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Reflection of the SIA building in
the water of the Schanzengraben
canal, Zurich
(photo: Jules Spinatsch)

CIRCUMSPECTION

Sustainability means that the present generation satisfies its needs in a way that does not hinder future generations from doing likewise. The key to this lies in the willingness and readiness to engage in holistic, networked or indeed circumspect thought and action. Because actual sustainability requires solutions that venture away from a purely technical and ecological approach. It requires us to be open to approaches which take account of social and economic factors as well as of issues of energy or climate. It requires solutions that also strive for cultural and artistic quality.

Yet the second edition of "Umsicht—Regards—Sguardi", the Award of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) for sustainable design of the living environment, also shows once again that sustainability needs courageous minds: people who consistently break away from familiar patterns of thought and action. It needs qualified professionals with inquiring minds and pioneering spirit who engage creatively and tenaciously with other specialist fields to take their ideas further than the situation seems at first to require. The following pages show the potential results of such an approach.

My sincere thanks go to the architects and engineers, not to mention all the other "explorers" and "pioneers" behind the projects awarded and recognised here. But my thanks also go to all the other project designers who took the trouble to submit their works and, not least, to all those whose great dedication and commitment have helped to make "Umsicht—Regards—Sguardi" a success once again.

Daniel Kündig, architect and president of the SIA