as Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore and the Thamrin Nine Development in Jakarta. He brings extensive expertise across design, production, and construction, ensuring seamless project execution from concept to installation. Timothy is frequently invited to speak at industry conferences, sharing insights on façade design, performance, and delivery. He holds a Master of Science in Construction Management and a Bachelor of Architecture.

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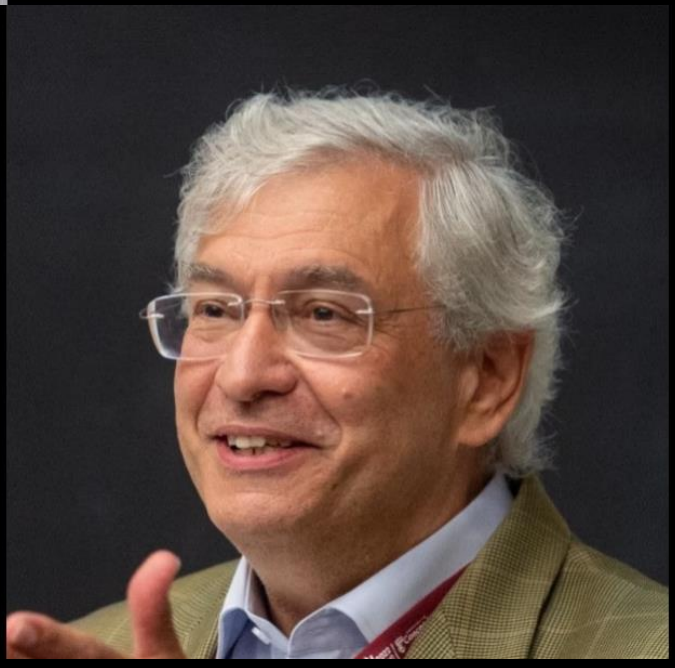
Seminar Speakers

Triadi Bagus Gumilar | Senior Façade Engineer, Meinhardt Façade Technology

Triadi Bagus Gumilar is a Senior Façade Engineer at Meinhardt Façade Technology, with over 6 years of experience in façade engineering and 9 years in civil engineering. His work spans from conceptual design to performance verification, integrating architectural intent with technical rigor across a range of building types. He specializes in structural and façade system design, including curtain walls, cladding, and advanced analysis methods such as finite element modeling. He is a certified professional engineer in Indonesia and holds ASEAN and APEC Engineer titles. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Civil Engineering at the University of Bologna, focusing on innovative approaches to steel reuse and façade optimization.

Michael Lacasse | Research Associate, Concordia University

Dr. Lacasse is a former employee of the Construction Research Centre, National Research Council Canada and currently is a Research Associate at Concordia University, Montreal, where he provides lectures, and helps manage a Research program on Climate Resilient Buildings and Communities. He is a widely recognized expert in the durability of building materials and building components and the moisture performance and climate resilience of building enclosures. Over the course of his more than 34-year career at the NRC, he has undertaken both strategic and collaborative research, with local academia as well as internationally, related to building facades and fenestration. He has played an important role in industry having influenced code and standard development in respect to resistance to deterioration of building assemblies, where his work has helped develop both Canadian and ISO standards on durability.



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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Seminar Speakers

Eric Claeys | Founding Partner, Fassada

Eric Claeys is a Civil Engineer and MBA with more than 40 years of international experience in façade engineering, R&D, and consultancy. He has contributed to hundreds of landmark projects in over 40 countries, collaborating with many of the world's most renowned architects while earning a reputation for transforming ambitious architectural visions into practical, buildable, and high-performance façade solutions.
Driven by a passion for value engineering and guided by the belief that "it always seems impossible until it's done," Eric is the inventor of the patented hybrid curtain wall concept, an innovation protected by an international patent portfolio spanning more than 70 countries. As co-founder of Fassada Steel SA, he continues to advance next-generation thin cold-rolled steel hybrid curtain wall systems, championing technologies that redefine industry standards, overcome longstanding technical constraints, and shape the façades of the future.

Tony Cinnamon | Associate Principal, WJE

Mr. Cinnamon is an Associate Principal with the firm of Wiss, Janney Elstner (WJE) in the Chicago, Illinois, USA office. His expertise lies in the design and analysis of exterior enclosures with an emphasis on glass, curtain walls, and fenestration systems. He is a licensed Architect in the states of Illinois, Iowa, and Massachusetts. Mr. Cinnamon has written numerous articles on the inspection, repair/restoration, and replacement of window and facade systems. He has also presented seminars domestically and internationally on fenestration related topics including typical window problems, testing and repair of window and curtain wall systems, and typical glass failures. Mr. Cinnamon also serves on the Board of Directors at the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) and façade Tectonics Institute (FTI).

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Seminar Speakers

Carl Knutson | Principal and Design Director, Perkins&Will

Raised in Central and North America, Carl was exposed to diverse cities from an early age—from Mexico City, where he was born, to Detroit, Michigan, and later Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he completed his university studies. These experiences shaped his interest in how communities organize themselves and express their values through architecture. His exposure to different cultures and urban environments continues to inform his design approach today. Carl is particularly focused on translating clients' goals into meaningful and context-driven architectural solutions. He began his career in the Chicago studio of his firm before relocating to Washington, DC, which he has called home for the past five years. Outside of work, Carl enjoys exploring the city with his wife and their three daughters.

Vedran Skopac | Principal, Reimagine Architects

Vedran is Principal at Reimagine Architects and Adjunct Professor at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) at University of Calgary. Working at the intersection of practice and academia, he develops architectural strategies that support mental health, well-being, and community building. With over 30 years of experience across Canada, Europe, and China, his work challenges assumptions and responds to the social, cultural, and historical context of each place. Vedran sees architecture as a catalyst for human connection, fostering interaction and engagement within the built environment. Trained in architecture, urban design, interiors, and building science, he holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Zagreb and became a partner at Reimagine Architects in 2019.

Venice, Italy

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Seminar Speakers

Giovanni (John) Diodati | Director, Giovanni Diodati Architecte

Giovanni (John) Diodati is a Canadian conservation architect with over 30 years of experience in rehabilitation of building envelopes and in materials conservation and traditional building techniques, especially in historic contexts.

He designs custom, durable, and cost-effective solutions appropriate for each building, and has implemented numerous in situ monitoring programs for performance and maintenance. He is skilled at combining traditional building craft and contemporary techniques to resolve complex issues. Working closely with leading national and international specialists, John developed an in-depth understanding of technical and management issues related to building restoration and rehabilitation. His work with EVOQ Architecture includes numerous award-winning projects.

Venice, Italy

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VENICE 2026 BY ANGELA MEJORIN

PBFD
Performance-Based Façade Design

Workshop
Façade Serviceability: Failures and Lessons Learned

September 17

Auditorium Emanuele Severino

Campo Santa Margherita

Dorsoduro 3689 - 30123 Venezia (VE)

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

VENICE 2026
BY ANGELA MEJORIN

PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Programme

Workshop September 17, 2026

9:10-9:30 AM | **Opening Remarks | Angela Mejorin and Daniel J. Lemieux, PBFD**

Angela Mejorin will kick off the workshop with opening remarks, setting the stage for the 2026 workshop. Angela will also introduce Co-Chair and PBFD Advisor Daniel J. Lemieux, who will introduce the Workshop alongside her.

9:30-10:10 AM | **KEYNOTE | Durable Facade: A Client Perspective | Andrei Koshelev, ETH Zurich**

The Swiss Federal Technical University (ETH Zurich) builds and maintains hundreds of thousands of square meters of facades. Representing ETH as a client in construction projects, I am responsible for ensuring that the facades we build and refurbish are constructed economically and perform reliably over the long term, with minimal maintenance and straightforward repair. This objective should be shared by - and guide - everyone involved in the design, construction, and use phases. Based on selected ETH buildings and recent projects, I will present observations from the client's perspective, including lessons learned from long-term operation, maintenance, and repair, and discuss how these experiences can inform facade design and decision-making.

10:10-10:30 AM | **Extending Facade Life: Practical Low-Carbon Solutions for Durability Over Time | Luigi Pagnoncelli, Mapei**

Façades inevitably suffer from degradation over time due to impacts, weathering, and fastening issues, compromising the entire building's service life. However, innovative technological approaches allow for effective interventions without invasive demolitions, drastically reducing the overall carbon footprint. This presentation will focus on advanced solutions, including the ETICS over ETICS thermal insulation upgrade, high-impact resistant finishes, protective systems for concrete façades, and chemical anchoring systems for ventilated façade substructures. Through the analysis of specific real-world case histories, the session will demonstrate how the implementation of these specialized systems not only resolves existing criticalities but also significantly extends the durability and service life of the building envelope.

10:30-10:50 AM | **Why Facade Systems Fail in Practice: From Serviceability Issues to Project Disputes | William MacDonald and Marco Biancospino, GL&SS**

This presentation examines the root causes of disputes in façade engineering, drawing on insights from over 1,400 global projects. It highlights how façade systems—at the intersection of architecture, engineering, and construction—are particularly exposed to risk due to technical complexity and fragmented responsibilities. Focusing on European trends, the session explores key drivers such as design errors, incomplete information, late-stage changes, and contractual misalignment. It shows how unresolved façade detailing and premature construction often lead to delays, cost escalation, and claims. The presentation also addresses broader industry pressures, including supply chain disruption, skills shortages, and sustainability demands. It advocates for early specialist involvement, clearer allocation of responsibilities, and the use of digital tools such as BIM to improve coordination—promoting more collaborative delivery models and reducing dispute risk.

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10:50-11:10 AM | **Reducing Fire Spread in Multi-Story Buildings: Lessons from High-Rise Fires and ASTM E2307 Testing | Angie Ogino, Thermafiber**

High-rise fires have highlighted the critical risk of vertical fire spread at the perimeter joint between floor slabs and curtain wall systems. Failures in perimeter fire containment—often due to complex geometries, improper system selection, or poor installation—can compromise compartmentation and accelerate fire spread. This presentation connects lessons from real fire events with the development of ASTM E2307, explaining how curtain wall systems behave under fire exposure and why perimeter joints remain challenging details. It also emphasises the importance of inspection and verification, referencing ASTM E06.21 to ensure correct installation and long-term performance. By linking testing, design, and field practice, the session provides practical strategies to reduce fire risk and improve life safety in multi-storey buildings.

11:10-11:40 AM | **Coffee Break**

11:40-12:00 PM | **Strategies for Enclosure Prototypes, Mockups, and Pre-construction Testing as Risk-management Tools | Brandon Andow, HKS**

Preconstruction mockups and targeted testing are critical tools for validating façade performance, detailing, and constructability before installation. Unlike other building systems, enclosure performance is often only verifiable once in place, limiting opportunities for correction. This presentation argues for early-stage mockup strategies—beyond typical first-in-place testing—to enable meaningful risk mitigation, particularly for complex or novel systems. Through case studies including the Children's Hospital, an outpatient clinic, and an advanced research lab, the session highlights how preconstruction testing revealed issues such as movement, sealant adhesion, and system integration. It emphasizes the need for coordinated planning, stakeholder alignment, and dedicated leadership to ensure mockups function as effective risk management tools throughout design and construction.

12:00-12:20 PM | **Systemic Assessment of Building Enclosure Serviceability: A Traceability-driven Methodology for Identifying Hierarchical Environmental Drivers Through Multi-decade Field Investigations | John R. Medina, Miami Curtain Wall Consultants**

Reliable evaluation of long-term façade serviceability remains a key challenge, especially in harsh climates. This presentation outlines a traceability-driven forensic methodology developed through decades of field investigations on multi-storey buildings in South Florida, exposed to high winds, humidity, and aggressive marine conditions. Using a structured protocol of evaluation factors, the approach captures and classifies degradation patterns across façade systems, distinguishing between localized maintenance issues and systemic performance failures. Findings show that environmental drivers are primary causes of long-term deterioration, while maintenance deficiencies often act as secondary accelerators. By translating field observations into measurable indicators, the methodology supports risk-based maintenance, informed rehabilitation strategies, and a more robust performance-based understanding of façade durability in real conditions.

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Programme

Workshop September 17, 2026

12:20-12:40 PM | **Performance-Based Façade Design Under Wind Actions | Matthew Glanville, CPP**

This presentation explores emerging wind-related challenges in high-rise façades as designs increasingly incorporate operable openings, balconies, and permeable systems. While enhancing ventilation and user experience, these features introduce new risks under serviceability wind conditions, particularly when manually operated without centralised control. Case studies highlight issues such as wind-driven rain, internal pressure effects, noise, and operational disruptions. Special focus is given to recessed balcony geometries, where aero-acoustic-elastic phenomena can induce unexpected vibrations and pressure effects beyond standard code assumptions. The session also addresses the performance of façade ancillaries under turbulent wind loading and presents advanced wind tunnel testing and analysis methods. It emphasizes the growing need for performance-based approaches to design façades capable of responding to complex, real-world wind interactions.

12:40-1:00 PM | **Double Skin Facade Design and Testing | Edoardo Cardone, Windtech**

Double-skin façades consist of two layers, typically glass, separated by a ventilated cavity that enhances thermal, acoustic, and environmental performance. This presentation explores their growing use in high-rise design, highlighting their adaptability across climates through controlled airflow and solar management. Focusing on advanced analysis methods, the session presents CFD and wind tunnel studies used to evaluate airflow, solar heat transfer, and cavity temperatures. A case study on the Central Bank of Iraq Headquarters demonstrates how mixed-mode ventilation and detailed material modelling inform façade design. Results show how simulation-driven adjustments to glazing and ventilation strategies can optimize performance. The presentation underscores the importance of integrated analysis in ensuring effective, resilient double-skin façade systems.

1:00-1:20 PM | **Closing the Gap Between Façade Design and Performance: a Whole-Building Airtightness Case Study | Gordon Shepperd and Noah Doukas, Secretariat**

This presentation examines the gap between component-level façade testing and whole-building air leakage performance through a higher education facility case study in Texas. Initial testing revealed air leakage exceeding code limits set by IECC 2018 and ASHRAE 90.1. Using whole-building testing per ASTM E779 alongside thermography and smoke diagnostics, the investigation identified systemic leakage at complex interfaces, including roof transitions and connections between new and existing structures. Targeted remediation reduced leakage to compliant levels. The presentation highlights how discrete component testing can miss critical pathways, advocating for integrated, performance-based approaches to ensure enclosure continuity and align design intent with real operational performance.

1:20-2:20 PM | **Lunch Break**

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Programme

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2:20-2:50 PM | KEYNOTE | Building a Global Façade Leader Through Engineering Excellence | Massimo Colomban

In this keynote, Massimo Colomban shares the journey behind building Permasteelisa Group into a global leader in curtain wall systems. Rather than focusing on technologies, the talk reflects on the strategic principles that shaped long-term success in a complex, international industry. Drawing from decades of experience, Colomban explores product innovation as a mindset, organisational evolution across engineering, fabrication, and installation, and the importance of cost control and operational clarity. He highlights the role of talent, partnerships, and a "think global, act local" culture in scaling effectively. Through personal insights and analogies—from music to Formula 1—the keynote offers a rare perspective on leadership, vision, and teamwork in creating a lasting global enterprise.

2:50-3:00 PM | PBFD Career Recognition to Massimo Colomban | Angela Mejorin and PBFD Advisory Group

This moment represents one of the most meaningful milestones of PBFD 2026. The Career Recognition honours a lifetime of impact on the façade industry—celebrating not only technical innovation, but the ability to transform an entire sector. Through the vision behind Permasteelisa Group, Massimo Colomban helped redefine how building envelopes are engineered, manufactured, and delivered at a global scale. The recognition will be formally presented by Angela Mejorin together with the PBFD Advisory Group, reflecting a collective acknowledgment from leading figures across design, engineering, manufacturing, and standardisation. More than a ceremonial act, this is a moment of alignment with PBFD's core mission: advancing technical excellence, performance-based thinking, and industry evolution. It is also an opportunity to connect generations—recognising a legacy that continues to shape how façades are conceived, built, and performed worldwide.

3:00-3:20 PM | Evaluating Thermal Performance of Spandrel Assemblies in Glazed Wall Systems through Full-Scale Testing | Daniel Haaland and Sarah B. Rentfro, RDH Building Science and Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Gaps in the industry's understanding of the thermal performance of opaque areas in glazed wall systems has contributed to discrepancies between predicted and in-service results, which has slowed adoption of higher-performance facade solutions. This is increasingly consequential as energy codes and owner requirements tighten and as whole-building energy models evolve to better account for thermal bridging. This presentation shares data from a multi-year research effort aimed at obtaining physical test data and translating the results into practical guidance for design decisions and improved modeling approaches. It centers on full-scale testing conducted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) of multiple thermally broken aluminum systems, including stick-built and unitized curtainwall, window wall, and a prefabricated modular wall system. The study, titled "Thermal Performance of Spandrel Assemblies in Glazing Systems," is funded by the Charles Pankow Foundation, with additional support from many project partners.

3:20-3:40 PM | **Stuck Between a Slab and Hard Place: Avoiding Failures from Window Wall and Slab Interactions | Sarah B. Rentfro and Eric K. Olson, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger**

Operable window performance depends not only on system design but also on structural behaviour and coordination across disciplines. This presentation reviews key principles for properly designed and installed window wall systems, highlighting common serviceability issues. A case study of a 50-storey hotel illustrates how excessive slab deflections—caused by improper shoring—led to racking of window frames and failure of top-hinged operable vents. Structural movements exceeded design tolerances, compromising functionality and triggering ineffective repair attempts. The session examines how factors such as hardware selection, clearances, and configuration contributed to the problem. It emphasises the importance of aligning performance requirements, delegated design, and construction practices, with particular focus on controlling structural deflections to ensure long-term operability and façade reliability.

3:40-4:00 PM | **Structural-Facade Interface Serviceability Risks, Coordination Failures, and Early Stage Design Implications | Juste Tresor Gatari, ETH**

This presentation examines how façade performance is often governed by “interface-driven conditions” arising from the interaction of structural systems, façade design, and fabrication constraints. Rather than isolated detailing issues, many serviceability risks originate from late-stage resolution of competing requirements such as geometry, tolerances, load paths, and installation sequences. Through analytical modelling and case-based observations, the study shows how local adjustments—made to resolve conflicts—can introduce unintended structural eccentricities, misalignments, and performance deficiencies. It highlights how these iterative corrections propagate across systems, affecting overall façade behaviour. The presentation advocates for earlier evaluation of interface conditions within the design process, shifting from reactive coordination to proactive system integration, ultimately improving constructability, serviceability, and long-term façade performance.

4:00-4:20 PM | **Moisture-State-Driven Degradation in Façade Materials: Comparing Liquid Water and Vapour Exposure Regimes | Amir Sabziparvar, National Research Council Canada**

Moisture ingress is a primary driver of façade deterioration, triggering physical, chemical, and biological damage. This presentation examines how different moisture states influence mold growth and long-term material performance. While standards such as ASTM C1338 assess behaviour under sustained humidity, they do not capture transient events like water intrusion. The study compares short-term liquid exposure with controlled high-humidity conditions across conventional and bio-based materials, using advanced techniques such as single-sided NMR to track moisture distribution. Results show that material performance varies significantly depending on moisture state, with some materials becoming vulnerable only under liquid exposure. The findings highlight the need to complement standard testing with realistic scenarios, supporting more reliable durability assessment and façade design.

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4:20-4:40 PM | **PBFD Book Launch** | *Performance-Based Façade Design: Discovery, Development, Delivery*

Celebrate the official launch of *Performance-Based Façade Design: Discovery, Development, Delivery* (Springer Nature), featuring the editors and contributing authors as we mark the publication of the inaugural PBFD book and its contribution to the advancement of the global façade community.

4:40-5:00 PM | **Closing Remarks** | **Angela Mejorin, PBFD**

Angela Mejorin will conclude the workshop day of PBFD 2026, themed *Façade Serviceability: Failures and Lessons Learned*, by summarizing the key insights. She will then introduce the Grand Finale networking event, guiding attendees to the Wave Murano Glass furnace for the *Grand Finale* event starting at 7:30 PM.

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Co-Chairs

Workshop September 17, 2026

Sara Gobbi | Director of European Affairs, ASTM International

Ms. Sara Gobbi is the Director of European affairs for ASTM International. Her primary role, at the head of the Brussels office, is to engage in outreach activities, create partnerships and raise greater awareness of ASTM among European institutions, business and trade associations, environmental and consumer groups, and other significant European stakeholders.

Ms. Gobbi most recently worked as a standardization project manager at NORMAPME, now SBS, the European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Standardization. In that role, she advocated for small- and medium-sized enterprises in the development and revision of European standards policies, and advised SMEs in matters related to standards and regulations. Prior to that, Gobbi, an attorney, spent nearly five years advising clients in matters related to EU regulatory, internal market and competition policies.

Daniel J. Lemieux | Director and Principal, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Daniel J. Lemieux, FAIA and FASTM, is Principal and Director of International Development at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., and Director of its UK subsidiary. With over 30 years of global experience in building enclosure investigation, repair, and performance testing, he has led award-winning projects and contributed significantly to building science education. He chairs ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and previously led the development of key BECx standards (ASTM E2813, E2947). In 2021, he was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows, and in 2024 to the ASTM International Fellows, recognizing his leadership in performance-based standards. He teaches graduate courses on “Failures & Forensics” at Georgia Tech and Purdue, and serves on advisory boards at Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech. He is licensed, listed, and/or chartered in 10 U.S. states, Canada, the UK, and Australia.

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Workshop Speakers

Luigi Pagnoncelli | Key Account Manager, Mapei

Luigi Pagnoncelli is a Civil Engineer with over 18 years of international experience in the construction industry, specialising in façade specification, building materials and major construction projects. At MAPEI, he develops strategic relationships with leading architectural firms across Italy, supporting the specification of innovative and durable construction solutions. His career combines engineering, research and business development, with previous international experience in technical development and building acoustics. He has contributed to ISO, CEN and EURIMA technical committees, authored scientific publications and regularly speaks at technical seminars and international conferences. His current work focuses on supporting architects in designing high-performance, durable and low-carbon construction solutions.

William MacDonald | Director - Façade Engineering, GL&SS

Will MacDonald has over 35 years' experience in façade engineering and is a Director of GL&SS (Glass Light and Special Structures). His delivered projects include the London 2012 Olympic Athletes' Village, the Central Bank of Ireland, Riyadh Metro, Alwakrah Stadium, Hong Kong International Airport and LinkedIn's Dublin headquarters. He previously held senior leadership roles as Director and Head of Façades at AECOM, and as Technical Director at Inhabit Group. Will holds an MSc in Architectural Engineering and Environmental Design from the University of Bath and an Advanced Professional Award in Expert Witness Evidence (APAEWE). His current focus is on dispute avoidance and the remediation of defective buildings.

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Workshop Speakers

Marco Biancospino | Associate, GL&SS

Marco is an Associate at GL&SS, where he began in 2015 while developing his Master's thesis on cold-bent glass—an experience that sparked his focus on structural glass. Over the years, he has specialised in advanced glass solutions that push transparency while minimising visible structure. With a background in structural engineering, he has delivered projects across residential, commercial, and complex façade sectors, often in client-facing roles. Known for his hands-on approach, Marco applies rigorous analysis to achieve efficient material-conscious designs. He maintains strong links with academia, contributing to research and innovation. His recent work includes a glass extension featuring 20 x 3.2 m panels and a large-scale borosilicate cast glass façade.

Angie Ogino | Technical Services Leader, Owens Corning Thermafiber

Angie Ogino is the Technical Services Leader at Owens Corning Thermafiber, with over 28 years of experience in the mineral wool and firestopping industry. She provides engineering judgments and technical support on mineral wool product performance for architects, building officials, and contractors, with a focus on fire containment. Angie has extensive experience developing perimeter fire containment testing programs at Underwriters Laboratories, Southwest Research Institute, and Intertek. She manages Thermafiber's UL and Intertek Follow-Up Service Quality Programs and developed the company's educational programs on perimeter fire containment. Angie has presented at ASTM International, AIA National Conventions, FCIA, CSI, PCI, and leading architectural and curtain wall firms.

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Workshop Speakers

Brandon Andow | Principal and Facades Studio Practice Leader, HKS

Brandon Andow is the Facade Studio Practice Leader and a Principal at HKS. He leads the design, development, analysis, and implementation of performance facades and building enclosure systems across sectors. He is committed to creating generational, cost-effective, low-carbon, and transformational facades that improve occupant health, comfort, and experience.

Brandon believes the influence of the facade extends well beyond it's thickness. Carbon, climate, ecology, fabrication methods, human experience, and placemaking shape building enclosures which define the character, culture, and signature of a place for generations. The tekne and poesis of architecture coexist at the facade and the extensive impact of building enclosure decisions requires transdisciplinary and multiscalar responsibility.

John Medina | Founder/Principal/Owner, Miami Curtain Wall Consultants

John R. Medina, RA AIA, is a renowned architect and exterior façade consultant with over 40 years of experience in the industry. He has dedicated his career to design and consulting of innovative and sustainable building enclosure systems. As a registered architect, John Medina is responsible for the design, planning and supervision of major projects throughout all design phases. John specializes in aluminum and glass facades, leveraging his extensive knowledge to enhance both the aesthetic and functional aspects of building exteriors. His expertise in architectural design and engineering has made him a sought-after consultant for complex projects worldwide, ensuring that structures meet the highest standards of performance and visual appeal. John's commitment to excellence and his passion for cutting-edge facade solutions have established him as a leader in the field.

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Workshop Speakers

Matthew Glanville | Founding Director, Cermak Peterka Petersen

Dr. Matt Glanville was a founding director of CPP's Australian wind tunnel facility and now maintains a technical and business development focus as a company Vice President. Matt undertook his undergraduate and doctoral studies at the University of Sydney and over the last three decades has managed commercial projects around the globe in the fields of wind engineering, full-scale monitoring, wind forensics, structural dynamics, building physics and CFD. Matt is a code committee member responsible for the Australia/New Zealand Wind Code AS/NZS1170.2:2021 and is actively involved with several international task groups in his fields of expertise.

Edoardo Cardone | Senior CFD Engineer, Windtech Consultants

Edoardo completed his MSc Advance Aeronautical Engineering with a focus on CFD and fluid mechanics. One of his major projects was to commission the new wind tunnel at Imperial College which including replicating the turbulence wake being a bluff 3D axisymmetric body with a blunt trailing edge. In 2017, Edoardo won the IMechE Design Competition National Winner.

Prior to joining Windtech, Edoardo undertook consulting work involving advanced CFD. Edoardo now operates at Windtech's London Office. He is responsible for undertaking a variety of CFD studies that are relevant to the built environment, including (but not limited to) studies of wind microclimate, thermal comfort, stack effects, wind-driven rain, pollution and ordor dispersion, and snow accumulation.

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Workshop Speakers

Noah Doukas | Senior Associate, Secretariat

Noah Doukas, P.E., LEED Green Associate - Noah Doukas, is an engineer and building enclosure consultant with experience in construction defect analysis, forensic investigations, and existing building renovation & restoration design. Noah specializes in diagnosing and resolving complex construction issues, providing building enclosure consultation services, and leveraging his expertise to deliver effective project solutions.

Gordon A. Shepperd | Managing Director, Secretariat

Gordon Shepperd is an experienced engineering consultant, effectively diagnosing and solving problems with building enclosure and structural systems, materials failures, moisture accumulation, installation problems, and design deficiencies. He has testified numerous times on causes of these failures, responsible parties, and appropriate courses of repairs. He has designed and implemented repairs to complex failures and performance problems for a variety of building types, including heritage structures, institutional buildings, and high-rise buildings. Additionally, Mr. Shepperd is business leader with 25 years of experience performing forensic investigations, engineering design, construction consulting, industry leadership, team development and leadership, as well as business development and marketing.

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Workshop Speakers

Daniel Haaland | Principal, RDH Building Science

As a Principal and Senior Building Science Engineer, Daniel supports RDH's core practice areas including Building Enclosure Consulting and Facade Engineering, while also contributing to numerous training activities and publications. Daniel leads a team of engineers dedicated to assessing the thermal performance of building enclosure systems and to assisting clients in achieving their low energy/high-performance targets. As the lead author of several industry guidelines and standards related to thermal modeling, including the CSA Z5010 Standard and the THERM PH Window Simulation procedure, Daniel is an industry leader in the field.

Sarah B. Rentfro | Senior Project Manager, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Sarah B. Rentfro, P.E. is a registered professional engineer and Senior Project Manager with Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, a firm that provides multidisciplinary engineering services for new and existing buildings and infrastructure. In her more than ten years of experience, she has contributed to a variety of building enclosure design, investigation, and construction projects in the eastern United States. Her work includes new design consulting, construction administration, heat flow and condensation modeling, and investigation and rehabilitation of existing building enclosures, including projects related to fenestration, roofing and waterproofing, and exterior wall systems.

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Workshop Speakers

Eric K. Olson | Principal, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Eric K. Olson, P.E. is a registered professional engineer specializing in evaluating and investigating building enclosure systems, including windows and curtain walls, cladding and veneer systems, roofing, and terrace and below-grade waterproofing. His 30-year career at SGH encompasses forensic investigation of design and construction defect claims, surety claims, litigation, and dispute resolution related to building enclosure systems, enclosure system condition assessments for due diligence or to establish maintenance and replacement needs, and investigation of hurricane-and storm-related damage claims. Eric leverages his expertise in investigation and forensic analysis to lead repair/rehabilitation design projects for failed enclosure systems and to provide design consulting for enclosure systems in new and existing buildings. Eric frequently speaks about and publishes articles related to enclosure system issues and practices.

Juste Tresor Gatari | Research in Digital Fabrication, ETH Zurich

Juste Tresor Gatari is an architect and structural engineer specializing in façade systems and performance. His work investigates the interface conditions between structural and façade assemblies, with a focus on constraint interactions with fabrication and serviceability. He is engaged in advanced research in digital fabrication at ETH Zurich.

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Workshop Speakers

Amir Sabziparvar | Postdoctoral Researcher, National Research Council (NRC) Canada

Amir Sabziparvar is a Part-Time Professor at the University of Ottawa and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the National Research Council (NRC) Canada. His research focuses on the hygrothermal durability of building envelope materials and mass timber systems, with emphasis on moisture transport, freeze–thaw effects, and mould growth. He applies advanced techniques such as single-sided nuclear magnetic resonance (SS-NMR) to study moisture behaviour and support the development of more resilient building systems in cold climates.

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PBFD
Performance-Based Façade Design

Grand Finale
Networking Event

September 17

Wave Murano Glass

Fondamenta da Mula 152

Murano - 30141 Venezia (VE)

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Grand Finale

September 17, 2026

The Grand Finale evening will feature live glassblowing demonstrations by Murano master artisans, starting from 7:30 pm. Guests will also have the opportunity to engage directly with the material through curated hands-on experiences, while enjoying drinks and canapés in a unique industrial-artistic setting.

Located in a historic industrial building on Murano Island, Wave Murano Glass combines centuries-old craftsmanship with cutting-edge infrastructure, including advanced glass-melting furnaces and an innovative waste heat recovery system designed to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.

Wave Murano Glass collaborates with leading international designers, artists, architects, and brands, positioning the furnace as a benchmark for bespoke artistic production at the intersection of design, architecture, and material innovation.

Bringing together tradition, craftsmanship, technology, and forward-thinking design, this memorable evening reflects Fassada's vision:

Passion for Innovation into the Classics of Tomorrow.

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Off-site Activity
Orsoni Furnace Tour & Food and Wine Networking

September 18

Orsoni Venezia 1888

Calle dei Vedei

Cannaregio 1045a - 30121 Venezia (VE)

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

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BY ANGELA MEJORIN

PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Orsoni Tour

September 18, 2026

9:50 AM – Meeting Point & Start of the Visit
Participants will meet in front of the entrance to the Orsoni Venezia 1888 furnace to begin the guided tour.

10:00 – 11:30 AM – Orsoni Furnace Tour
Founded in 1888, the Orsoni Furnace represents a unique case in Venice where traditional craftsmanship directly informs contemporary architectural applications. Unlike other glassmaking facilities focused on blown glass production, Orsoni specializes in the creation of mosaic smalti and tesserae—materials that have defined some of the world's most iconic façades, including Sagrada Familia, Sacré-Cœur, and Westminster Abbey. The visit will explore the historic furnace—still operating with techniques rooted in Byzantine and Murano traditions—alongside its extraordinary Color Library, where thousands of shades are produced and catalogued. The tour highlights how centuries-old processes continue to evolve through innovation, bridging material research, architectural expression, and façade design.

12:00 – 1:30 PM – Venetian Networking Lunch
The program continues with a traditional Venetian networking lunch in a local restaurant, where participants will reconnect with fellow PBFD attendees from parallel off-site activities. The lunch features a curated selection of regional dishes paired with local wines, offering a guided food and wine experience that reflects the richness of Venetian culinary tradition.

End of Program: approx. 1:30 PM

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PBFD Performance-Based Façade Design

Off-site Activity

Palazzina Masieri: Scarpa, Wright, "Reflections on Brancusi", Food and Wine Networking

September 18

Palazzina Masieri

Galerie Negropontes

Dorsoduro 3900- 30123 Venezia (VE)

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Palazzina Masieri

September 18, 2026

10:30 AM – Meeting Point & Start of the Visit
Participants will meet in front of the entrance to the Galerie Negropontes (Palazzina Masieri) to begin the tour.

10:45 – 11:30 AM – Palazzina Masieri Architecture & Exhibition Tour
Located along the Grand Canal, Palazzina Masieri represents a unique case in Venice where modern architectural experimentation is embedded within the historic fabric of the city. The building's complex history brings together two of the most influential figures of twentieth-century architecture—Frank Lloyd Wright and Carlo Scarpa—whose visions shaped its evolution from an unrealized memorial project into a refined modern intervention completed in 1983. The visit will explore Scarpa's architectural design, where spatial sequencing, material detail, and light define a sophisticated dialogue between past and present. The tour also includes access to the current exhibition "Reflections on Brancusi", presented by Galerie Negropontes, where photography and sculpture engage with the architectural setting.

12:00 – 1:30 PM – Venetian Networking Lunch
The program continues with a traditional Venetian networking lunch in a local restaurant, where participants will reconnect with fellow PBFD attendees from parallel off-site activities. The lunch features a curated selection of regional dishes paired with local wines, offering a guided food and wine experience that reflects the richness of Venetian culinary tradition.

End of Program: approx. 1:30 PM

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

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PBFD
Performance-Based Façade Design

Off-site Activity
CastelBrando
with Massimo Colomban
Architecture, Landscape & Food and Wine Networking

September 18

CastelBrando

Via Brandolini Brando 29

Cison di Valmarino - 31030 (TV)

Venice, Italy

September 16-18, 2026

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CastelBrando

September 18, 2026

9:30 AM – Meeting Point at the Bus
Participants will gather at the Venice San Basilio Port area, a central location easily accessible from key parts of Venice. The private bus will depart promptly at 10:00 AM, ensuring a comfortable journey to the next destination. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to ensure a timely departure.

9:40 – 10:00 AM – Bus Leaves Venice to Pick Up Additional Attendees at Mestre Train Station (Upon Request)
The bus will make a brief stop at Mestre Train Station (FS), located just outside the historic center of Venice, for attendees traveling to or from other parts of the Veneto region. This stop will only be made if requested during the booking process to ensure the schedule remains on track.

10:00 – 11:15 AM – Travel to CastelBrando
Departing the urban edge of Venice and gradually transitioning into the open landscapes of the Veneto region, as the route unfolds, the scenery shifts from industrial and peri-urban zones to cultivated plains, eventually giving way to the rolling hills of the Prosecco territory. Approaching the foothills, vineyards begin to define the landscape—orderly rows tracing the contours of the terrain, punctuated by small villages, bell towers, and historic rural buildings. This area, part of the renowned Prosecco Hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, is characterized by its layered topography and long-standing relationship between agriculture and settlement. The final stretch ascends toward CastelBrando, where the road winds through wooded slopes and panoramic viewpoints, revealing the castle's elevated position overlooking the valley. The arrival offers a striking transition—from movement through territory to a place where architecture, landscape, and history converge.

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CastelBrando

September 18, 2026

11:15 – 1:00 PM – Food and Wine Networking Experience with Massimo Colomban

The experience begins with a wine tasting on the panoramic Terrazza del Fauno at CastelBrando, overlooking the rolling hills of the Prosecco Hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene. A curated selection of regional wines is presented alongside a refined assortment of small bites inspired by local culinary traditions, creating a relaxed and immersive moment of exchange.

The experience continues with a seated lunch in an exclusive 18th-century hall within the castle, richly decorated with historic stucco details. The lunch offers a carefully composed menu rooted in regional cuisine, complemented by a selection of wines, and provides an intimate setting for networking in a distinctive architectural environment.

1:15 – 2:30 PM – CastelBrando Historic Tour with Massimo Colomban

Perched above Cison di Valmarino, CastelBrando traces its origins to a Roman *castrum* established in the 1st century AD to control a key route through the valley. The site was later transformed during the Middle Ages into a fortified stronghold, gradually evolving into a noble residence through successive architectural interventions.

The guided visit explores this layered history, from early defensive structures and water systems fed by local springs to the refined spaces of later periods. Moving through selected interior and exterior areas, the tour highlights the continuous adaptation of the castle and its enduring relationship with the surrounding territory.

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2:30 – 4:00 PM – Free Time
Participants will have time to independently explore the surroundings of Cison di Valmarino and CastelBrando. Guests may choose to descend to the historic village via the panoramic funicular, offering a unique connection between the castle and the town below, and return at their convenience.

4:00 – 5:00 PM – Travel to Venice Airport (Stop Upon Request)
Return transportation will include an optional stop at Venice Marco Polo Airport for participants wishing to depart directly following the off-site experience. This option allows attendees to conveniently connect with afternoon and early evening flights, avoiding the need to return to the city. Participants interested in this drop-off are kindly requested to indicate their preference in advance, so that logistics can be coordinated accordingly.

5:00 – 5:20 PM – Travel to Mestre Train Station (Stop Upon Request)
Return transportation will include an optional stop at Venezia Mestre Railway Station for participants wishing to connect with onward train travel. This option allows attendees to conveniently access late afternoon and evening departures without returning to the city center.
Participants interested in this drop-off are kindly requested to indicate their preference in advance, so that logistics can be coordinated accordingly.

5:40 – Arrival in Central Venice

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PBFD Founder and Curator

Founder and curator of Performance-Based Façade Design (PBFD), the international platform bringing together specialists in building enclosures, research, testing and standardization, Angela Mejorin works as a consultant on building envelope performance and international regulatory frameworks. She serves as Project Leader and Voting Member within ISO, CEN and ASTM International, contributing to the development of standards for curtain wall systems and building hardware. She holds two doctorates — from Western University and Università Iuav di Venezia — with research focused on wind-borne debris mitigation and performance-based façade testing, a dual track that underpins the methodological approach of the PBFD conference. Her engineering experience includes work on the Intesa Sanpaolo headquarters by Renzo Piano Building Workshop and the Museo Alfa Romeo.

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