

**Werner Sobek: We have to be more radical**

In my first abstract I stated that "in order to be truly sustainable, we have to be more radical". Reflecting on the very good and intense discussions we had at the Holcim Roundtable, I consider this statement to be still as relevant as before (if not even more so). We have to build our houses in such a way as to make them Triple Zero - zero energy, zero emissions, zero waste. And we have to make them breathtakingly attractive and exciting. Given all we can already achieve with the means presently at our disposal, there is no excuse whatsoever for building houses which are not at least energy-neutral. We do know how to make our walls and façade systems highly efficient (while also providing excellent thermal and visual comfort for the user). And we do know how to design equally efficient mechanical engineering systems. Thus we can build houses that produce at least 100 per cent of their energy needs from renewable sources. Implementing the Aktivhaus technology - i.e. using self-learning, predictive energy management systems that can react to changing conditions on the outside and on the inside - will lead to a further revolution of our built environment. Projects such as B10 in Stuttgart give a glimpse of what can be achieved in the near future: houses which produce enough energy for themselves and for their neighbors. And which offer efficiency, comfort, and transparency at the same time. Sustainability becomes visible and comprehensible - a vital prerequisite for winning people's hearts and minds, and thus also for implementing sustainability on a broad basis.



B10 House, Werner Sobek, 2013-2014 (copyright: Zooey Braun, Stuttgart, Germany).