

ambitions

▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ direct

Extraordinary



Photo: Peter Lundstrom, WDO – www.treehotel.se

The Mirrorcube

A walkway amongst the trees leads up to the hotel – a cube with a glass façade mirroring the trees and the sky, enabling it to blend seamlessly into the forest. The Treehotel is located in Harads, 60 km from the Arctic Circle, offering guests a unique experience with modern hotel rooms amidst Sweden's unspoilt nature. The Treehotel's rooms afford a fantastic view over the Lule River valley, kilometres of forest and the powerful river. Nestled among the pine trees, you'll find the Mirrorcube. The exterior reflects the surroundings and the sky, creating a hidden shelter. The interior is made entirely of plywood and the windows allow you a 360 degree view. You will also find a birds nest, a ufo, a blue cone, a cabin and a sauna for up to 8 people in the forest.

The Mirrorcube is designed by the architects Tham & Videgård who contacted Sika Sweden at an early stage in the project to find out if it was possible to bond glass onto a metal structure. Structural glazing demands exact calculations, compatible materials, adhesive tests, and specially trained contractors. Sika Sweden assisted in all of these project steps as well as supplying the necessary adhesive materials. The cube is a 4 x 4 x 4 meter aluminium structure attached to a tree. The aluminium was anodised to close the pores and then cleaned with **Sika® Aktivator-205**. The next step was to add **Sika® Spacer Tape HD** to add height to the joint, thus ensuring that temperature fluctuation between the glass and the aluminium structure is within the proscribed limits.

The glass was then bonded with **Sikasil® SG-20**, a special type of silicon adhesive for bearing joints. The elastic sealant **Sikasil® WS-605 S** was used to waterproof the joints. It is also important that the joints can withstand temperature variations, as the temperature of the glass in Harads can range from -30°C up to 60°C . The result is a stunning, stable tree room, which can endure pouring rain and heavy snow storms and works just as well in warmer climates.





Gazela Bridge, Belgrade/Serbia

Harbour Bridge, Sydney/Australia



2011 Sika Key Project Management Competition

2011 Sika Key Project Management Competition promotes outstanding performance in solutions and services. **Competition highlights: innovative Sika solutions, contribution to landmark construction, and competence in dealing with the technical demands of complicated construction projects.**

The winners of the 2011 Key Project Management (KPM) Competition in the three categories Innovation, Large Size, and Technically Demanding were announced by Corporate Business Unit Contractors, Sika Services AG, the worldwide market leader. 76 projects from six Sika regions were submitted. The types of project varied from buildings to civil engineering structures. All of them are outstanding, showing the superior knowhow and competence of local Sika organizations.

The winning project in the Innovation category was Sydney Harbour Bridge from Sika Australia. This marks the first successful trial with the new bridge deck waterproofing system **Sikalastic®-827** pellets as tack layer. The project ran to 10'500 m². The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) invited all the contractors and Sika to their corporate head office in North Sydney to say thank you for their contribution toward protecting one of Australia's most loved assets.

The winning project in the Large Size category was Berlin Brandenburg International Airport from Sika Germany. Sika provided flooring, roofing, concrete, steel protection coating, waterproofing, and joint sealing solutions for the 12 sub-projects – a true cross-selling achievement. Sika Germany organized an entire team from different application fields to work on the project complex during the whole design and construction period. The Sika project management team will continue to provide full-range supplier services during the later construction phases for Berlin Brandenburg International Airport.

The winning project in the Technically Demanding category was the concrete refurbishment and strengthening of the complete Gazela Bridge in Serbia. Sika d.o.o. Beograd supplied the full range of repair applications with sound knowhow and excellent service. One person from Sika was appointed as liaison for overall technical support. 30 internal tests and 17 external approvals were needed.

More informations of the three winning projects

Harbour Bridge, Australia

<http://www.sika.com/en/group/Media/topics/topics1/harbour-bridge--sydney-.html>

Berlin Brandenburg International Airport, Germany

http://www.sika.com/en/group/Media/topics/topics1/Sika_inside_Berlin_Brandenburg_Airport.html

Gazela Bridge, Serbia

<http://www.sika.com/en/group/Media/topics/topics1/gazela-bridge--serbia.html>

Urban nature

Botanical gardens are mostly run by universities or other scientific research organizations and have associated herbaria and research programs in plant taxonomy or some other aspect of botanical science. The origin of modern botanical gardens can be traced to European medieval medicinal gardens known as physic gardens, the first of these being founded during the Italian Renaissance in the 16th century. This early concern with medicinal plants changed over the centuries to botanical gardens as cultural and scientific organizations.

Nowadays botanical gardens display a mix of documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation and public education. Furthermore, having a strong connection with the general urban public, they are in a position to provide visitors with information on the environmental issues faced at the start of the 21st century, especially those related to plant conservation, sustainability, production of marketable plant-based products, and services for the improvement of human well-being.

The Great Pavilion at the Botanical Garden in Germany's capital Berlin is one of the biggest and most modern greenhouses in the world. It was built in 1907, covers an area of about 1'750 m² and has a capacity of 40'000 m³. Over a period of three years the building underwent a complete restoration in order to maintain the historical basic structure and to reduce energy requirements by 50%. Sika Germany was the right partner for the challenging and sustainable reconstruction of the façade. 480 new façade elements and 4'800 glass elements were installed in total. In addition, solar radiation had to be regulated by special foils on the glass, and a heatable steel construction was set up in order to avoid condensation. The corrosion system also faced major challenges: from the outside it needed to be UV and weather proof as well as providing strong resistance against water and condensation at the inside. The two-component **SikaCor EG-system** for corrosion protection was therefore used to preserve and give color to more than 5'000 m² of steel façade on the inside and the outside respectively. In addition, 2'400 butt joints were closed with **Sikaflex®-11 FC***.

The landscaped gardens inside the Great Pavilion create a walkable world map, with more than 1'350 plant species transporting visitors to the tropical realms of America, Africa, Asia and the oceanic islands.





Official ceremony of the 1st Sika Academy Contest at Alfândega do Porto, in Oporto/Portugal

Students go for social responsibility

Developing a sustainable project and promoting rehabilitation schemes for different private social solidarity institutions – this was the remit of the 1st Sika Academy Contest promoted by Sika Portugal. The competition was open to advanced students of civil engineering and architecture and recently graduated students in one of these areas. The students could apply as individuals or as a group. The challenging project objective was that every participant had to propose sustainable solutions – using Sika systems – which strongly support the target of refurbishing the building of a non-profit organization that demonstrates social care and responsibility.

The lucky winner was to receive a paid nine-month internship within the TD at Sika Portugal. Almost 40 applicants handed in innovative solutions to the jury. The award committee was composed of

top professional engineers, academic representatives and the Sika Portugal Technical and Marketing Department. Regardless of who won, all rehabilitation projects were presented to all the private institutions the students worked with and so provide a possibility for future use.

The applicants associated with the winning project received Sika products for the implementation of their work. Furthermore, a partnership was set up with a specialized contractor in order to carry out the winning project at very low cost. The official ceremony of the 1st Sika Academy Contest took place at Alfândega do Porto, a characteristic building of the city of Oporto on the Atlantic coast. In this very same building **SikaFloor systems** have been in use since the 1980s. The winner of the contest, civil engineering student Joana Almeida, was chosen for her solutions to counter ascendant humidity and wall cracking in the building of Associação Nun'Álvares de Campanhã, which provides care for children and elderly people. This fruitful competition combined the encouragement of talented and ambitious students with an acceptance of social responsibility for people who are truly in need.

Our Employees

Ambitious targets



Mark Schneider
Head Corporate Product Sustainability
Sika Services AG

What is your job about?

Among other things, our interdisciplinary global networks responsible for Sika's sustainability concept and methodology for assessing and communicating product sustainability performance. In addition, we support the business units and local organisations in their efforts to derive meaningful marketing arguments and positioning from the analysis. Another important topic is to maintain an overview and continuously monitor relevant regulations, standardizations, competitive positions and developments for Sika's technologies and markets.

What fascinates you and what is your biggest motivation?

It is fascinating to see the progress we have achieved in recent years together with numerous colleagues from different areas and how sustainability becomes more and more a strategic issue. My biggest motivation is to bring the knowledge and value propositions we generate to the local organisations and establish strong links with local marketing, sales and commercial activities.

What makes Sika's business sustainable?

Sika helps their customers to achieve their own sustainability targets. Long lasting, light weight solutions with low maintenance requirements over their lifetime matching customer needs with regard to performance and durability ensure great flexibility and facilitate a resource and cost efficient management of existing and new infrastructure.

What would you change if you could change the world?

As a father, I wish I could do something so that all children have the same opportunities in life and the chance to live their ideals.





Green on top

If you were working in Mexico City between skyscrapers and a sea of densely populated stone, how would you like it if the nearest park where you could enjoy lunch in green surroundings was just 5 floors up from your office? Wouldn't breaks be more recreational up in the green rather than down on the street breathing in the sticky air while you queue for a table at an overfilled restaurant nearby?

Admittedly, green roofs serve more of a purpose for a building than merely offering recreational space for its occupants. They absorb rainwater, provide insulation and create a habitat for wildlife. Natural roofscapes also mitigate the "urban heat island effect", a phenomenon mainly caused by the modification of the land surface resulting from urban development, which uses materials that effectively retain heat. And green roofs help to lower urban air temperatures.

Green roofing systems have enjoyed a boom in Mexico over the past 3 years. This was largely driven by the Federal Government, which has implemented programs to enhance the quality of the environment in Mexico and create awareness within the construction industry and among the general population of ways to improve the quality of life and contribute to the care of the planet. But where can you find the biggest green roof in the whole of Latin America and what is its story behind it?

Beginning with programs implemented by the government which are focused directly on promoting the construction of sustainable housing through economic incentives, INFONAVIT (Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers) helps workers in the construction field to learn how to include materials and systems that contribute to reducing energy consumption and increasing solar reflection, which in turn reduces the greenhouse effect. What is more, of course, materials produced through controlled, environmentally friendly processes are to be used.

INFONAVIT itself led by example when it installed on the roof of its own corporate building a green roof system with Sika Sarnafil products, so creating a recreational area for employees on the building's roof and raising environmental awareness among them. The green construction highlights the advantages and benefits obtained by having an insulating green roof on the building which is capable of collecting rainwater and thereby plays a part in preventing saturation of the sewer system by storm water.

Covering an area of approximately 5.000 m², this green roof on top of the INFONAVIT building is currently the largest in Latin America. It was installed on a concrete deck placing first a protective geotextile, upon which the PVC waterproofing membrane Sika Sarnafil was placed. Over the PVC membrane was placed a drainage layer, which allows an easy flow of rain water. Prior to adding soil and vegetation, a layer of geotextile was laid in order to prevent the passage of fine content in the soil which could obstruct the downspouts.



Construction in progress: placing protective geotextile over the concrete deck



Becoming green: adding soil and vegetation



Montserrat likes to explore exotic things – skydiving for instance

Successful start-up

How do our youngest employees feel when they explore Sika for the first time? What are their motivations? What experiences do they take with them? We spoke to our intern Montserrat Morales at Sika Mexico in Corregidora, which lies 200 km north west of Mexico City.

How has your internship with Sika been so far?

Since doing my internship with Sika I have started to acquire more knowledge in all areas revolving round my career. It was a good decision to become a part of Sika, because it is exciting for me to learn and work here. Each day means a new experience.

Why did you choose Sika as employer?

Because Sika is considered one of the world's most recognized international companies with good quality standards. In Mexico, it was ranked 46th of "The 100 Best Companies to Work for in 2011" by the Great Place to Work Institute. I always been very interested in other cultures, and to learn and work within an international company is one of my goals. Sika has a worldwide presence and also offers many possibilities to acquire valuable knowhow and put it into practice.

How would you describe the working atmosphere at the place where you work?

Everyone is very attentive and considerate. We support each other like a big family, so it is easy to immediately feel part of it. The company also takes care of everyone: celebrating the goals reached by each department or congratulating employees on their birthdays. For me this is like a creative way of saying "we care about you" and "keep up the good work". Simple details like these make a difference to the working atmosphere and to employee performance.

What surprised you most?

I was surprised to see that despite the many people working here with busy schedules and numerous responsibilities, there is always a sense of order about everything. Each employee's commitment toward the company and the policy of monitoring the efficiency of every department are reflected in the products. And now I know why I had received recommendations from outside the company about the efficiency of Sika products and the customer service.

What will you take away with you from your time at Sika?

First, the fellowship taught me how to be part of an efficient team and how satisfactory it can be if we achieve our goals working together. Furthermore, the prestige of being able to say I worked and gained experience at Sika. Also, the Sika Experience gave me an opportunity to see how Sika companies in other parts of the world work. I'm really proud and happy to say that I am a part of all this.

What would you change in the world if you could?

Answering like a Miss Universe I would say "global peace" ... But seriously, simple details make a huge difference. I would change the way we analyze and think about some of the things around us. You can help someone who needs you or you can plant a tree. The constant wars and differences between us are because we are beginning to forget the value of things that really matter. I myself have also started to focus on the simple details. How about you?

Read more about Montserrat's experiences and adventures during her internship on her blog:

<http://experience.sika.com/2012-02/hola-mexico-sika-experience/>



Sika in use

Waterproofing of excellence

Sika now presents its latest innovation in structural waterproofing: **SikaProof® A** – a highly flexible, pre-applied, fully bonded membrane system for basement waterproofing. This innovative system is based on well-known existing technologies from Sika's construction and automotive business and so combines the expertise of both the sealant and adhesive technology and the waterproofing market.

In contrast to existing polymeric Sika membrane solutions, the special **SikaProof® A** system build-up – consisting of an embossed highly flexible polyolefin membrane, a unique grid pattern sealant and a specially designed fleece – creates a full surface mechanical bond with the hardened concrete. Due to this bonding effect in combination with the grid sealant, there is no water underflow between the concrete structure and the membrane in the case of any damage to the latter.

Another major difference compared to traditional sheet membranes is the way that the individual sheets of **SikaProof® A** are connected to each other. Instead of relying on a time-consuming hot-air welding procedure, the membrane sheets are joined using either the self-adhesive strip on the membrane or by fastening them together with specially designed self-adhesive tapes. This quick and easy system for adhering sheets is also very cost-effective as it eliminates the need for special tools and saves costs thanks to faster installation. Plus, the absence of open flames spells increased safety in application on-site. Furthermore, the tried-and-tested long-lasting polyolefin membrane provides an additional benefit for owners in the form of higher durability. This is Sika's contribution for a more sustainable world.

SikaProof® A is a high quality, easy to apply and totally cost optimized waterproofing solution for new construction and renovation works. The



system can generally be used for damp-proofing, concrete protection and waterproofing of all types of reinforced concrete basements and other below ground structures. Typical projects include residential and commercial buildings (e.g. housing developments, retail complexes, public buildings), stadiums and leisure facilities, as well as factories, warehouses and other industrial constructions.

Customized solution

Smart envelope

Sika USA announces the launch of SikaSmart™, a smarter approach to providing a single resource for integrated, compatible products and systems that produce superior protection for the building envelope. Customized building envelope strategies minimize threats to the building and help the customer to maximize the return on investment. This innovative approach provides system solutions with time tested methods and technology to completely seal the building enclosure, stop water intrusion and control air leakage with products engineered for compatibility and performance.

According to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), buildings are responsible for 39 percent of total energy consumption and account for 68 percent of electricity use. Sika has the products, technical knowledge and service network needed to fully assist designers and building owners with building envelope solutions that protect structures from deterioration and promotes sustainability.

“A building needs a high performance envelope that provides unyielding protection from the elements. SikaSmart from Sika Corporation is designed to do just that. Every portion of your

building's outer structure, from roof and exterior walls to basement, can be vulnerable to water intrusion and weathering causing wet insulation, air leakage and premature deterioration of construction materials. These problems often result in costly maintenance and repair, exorbitant energy costs, poor indoor air quality – even a shortened lifespan for your most valuable asset, the building itself.” says Gary Osmond, Sr. Marketing Manager – Building Envelope for Sika Corporation. “This is a very different approach from traditional “systems” offerings as Sika has the ability to provide a broader range of solutions for both new construction and restoration.”

Sika's commitment to their customers goes beyond quality products and an invaluable professional contractor network. Technical support is available to help ensure successful installations. Sika's highly trained group of technical representatives numbering more than 300 individuals is readily available to assist customers across North America. They help ensure complete customer satisfaction with every project – from technical information and design assistance to installation support and after project management.

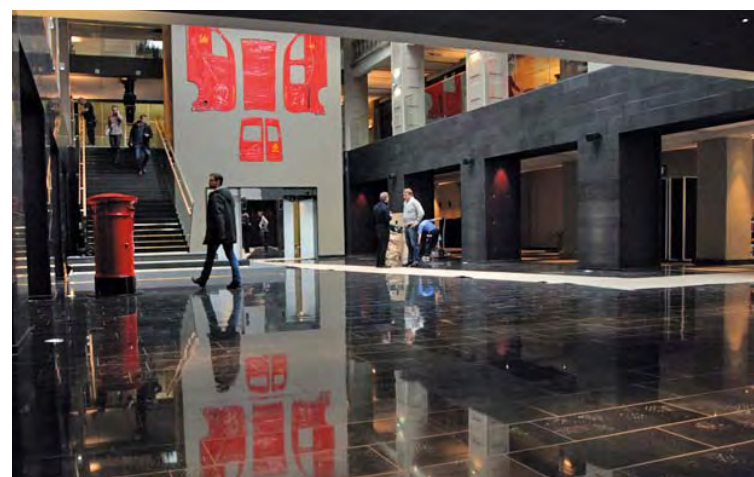


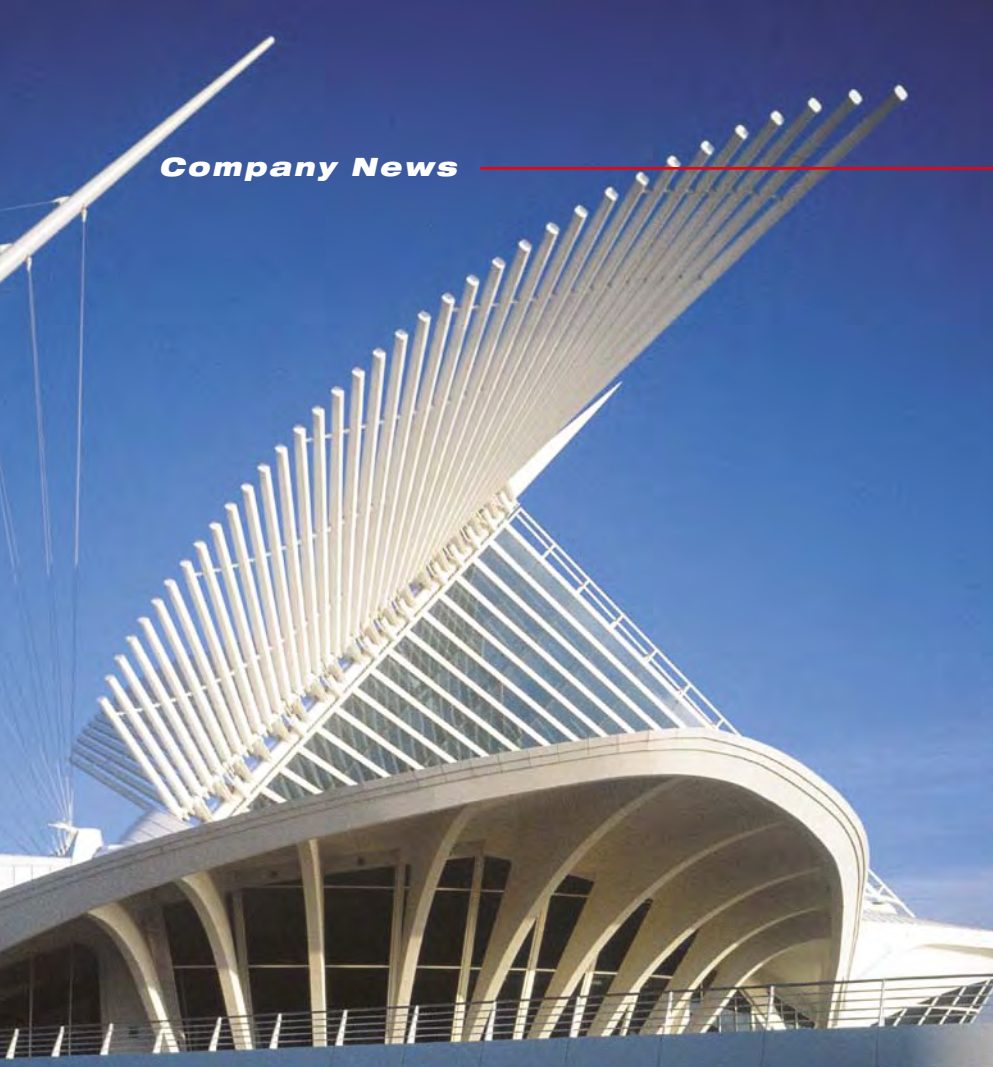


The historic and the modern go hand in hand

Built in the 1920s, the former Head Post Office of Gothenburg, which lies in the western part of Sweden, is an impressive design masterpiece! Now known as the Clarion Hotel Post, the old part of the building is a cultural monument from 1925 which was originally designed by the architect Ernst Torulf. At that time it was the second largest building in Gothenburg with a ground floor area of 6'235 m² and a total surface space of 21'846 m². With its strong historic roots, the hotel is set to become the most exciting meeting arena in the city and is well worth much more than just a quick visit or an overnight stay. The building, containing 500 hotel rooms with a rooftop sun terrace and pool overlooking the entire city, guarantees visitors breathtaking luxury, comfort and a pleasant ambience. The building's status as a protected historic monument meant that the 560 oak windows and 1'620 doors in the old part could not be altered in any way by the refurbishment. The whole property was renovated to the highest of standards and with great attention to detail. Architect Magnus Månsson found many ways to combine the historic features of the original building with a novel contemporary design in the new part. This esthetic interaction represents a perfect combination of the traditional and the modern. The old part has large rooms with big attractive oak wood windows including curved upper frames as well as magnificent high ceilings characteristic of the neo-classical style. The rooms in the modern part, however, have some wall decorations in the same 1920s style, but the large windows follow a strictly modern style without visible frames.

The aim of the project was to create a hotel that fuses the old industrial city with today's society. For the façade, segments of granite were bonded with **Sikasil SG-500** to a backbone made of Sonoboard. The bonding was produced by Skandinaviska Glassystem AB at their facilities in Lysekil. After being mounting on the building, the elements were sealed with **Sikasil WS-605 S**. For the sealing work on the interior **Sika AT Connection** was used. Due to the special requirements for bonding stone to the façade, several different tests were performed on the application, including adhesion tests, stone staining and frost resistance. In total, Sika Sweden has supplied about 2'000 liters of adhesives and 5'000 liters of sealants.





Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Wisconsin/USA

Attaining new heights in the concrete business

Sika AG recently acquired concrete admixture and cement grinding aids producer Axim, which used to be part of Italcementi Group. Based in the Northern Italian town of Bergamo, Axim generated sales of around EUR 61 million in 2010 and enjoys a solid presence in Italy, France, USA, Canada, Morocco, Spain and Egypt.

Axim has a long history of over 30 years in the market and offers a broad and innovative range of concrete admixtures, cement grinding aids and specialized chemicals, smoothing the way for new developments and technologies. The transaction enhances Sika's reputation as an innovator and improves its performance in the field of concrete and cement as well as increasing cement production efficiency.

Though Sika is already working closely with some of the largest cement and concrete producers worldwide in an array of areas from optimizing mix design to developing specialty concrete, acquiring Axim opens the opportunity to expand our cooperation with Italcementi, the 5th largest cement producer globally. The combined product portfolios of Sika and Axim provide a huge portfolio of admixtures to overcome the many challenges presented in unique architecture structures and construction works. Whether the challenge is to increase strength in concrete structures or to improve flowability and stabilize air-entraining properties, Sika's and Axim's technologies provide far-reaching possibilities for construction and architecture.

The acquisition allows Sika to significantly strengthen its market position in the relevant countries and is a major step for Sika in the process of expanding market shares in the admixture business worldwide.

Chinguacousy Skatepark, Brampton/Canada



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Sika's international newsletter to customers

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