

Dates, Registration and Travel

The first International Masonry Conference was held in November 1986 in London. This Conference series has become one of the most important international events in the masonry world and it takes place every four years.

The conference is open to professional architects and engineers, building officials, educators, researchers, students, masonry industry and masonry construction professionals, and everyone else interested in the art and science of masonry.

The objective is to make the conference the best forum for dissemination of the latest scientific and technical developments, for shaping the future of masonry within circularity, resilience, affordable housing, AI and for new ideas in emerging topics.

Travel

The Hanseatic City of Lübeck, founded in 1143, lies between Hamburg and Copenhagen. From Hamburg Central Station the train takes 50 min to Lübeck; from Hamburg Airport (HAM) it can be reached in 1.5 hrs by train (via Central Station) or 50 min by car.

Lübeck is Germany's most extensive UNESCO World Heritage site and the former queen of the Hanseatic League. Known for its exceptionally well-preserved and extensive Brick Gothic architecture, the city features numerous brick church towers—several exceeding 100 meters—and one of the highest concentrations of tall medieval church towers worldwide.

The conference venue MUK is a highly professional, well-equipped facility located downtown within walking distance of hotels and the railway station. The Baltic Sea area offers excellent opportunities for post-conference tours and vacation.



Proceedings

The papers will be published as open access in a conference proceedings volume at the start of the conference by Fraunhofer Information Center for Planning and Building IRB and will be available for free public download.

Registration

<https://muk.online-ticket.de/imc-2026>

Further Information

<https://www.masonry.org.uk/11-imc/>

Conference Fees

EUR	Early Bird	From 28.03.2026	On Site
Students	500	580	660
Regular	775	875	975

Please note that papers can only be included in the proceedings if at least one of the authors is registered. Each registration covers one presentation.

Live Demonstration: WLTR Masonry Robot

We will welcome the WLTR Masonry Robot as a very special conference participant and discuss, how mobile robotics can support the construction of resilient masonry — faster, more efficiently, and with a clear connection to the long tradition of clay brick architecture in Lübeck.

This contribution is kindly supported by Wienerberger.



International Masonry Conference

IMC 2026

July 12 to 15th, 2026

Lübeck, Germany

Programme at a Glance (Preliminary)

Version: 05 June 2026



Chair of the Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr. Birger Gigla, TH Lübeck, Germany
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Sponsors



Preliminary Programme

Please note: The schedule, thematic tracks and session assignments are preliminary. Times, topics and room allocations may be adjusted as the scientific programme develops.

Sunday, 12 July 2026 — Pre-Conference Day

Optional Tours & Welcome Reception

14:00–16:00 — Optional Guided Tours

(individual booking)

1. The Sacred Landscape
2. Lübeck's Historic Townhouses & Salt Exposure
3. Fortifications and Medieval Construction Techniques

16:00–19:00 — Registration & Welcome Reception

Meet fellow delegates, early networking, refreshments.

Day 1 — Monday, 13 July 2026

Opening Day with Extended Parallel Sessions

09:00–10:30 — Opening Ceremony & Keynotes

- Welcome addresses
Chair of the Organizing Committee
Pia Steinrücke, Senator for Economic and Social Affairs
- Opening keynote lectures:
Dr. Martin Rücker & Alexander Böttcher, Ministry of the Interior: The Future of Construction Product Reuse, Sustainable Procurement: Transforming Construction.
Prof. Inge Rörig-Dalgaard DTU Copenhagen: Status on reuse of fired clay bricks – ready for the future?
Dr. Dirk Rieger: Introduction to Lübeck's urban structure and its outstanding historic landmarks

10:30–11:00 — Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 — Parallel Sessions I (4 Tracks)

- Masonry Materials and Testing I
- Numerical Modelling I
- Structural Design
- Innovation and Sustainability of Masonry I

12:30–13:30 — Lunch

13:30–15:00 — Parallel Sessions II (4 Tracks)

- Conservation of Historic Buildings
- Novel Modelling and Experimental Techniques I
- Infill Walls
- New Construction Techniques & Technologies

15:00–15:30 — Coffee Break

15:30–17:00 — Parallel Sessions III (3 Tracks)

- Maintenance, Repair, Strengthening & Retrofitting
- Durability, Deterioration and Moisture Effects
- Earthquake Engineering and Eurocode 8 / I

18:00–23:00 — “A Vision for Masonry” (planned)

(individual booking)

Professional & Industrial Evening Keynote contributions

- Prof. Paulo B. Lourenço (Univ. do Minho) “Timeless Materials, Beyond Sustainability: A Vision for Masonry”
- Prof. Bahman Ghiassi (University of Birmingham): Generative AI Revolution for Cracking the Code in the Nonlinear Analysis and Assessment of Masonry at Scale
- T. Meysam/M. Mlynski: “Resilient and efficient: masonry construction using the WLTR mobile robot”
- Prof. Dietmar Walberg (ARGE eV) „Masonry Construction: Cost Effectiveness, Building Culture, Regional Value Creation“

Industrial partners, networking, music & refreshments.

Day 2 — Tuesday, 14 July 2026

Keynote, Extended Sessions & Evening Gala Diner

09:00–10:00 — Morning Keynote

Prof. Katrin Beyer (EPFL, Switzerland): Unreinforced Masonry: Seismically Safe and Sustainable – What are the Options?

10:00–10:30 — Coffee Break

10:30–12:30 — Parallel Sessions IV (3 Tracks)

- Brick Infrastructure
- Case Studies
- Numerical Modelling II

12:30–13:30 — Lunch

13:30–15:30 — Parallel Sessions V (4 Tracks)

- Veneer Walls and Wall Ties
- Masonry Materials and Testing II
- Innovation & Sustainability of Masonry II (incl. Resilience, Climate Change and Low-Carbon Solutions)
- Assessment, Monitoring and Performance of Existing Masonry

15:30–16:00 — Coffee Break

16:00–18:00 — RILEM and DAfM Plenary Meetings, and Student Competition (lintel testing)

19:00–23:00 — Gala Dinner (MUK Rotunda)

Festive dinner, keynote talks, welcome addresses and award ceremony music & celebration.



Day 3 — Wednesday, 15 July 2026

Keynote sessions, Final Sessions & Closing (15:30)

09:00–10:00 — Morning Keynote

Prof. Wolfram Jäger, Dresden Germany: Adobe Masonry - Learning from the Past to Shape the Future

10:00–10:15 — AI / Digitalisation, Paulo Lourenço:

Summer School on AI Tools, Report on Selected Outcomes

10:15–10:30 — 3-Minute Poster Lightning Talks

10:30–11:00 — Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 — Parallel Sessions VI (4 Tracks)

- Masonry Materials and Testing III
- Reinforced and Confined Masonry
- Architecture with Masonry
- Arches and Vaulted Structures

12:30–13:30 — Lunch

13:30–15:00 — Parallel Sessions VII (3 Tracks)

- Novel Modelling & Experimental Techniques II
- Earthquake Engineering / Eurocode 8 / II (final focus)
- Earthen Construction and Related Innovations

15:00–15:30 — Closing Ceremony

Conference reflections, acknowledgements, farewell.

Post-Conference Programme (individual booking)

16:00–19:00 — Guided Technical Excursion

“House Almost Without Heating, 2226” (bus transfer included): monolithic masonry construction, prefabrication (with integrated windows), new and innovative building concept.

(Individual custom post conference tours: See website)