

## Preface

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## Preface

*Challenging Glass* celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> edition in the beautiful city of Ghent, Belgium. After successful conferences in Delft and Lausanne, world class designers, engineers, researchers and industrial partners once again gather to discuss the advances in structural glass design and engineering. This year, *Challenging Glass* is proud to be working with the Springer journal *Glass Structures & Engineering*. 20 Papers submitted to the conference have been selected for publication in the journal's Challenging Glass special issue following a separate, double-blind peer review and correction process.

The proceedings of this year's event are published differently than before. All papers are published digitally on USB-stick provided to all conference participants, as separate files accessible through an index file with hyperlinks. Additionally, the papers not incorporated in *Glass Structures & Engineering*, are collected in one PDF proceedings document. Furthermore, all papers are accessible through the conference smart phone app. Although a hard cover printed proceedings presents a certain tangible quality, the conference organisers expect the current digital format to better meet the contemporary requirements of the participants.

Together, the proceedings contain well over 80 peer-reviewed papers, published by more than 200 authors from 17 different countries. They provide a profound state-of-the-art in structural glass design and engineering. The papers are divided over 11 subthemes, which address multiple scale levels ranging from glass material strength to high-end glass applications in structures and façades. Moreover, a preview of the 4 conference keynote presentations is provided, sparking further inspiration and reflection.

Organising this conference and editing the conference proceedings has once again been an agreeable experience. We would like to acknowledge all authors for their contributions, all scientific committee members for their valuable comments, our esteemed keynote speakers for their inspiring presentations and of course all conference participants for their interest in this event. We are grateful to our platinum sponsor Saint-Gobain, as well as our gold and silver sponsors for making this event possible. In addition, we would like to thank our hosting institution, the Laboratory for Research on Structural Models of Ghent University, which has turned out notable research in the field of structural glass for more than a decade, and thus belongs to the natural habitat of *Challenging Glass*.

We wish you an enjoyable conference and we trust you will encounter inspiring publications in these proceedings.

Jan Belis, Freek Bos & Christian Louter  
Conference Organisers  
June 2016

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