

SUS TAINA BILITY

Reducing our environmental footprint is one of the key priorities for our business. In addition to believing it is the right thing to do, we are also convinced that it is essential to safeguard the continuity of our companies. That is why sustainability is well embedded in our plans and high on the agenda of the CEOs, with the credo 'do no harm, do good, do better'.



Musée Du Quai Branly (Paris, France) by Ateliers Jean Nouvel.
Made with Trespa Meteon.

This museum looks modern and new, but Parisians know it has already been sitting on the bank of the Seine for 15 years. The Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris was built on the instigation of former French president Jacques Chirac, opening its doors in 2006. Located next to the Eiffel Tower, it is home to 300,000 non-Western art works. On the exterior, it has 30 enormous boxes with Trespa cladding. The building was designed by world-famous architect Jean Nouvel.

The museum is the result of an encounter between Chirac and the collector Jacques Kerchache. The mission of the museum is to build bridges between cultures, to incite curiosity and to meet the expectations of different audiences. The building aims to represent the mission by using curved, fluid, transparent forms. Or, as Jean Nouvel puts it, 'a singular architecture for singular objects'. Perched on stilts and docked on the bank of the River Seine, it is built on five levels, similar to a long footbridge.

The 'plateau des Collections' (the permanent collections platform) presents 3,500 works following a geographical route. Each large cultural area - for instance, Oceania, Africa, Asia - is signified by a different color on the ground, creating a continuous visit across more than 5,000 square meters. On the exterior façade on the Seine side, 30 boxes show the route of the permanent collection. These suspended, multi-coloured boxes in earthy tones are made of Trespa Meteon and seem to be inlaid into the façades, offering more intimate exhibition spaces inside the museum.

At the core of our sustainability strategy is the principle that we should start with ourselves when we seek to improve the world: 'do no harm'. Our approach here is straightforward: we measure our impact, select targets to reduce this impact, and monitor and report on progress. To measure our impact, we use the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, which is regarded as the most objective tool for this purpose. LCA evaluates the entire environmental footprint of a product up to the point at which it leaves the factory. This includes the impact from products and services that were sourced from third parties, such as raw materials, energy and transport.

The second element of our strategy is to look for opportunities that support the environment beyond the direct scope of our own manufacturing footprint: 'do good'. This includes supporting our clients to meet their environmental challenges, for example, by providing products with long lifespans. Beyond that, some of our companies guarantee that after the products' long lifespans, they will be re-used in new applications. We also monitor opportunities that are less directly linked to our factories and our product portfolio. These include projects that, for example, help to reduce or absorb carbon emissions in other settings. We see such projects as effective tools to meet our environmental commitments while work on reducing our direct footprint is ongoing.

A dedicated team of sustainability specialists at Nemho – the center of excellence for innovation and technology – is supporting the companies in our group in their drive to 'do no harm' and 'do good'.

Fundamental impact

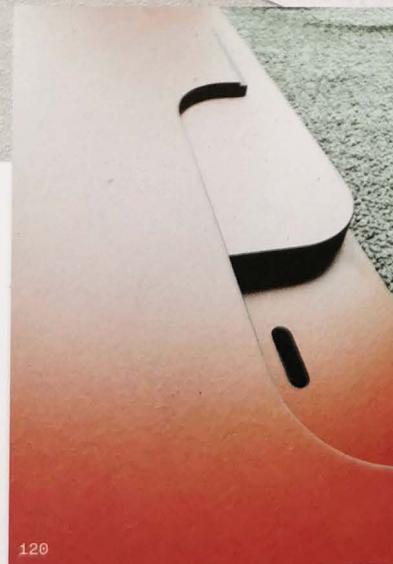
'To express the results of the LCA assessment, we use three key environmental indicators: water footprint, global warming and primary energy demand,' says Alessandra Fusi, leader of the sustainability practice at Nemho. 'By analyzing the data, we can see where and how we can improve. At Arpa, for instance, energy use per square meter of surface material has been reduced by 20 percent

and water by 48 percent. We choose projects that have a long-lasting and fundamental impact. We have, for instance, developed a lignin-based resin, resulting in our material Bloom, which contains significantly less phenol. We are working with external experts to further reduce our energy consumption by at least 20 percent over the next five years. Sustainability is an investment. It costs time and effort, but it pays off.'

Many sustainability challenges constitute good business opportunities that will allow the companies to continue to grow and 'do better'. This underlines our belief that investing in sustainability should – in the end – also be beneficial for companies to ensure that these efforts continue beyond the horizon of regulatory changes and personal considerations.

Future: plans for the next five years

Over the next five years, we plan to implement a series of projects that should further reduce our environmental impact. Through a combination of reducing the on-site footprint, substituting raw materials as well as the creation and purchase of carbon offsets, we expect to approach net carbon neutrality within a few years. Data quality remains a major priority to create accurate LCA models. Alessandra says: 'This will be in strong collaboration with our suppliers; we need their data to know what difference we make. Most of all, we will focus on resource efficiency while keeping the quality of the panels at premium level. Innovation will help us do that. Our Next Material House will further expand our technological capabilities. ●



120



119. Art object at Nemho (Weert, The Netherlands) 2020 by Van Eijk & Van der Lubbe. Made with Trespa Second Life.

Trespa Second Life

In order to stop disposing of used façade panels as waste and instead reuse them as building blocks for new applications, Trespa launched a program called Trespa Second Life. It enables owners of buildings with façade panels to participate in the creation of smaller pieces after disassembly – for example, furniture or playground elements. This enables them to leverage the remaining constructive functionality and aesthetic value of the panels.

Van Eijk & Van der Lubbe – experts in concept development, product and spatial design – created an art object that can be found at Nemho in Weert, the Netherlands. By giving the used panels a second life, they created a durable piece of furniture with a flexible identity. The colorful mix was created with available material, and the design sparks ideas and insights about the reuse of high-quality material with lifelong value.

120. Detail from art object at Nemho (Weert, The Netherlands) 2020 by Van Eijk & Van der Lubbe. Made with Trespa Second Life.

WHAT WE TOUCH, TOUCHES US

OUR MATERIALS ARE MADE, SOLD AND APPLIED. THIS IS HOW PEOPLE AND MATERIAL INTERACT.

Irmak Akal

Sustainability Analyst at Nemho, Center of Excellence on Innovation, the Netherlands

When discussing sustainability, there is a lot of emotion at play. We see images of dolphins, polar bears, rainforests. 'For me, real sustainability starts with measuring and monitoring. If you don't know the actual numbers, there is no passage to impact. Then it's just words and images.' says Irmak Akal, who started as a sustainability analyst at Nemho recently after completing her traineeship with the group.

Nemho's fact-based approach to sustainability was one of the main reasons she went for the job. 'My work is highly data-driven: we measure the life cycle of our products, starting with the raw materials coming from our suppliers. Only with high-quality data can you start to make changes in the manufacturing process. At every step, we analyze how we can improve, for instance by developing bio-resins.' When you start looking at products' entire life cycles, it also matters how long they last. Irmak says: 'We manufacture durable, high-quality products, which is very important to me. Longevity is a form of sustainability that is often overlooked, but it makes a big difference.'

In her day-to-day work, Irmak analyzes the life cycles of products of Trespa, FENIX and Westag. She explains that sustainability is part of the business planning of each individual company, making it a factor that cannot be put aside. Irmak also assesses new innovation projects on their environmental footprints, comparing them with current scenarios. 'When making decisions on new business plans, sustainability is a decisive factor. It shows that sustainability truly is a core value.' ●



'Longevity is a form of sustainability that is often overlooked'