

3rd Professional Straw Congress



From 3 to 6 February 2027, the French Straw Building Network (RFCP) will host its 3rd Professional Congress on Straw Retrofit and Renovation at the Nantes National School of Architecture (ENSA Nantes), extended by an international conference bringing together European and North American straw building networks in France.

Nantes, July 2026. Every summer confirms what building professionals see on the ground: summer thermal comfort is no longer optional, it is a requirement. As heatwaves grow more frequent and longer, retrofitting existing buildings becomes a priority. Straw, a biobased, local and readily available material, offers a concrete response, long confined to new construction and now turned toward the existing building stock.

From 3 to 6 February 2027, the RFCP will gather building professionals in Nantes around this challenge. After more than ten years, the event also marks the return to France of the international straw building networks, with the joint staging of the International Straw Building Conference. A major national congress, extended by an international meeting that establishes the RFCP as the reference in straw construction..

"Taking part in the National Straw Building Congress is the right choice to learn, share and discover the many building possibilities this material offers. The 2027 edition is enriched by the International Meeting of straw builders, an exceptional event in France. We look forward to seeing you there," says Julie Laurin, President of the RFCP.

A programme built around building retrofit and renovation

Long associated with new construction, straw is establishing itself as a response to the sector's major challenge: the high-performance retrofit of existing buildings. External wall insulation, summer comfort, air quality, preservation of heritage buildings: over a decade the sector has accumulated field experience that the congress puts up for sharing. The programme covers the regulatory context of renovation, the professional rules applied to external insulation, funding schemes, prefabrication techniques, and numerous case studies. It is aimed primarily at building professionals, architects and specifiers, public and private clients, training organisations and institutional stakeholders in the sector.

An international dimension that cements the French sector

The final two days bring together the European and North American straw building networks. This gathering compares practices from one country to another and positions the RFCP's professional rules (translated into English

and Spanish) as the reference for straw construction, at a time when summer comfort and energy sobriety are becoming decisive criteria for buildings worldwide.

A material rooted in its territory, driven by a sector building its skills

An agricultural resource available in every region, renewable each year and readily mobilised, straw meets a territorial need with a local material. For ten years the sector has structured the upskilling of professionals through the Pro-Paille training programme, teaching the CP 2012 professional rules for straw construction, which safeguard the quality of the works.

This momentum rests on a network of regional structures spread across the country. Acting as the network's relays close to the field, they support project owners, professionals and local authorities, energise local communities and adapt the straw resource to the realities of each territory. It is this on-the-ground presence that turns a national sector into a tangible network, active wherever a project emerges.

Practical information

Dates: 3 to 6 February 2027. National days on 3 and 4 February, international days on 5 and 6 February.

Venue: Nantes National School of Architecture (ENSA Nantes).

Audience: building professionals, architects, specifiers, project owners, training organisations, institutional stakeholders.

Registration will open in September 2026. To be notified first when it opens, you can join the congress alert list now at go.rfcp.fr/listecongres. The detailed programme will be released in autumn 2026. Journalists wishing to cover the event may request press accreditation through the congress website.

About the RFCP

The French Straw Building Network is the national reference association for the sector. It brings together more than 1,000 members, supports a stock of over 10,000 straw-insulated buildings in France, and has trained more than 7,500 professionals through the Pro-Paille programme. The RFCP represents all straw-based materials and their associated techniques, and the use of straw as a biobased insulation (straw bale, straw panel, chopped straw) in both construction and renovation. Straw Congress 2027 is organised under the POP2030 programme, supported by France 2030 and ADEME.

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