



28 April 2015

## **How can we rethink daylight conditions in our homes, workplaces and public spaces?**

***On 2-3 September 2015, researchers, architects and other building professionals will meet in London for the 6<sup>th</sup> VELUX Daylight Symposium. The Symposium will explore the potential of daylight to drive change in the way we think and design living environments. Registration for the Symposium is open until 31 July.***

Gathering an international community of researchers, practitioners and legislators to debate the vital role of daylight in buildings and people's lives, the 6th VELUX Daylight Symposium takes on the challenges faced by today's 24/7 society. The topics of the 2015 Symposium range from 'daylight and life in the cities' to 'daylighting design and practice' and 'how daylight affects human health, well-being and learning capabilities'.

"We arrange The Daylight Symposium every second year as part of our commitment to advance the role of daylight and indoor climate quality in order to improve human health and well-being inside buildings. Since the first Daylight Symposium in 2005, we have seen the Symposium grow into a leading international forum for sharing of daylight research and practices. We look very much forward to this 6th international gathering, and we are happy to be able to present new research, experiences and viewpoints from research, engineering and architectural practice at the 2015 London Symposium," says Per Arnold Andersen, Head of the VELUX Group Knowledge Centre for Daylight, Energy and Indoor Climate.

The Symposium speakers include world famous artist Olafur Eliasson, renowned for his works of art engaging the broader public sphere and chairman of Natural Light student competition for design of a solar lamp; Professor Koen Steemers from Cambridge University, who will present his most recent research on the interaction between sustainable architecture and human well-being; from the University of California, Professor Henrik Wann Jensen will present his leading edge daylight simulation in computer graphics and modelling; and American writer and thinker Paul Bogard will challenge dogmas of day and night, light and darkness.

Besides presentations with daylight as a driver of change as the common denominator, the networking and knowledge sharing between the expected 350 participants is an important part of the Symposium, which will take place at the Tobacco Dock in London.

The number of participants is limited to 350, and registration for the Symposium is open until 31 July on a first come, first served basis.



**One-day VELUX Daylight Academic Forum precedes Symposium**

The Daylight Symposium is preceded by a one-day Academic Forum for PhD students in the field of daylight.

“The aim of the Academic Forum is to stimulate and encourage quality of daylight research. We therefore invite PhD students to share their current research projects with an interdisciplinary panel of fellow students and researchers in mutual inspirational and learning sessions prior to the Daylight Symposium,” says Per Arnold Andersen. 10 PhD students have so far signed up for the Daylight Academic Forum.

**Natural Light prize winner presents winning project**

As a special event at the 2015 Symposium, the prize winner of the Natural Light competition will present the prize winning concept for design of a solar lamp. Little Sun (founded by Olafur Eliasson) and the VELUX Group launched the Natural Light design competition in order to encourage design students to produce creative solutions for sustainable energy and light supplies in off-grid regions.

For more information about the Natural Light design competition go to: [www.naturallight.org](http://www.naturallight.org)

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**About the VELUX Group**

The VELUX Group creates better living environments with daylight and fresh air through the roof. The VELUX product programme contains a wide range of roof windows and skylights, along with solutions for flat roofs. The Group also supplies many types of decoration and sun screening, roller shutters, installation products, and products for remote control. The VELUX Group, which has manufacturing companies in 11 countries and sales companies in just under 40 countries, represents one of the strongest brands in the global building materials sector and its products are sold in most parts of the world. The VELUX Group has about 10,000 employees and is owned by VKR Holding A/S, a limited company wholly owned by foundations and family. For more details, visit [www.velux.com](http://www.velux.com).

**Facts about the Daylight Symposium 2015**

The 6th VELUX Daylight Symposium takes place at Tobacco Dock in London, 2-3 September 2015.

The Symposium is open to researchers, practitioners, educators, legislators, media and other stakeholders in the field of daylight research and daylighting design. Participation requires registration before 31 July on a first come, first served basis. The attendance fee is 400 euro; for students 200 euro.

Register here: [www.thedaylightsite.com/symposium/2015-2/registration](http://www.thedaylightsite.com/symposium/2015-2/registration)

The 2015 Symposium is a part of the International Year of Light (IYL) programme. IYL is proclaimed by the UN General Assembly and shares the agenda to raise global awareness about how light promotes sustainable development and solutions to global challenges in energy, education and health. IYL is sponsored by the VELUX Group.



The overarching theme of the 2015 Symposium is "Daylight as a driver of change". Under this heading, researchers and practitioners will shed new light on topics such as:

- Daylight in the urban context
- Architecture for health and well-being
- Daylight simulation and modelling
- Daylight and learning capabilities

**Among the confirmed speakers are:**

- Koen Steemers, Professor Sustainable Design, Department of Architecture, Cambridge University
- Paul Bogard, Author of 'The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light'; Assistant Professor at James Madison University, Virginia
- Marilyne Andersen, Professor Sustainable Construction Technologies and Dean of the School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering of EPFL, Switzerland
- Henrik Wann Jensen, Professor Computer Graphics Laboratory at University of California
- Olafur Eliasson, Danish-Icelandic artist known for sculptures and large-scale installation art employing elemental materials such as light, water and temperature. Co-founder of social business 'Little Sun'.

For more information about the speakers, go to [thedaylightsite.com](http://thedaylightsite.com) where you can also follow the development of the full Symposium programme.

The first VELUX Daylight Symposium took place in 2005. Since then, it has been held every two years. Each Symposium focuses on a specific research theme – e.g. daylighting tools, daylight education, daylight and health, daylight and energy saving, and daylight in existing buildings.