



ICCA Association Success Story

Digital Built Environment Institute

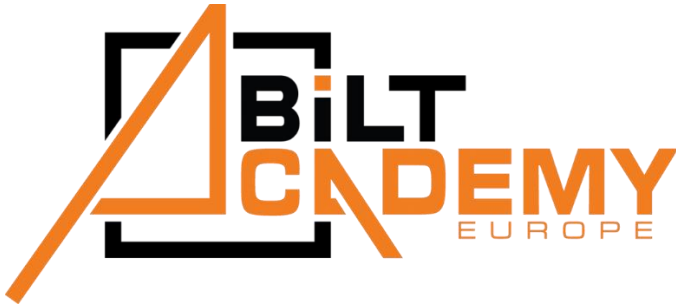


ICCA

Describe the project/initiative and its objectives

The BILT Academy strives to unite the building industry throughout all disciplines, by sharing knowledge with future AECO/FM experts through podcasts and an annual one-day summit. The BILT Academy main goal is to achieve a trusted platform of students, lecturers, experts, industry bodies, futurists and technologists alike. The BILT Academy bridges the gap between the industry and academia, between research and industry appliance. Between theory and in the field core knowledge and practices.

[About Academy – BILT Academy](#)



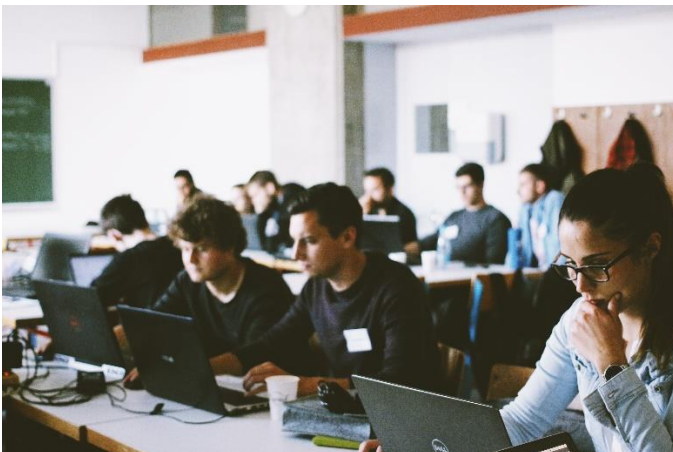
How was the project realized

In 2017 under the guidance of Silvia Taurer, a team of dedicated students assembled to create BILT Academy's own identity, its mission and vision and to prepare for its very first student summit in 2018 on the premise of the Polytechnical University of Ljubljana. International experts volunteered to share their knowledge with the next generation of the building industry. The Polytechnical University of Ljubljana assisted in providing free access to rooms within their facility. In 2019, we opted to collaborate closely with the New College Lanarkshire in Motherwell Scotland not only to tailor the program, facilitating lecturing Labs along with international experts, but also collaborating with students of the catering school on the same premise to create BILT Academy Summit program breaks, lunches and networking services for the entire day. With the pandemic hitting world-wide, the BILT Academy opted to spread its knowledge internationally and in the convenience of listening in at leisure by starting a Podcast in May 2020. The podcast publishes monthly with each episode being filled with news, insights and knowledge from within and around the building industry – touching base on the academic, scientific, BIM and technology related topics. Each episode is thoughtfully curated based on the topic of our BILT Academy correspondents (students) via research and industry expert interviews.

[Summit 2018 – BILT Academy](#)

[Summit 2019 – BILT Academy](#)

[The BILT Academy Podcast – BILT Academy](#)



Where there any innovative approaches taken

1. The BILT Academy is a “for students by students” initiative.
2. The BILT Academy is run by dedicated students within the built environment with support of building industry practitioners.
3. Event management and content shaping (podcast and summit) is done by the BILT Academy team, under guidance of Silvia Taurer.
4. Training programs to each summit are state-of-the art in terms of work methodologies, technologies, best practice.
5. Summit speakers (mentors) are exclusively international building industry experts throughout all disciplines within the built environment volunteering their knowledge to the next generation.

What were the challenges faced along the way and how were they dealt with

1. Lack of interdisciplinarity in University curricula.

European Universities in the fields of the built environment often lack interdisciplinary educational curricula. Instead of creating a domain overlapping and interdisciplinary work approach, a silo thinking is often fostered. By sharing international expert knowledge, it becomes apparent to students that there is a divide between academic curriculum and in-the field practice. International experts, from academia and practitioners, share their perspectives and provide collaborative working methods for the students at the event.

2. Technology accessibility and best practice application.

Although many built environment-related technologies offer students free licenses, students do not have complete oversight of the technologies commonly used throughout the disciplines, its applications and benefits. BILT Academy summit seeks to overcome these challenges by introducing each year various hands-on workshops (a 3X75min). The addressed technologies derive from practice, such as Visual Programming, Reality Capturing and Laser Scanning, and Building Information Modelling. Moreover, advanced technologies, such as Artificial intelligence and Machine Learning are becoming more focus in academia, that are yet to be implemented in practice.

3. Long and short term supporters and sponsors.

Whether financial or intellectual, it is challenging to establish a network of ambitious people, who contribute out of a passion to the industry. Building practitioners do not necessarily see an immediate return to investing in the next generations. For instance, no immediate turnover in selling technology licenses or other related products. In 2019, we experienced great commitment from a locally run initiative in Scotland. Companies sponsored the attendance registration for students.

4. Local University collaborations.

BILT Academy is a non-profit organisation that relies on support from university facilities. Unexpected cancellations can cause challenges to rearrange events last minute. For example, in 2018, the BILT Academy Summit venue cancelled two weeks prior to the event. This asked a quick reaction by the local PTU Ljubljana volunteering to host our event on such short notice.

5. Socio-demographics variety challenges communication.

Various cultural backgrounds and language barriers led to this year`s BILT Academy Summit 2022, at the Universitat Politecnica de Valencia (UPV), being organised entirely in Spanish, which entailed considerable additional work for the mentors. Moreover, partially limited accessibility to technology, such as computers, leads to challenges for students to follow our policy "bring your own device (BYOD)" when attending the summit.

What were the results/achievements

1. Network of international speakers dedicated to share their knowledge with the next generation of the building industry
2. Emerging network of dedicated academics throughout Europe
3. BILT Academy Podcast achieved international downloads
4. BILT Academy goes international, holding its first event at the Gold Coast in Australia end of 2022

What was the wider impact for the association

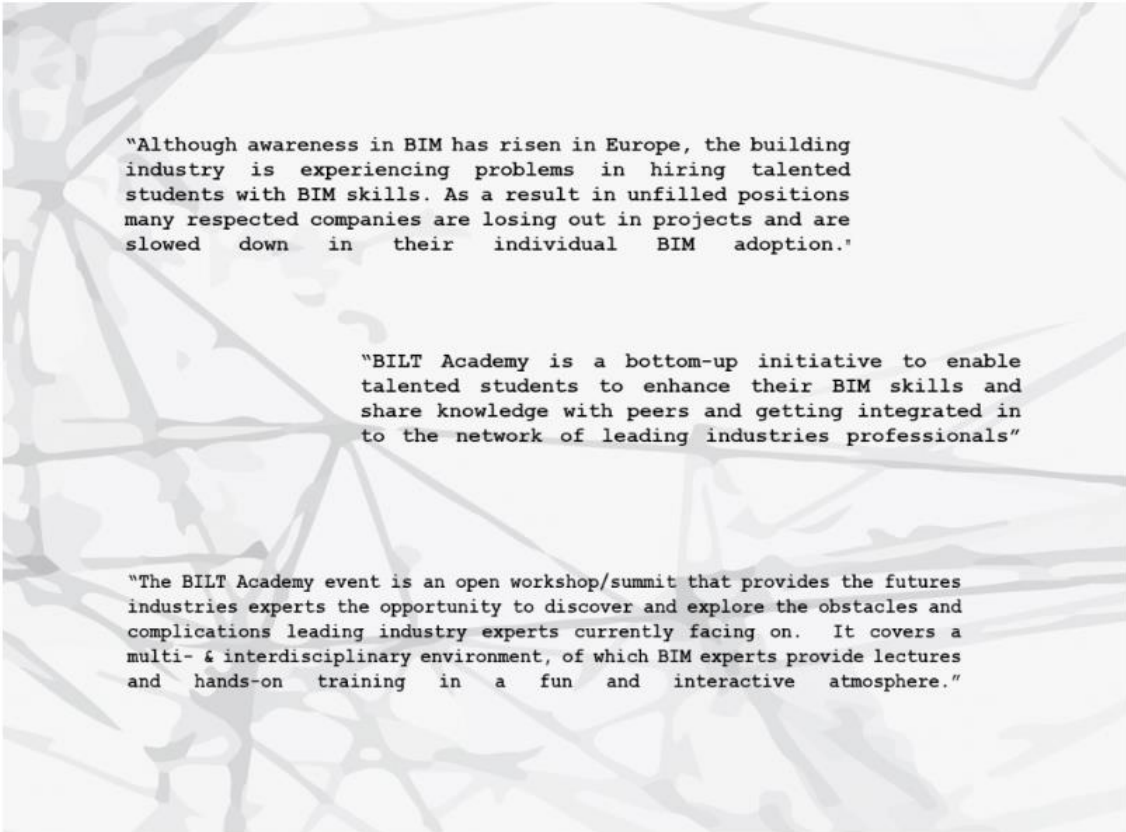
The initiative was overwhelmingly embraced by the BILT Community, with many willing to contribute their expert knowledge for free.

The Association community felt - with the initiative being raised, that many discrepancies between Academia and in the field practice are visored and monitored and step by step, little by little addressed.

What would you do differently

Creating an embodied incentive system for students, volunteering within the BILT Academy or participating at a Summit. We are addressing this with dedicated faculties to see if study points (ECTS) can be appointed when attending or contributing to our initiative.

Feedback/testimonials

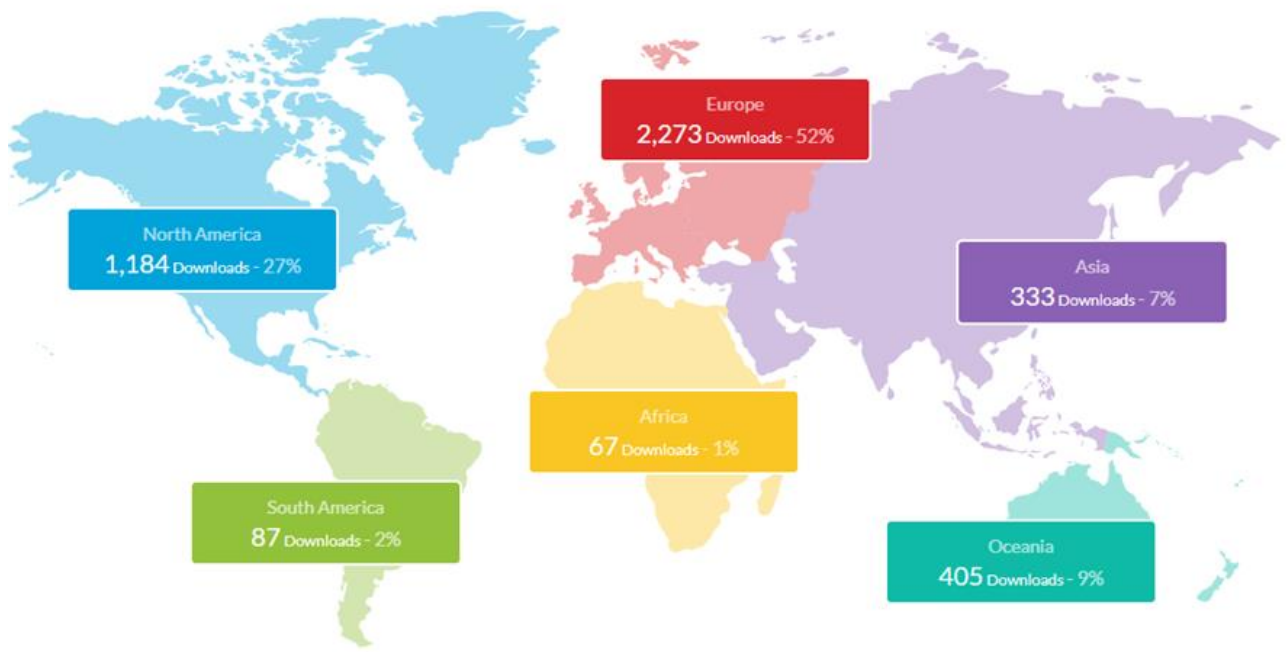
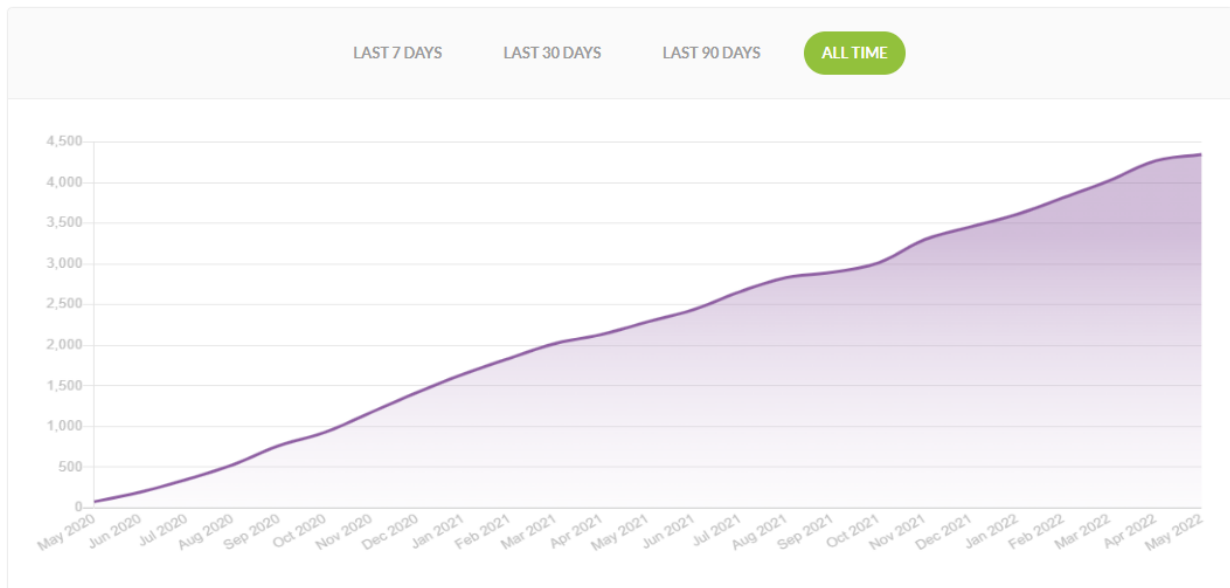


"Although awareness in BIM has risen in Europe, the building industry is experiencing problems in hiring talented students with BIM skills. As a result in unfilled positions many respected companies are losing out in projects and are slowed down in their individual BIM adoption."

"BILT Academy is a bottom-up initiative to enable talented students to enhance their BIM skills and share knowledge with peers and getting integrated in to the network of leading industries professionals"

"The BILT Academy event is an open workshop/summit that provides the futures industries experts the opportunity to discover and explore the obstacles and complications leading industry experts currently facing on. It covers a multi- & interdisciplinary environment, of which BIM experts provide lectures and hands-on training in a fun and interactive atmosphere."

4,349 downloads since published.



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