

International straw building conference in Nantes !



In Nantes, on 5th and 6th February 2027, the French Straw Building Network (RFCP) will host the International Straw Building Conference (ISBC 2027), returning after more than ten years. Organised together with the European straw building network (ESBA) and leading North American bio-based construction organisations (CASBA and BBMC), ISBC 2027 invites straw building practitioners from around the world to present their work and initiatives. A call for contributions is open until 30th September 2026, on the theme "Changing Practice for a Changing Climate".

Climate change demands a profound transformation in the way we design, build and renovate. Everywhere, summer comfort, energy sufficiency and building resilience are becoming decisive criteria. This is the guiding thread of the International Straw Building Conference 2027.

These two international days extend and complement the two national days of 3rd and 4th February, dedicated to straw rehabilitation and renovation. Together, they form a four-day event where the French sector and international networks move forward on an equal footing, around a shared bio-based, local and renewable material.

ISBC 2027 shares advances from one country to another, at a time when climate challenges call for concrete responses suited to local contexts.

"Today, all around the world, everyone is experiencing climate change. The time for proving that other ways of building are possible is over: they already exist, and initiatives are multiplying on every continent. ISBC 2027 is a remarkable opportunity to bring together those who are changing practices, to share projects, concrete experiences and replicable solutions. In territories where transition policies advance at different paces, this sharing of experience helps bring out responses suited to local contexts and, above all, helps move to action. With straw as a local, renewable and available material, we now have the means to concretely engage the transformation of the way we build," says Charlotte Leuvar, architect, board member and secretary of the RFCP, board member of ESBA and co-organiser of ISBC 2027.

A call for contributions open until 30th September 2026

The international ISBC committee invites professionals, researchers and organisations to submit a contribution. Submissions from France are welcome. Four areas structure this edition, and may be combined:

1. Building professional networks and organisations.
2. Democratising access and transforming the market.
3. Climate adaptation and resilience.
4. Research, innovation and emerging straw-building systems.

Four formats are possible: case study 5×5 (five slides, five minutes), panel, exhibit on a board, and practical demonstration. Priority is given to larger projects, community or multi-unit housing, schools and public buildings, rather than individual houses. Submissions may be made in French or English, the two working languages of the conference. Remote presentations are not accepted; an exhibit poster remains possible for teams unable to travel.

An international dimension that establishes the French sector

This meeting brings practices from different countries face to face and positions the RFCP's professional building rules (translated into English and Spanish) as a reference for straw construction, at a time when summer comfort and energy sufficiency are becoming decisive building criteria worldwide.

Practical information

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

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

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

Call for contributions: submissions open until 30th September 2026. Working languages of the ISBC: French and English.

www.congres-paille.fr/appel-communications

Ticketing will open in late September 2026. To be informed of the opening as a priority, you can join the congress alert list now at go.rfcp.fr/listecongres. The detailed programme will be announced in autumn 2026. Journalists wishing to cover the event will be able to request press accreditation through the congress website.

About the RFCP and its partners

The French Straw Building Network is the national reference association for the sector. It brings together more than 1,000 members, supports the growth of 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: the use of straw as a bio-based insulation material (straw bale, straw panel, chopped straw), in both new construction and renovation. Congrès Paille 2027 is organised within the POP2030 programme, supported by France 2030 and ADEME.

BioBased Materials Collective (BBMC): a North American network bringing together more than 1,500 actors in bio-based construction, BBMC works to accelerate the transition towards a healthier, regenerative and climate-positive built environment. It gathers the entire value chain, from producers and processors of plant-based materials to architects, builders, researchers and public actors. Its approach aims to develop regional bio-based material supply chains and to strengthen the links between regenerative agriculture, local economy and construction.

<https://biobasedcollective.org/>

California Straw Building Association (CASBA): since 1996, this Californian association has brought together designers, builders, owner-builders and professionals committed to straw construction and natural materials. A pioneer in the development and recognition of straw construction in California, CASBA works through the sharing of

experience, research, testing and the evolution of construction standards. Its work has notably contributed to the acceptance of straw construction by local authorities and construction stakeholders, and to the completion of numerous permitted straw buildings across California and beyond. <https://www.strawbuilding.org/>

European Straw Building Association (ESBA): created to strengthen cooperation between European straw building networks, ESBA brings together sector actors around the sharing of knowledge, research, experience and practices. It contributes to the professionalisation of straw construction in Europe, notably through the development of common standards, the identification of testing and regulatory needs, and the training of professionals. Its objective: to foster more accessible, high-performing and durable straw construction by facilitating cooperation between European countries. <https://strawbuilding.eu/>

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