

# My Vampire Pad in Frankfurt and the Youngest LEED AP in Germany

Published on 17 Apr 2012

Written by [Jennivine Kwan](#)

Posted in [LEED](#)

[t](#) [f](#) [in](#)



Old town Frankfurt: Who would guess it's hiding my all-black hotel?

My time in Frankfurt had a rather interesting start.

For those of you who haven't been there, at first glance, Frankfurt is a very conservative, very straight-laced, finance-focused town. So, it came as quite a pleasant juxtaposition that my home base in Frankfurt was a cool boutique hotel that I can only describe as a trendy vampire pad...with a bird fetish.

Imagine walking in from a bright, cold day to a hotel lobby - in fact, an entire hotel - that is black and shiny. Black floors, black mirrored walls, black gauze curtains. The only spots of color in the hotel were the dark purple touches, and, oh - the headless swan chairs in the lobby. My perception of Frankfurt was changed within 30 minutes of my arrival, and the hotel paved the way for even more unexpected surprises.

The next day, I left my vampire pad to meet with a group of LEED Professionals in what I thought was a pre-determined and confirmed location. As with all of the best laid plans, I did not count on the room reservation being lost and having to resort to using my non-existent German to explain to the confused receptionist why I suddenly had a group of 15 German LEED professionals crowding up her reception area. As one of the LEED APs kindly took pity on me and stepped in to translate, I was pleased to find that the German LEED professionals I was meeting with were all good sports, not to mention huge LEED advocates. So much so, in fact, that one of them, so as not to miss the opportunity to finally get to meet other LEED professionals, brought her baby son with her to the meeting.

That baby is now, in my mind, the youngest LEED AP in Germany, and meeting him was one of the most pleasant experiences of my time there. Not only because babies are cute and he was cute, but because I so appreciated the determination of his mother to learn more and get involved that she took her baby along in order to do so. I imagine that bringing children of under a year old to business meetings is not the norm in Germany. By doing so, she demonstrated the kind of flexible, innovative, focused determination that I find so often (and appealing) in those passionate about green buildings. What I found even more refreshing was the reaction of the other LEED professionals at the meeting. Although our youngest future LEED AP got a little cranky near the end - who can blame him - no one displayed the least amount of censure or displeasure that he was in the room, but rather were glad that his mom took the initiative to join us.

I have very pleasant memories of Frankfurt and can only hope that our youngest LEED AP will grow up in a world significantly different (in a positive way) than ours today, because of the legacy that we will leave him. And if any of you are interested in finding out more about my vamp hotel, you can drop me a line.

## Related Articles

**Bank of America and USGBC can help with affordable, quality housing**

**Bank of America and USGBC can help with affordable, quality housing**

## Bank of America and USGBC can help with affordable, quality housing

USGBC Articles can be accessed in the USGBC app for iOS or Android on your iPhone, iPad or Android device.



1 comment

[Leave a comment](#)



**Jennivine Kwan**

Vice President, International, U.S. Green Building Council

2 years 31 weeks ago

For all of you who might be interested, that meeting I described last year truly was the start of something impactful in Germany. From the core group that was there that day, emerged the German Green Building Association e.v. (GGBA), a legally registered non-profit organization in Germany, comprised of LEED professionals and run entirely by volunteers. I am choosing to update this blog post today, because I am sitting here in my living room on a cold blustery DC winter day, staring at my Christmas tree and hanging on one of the branches of my tree, fondly named Fronds Ferdinand II (Fronds Ferdinand I, being my tree last year) is a little red felt heart with the words "Made in Bavaria" on it given to me by a friend from GGBA. The words strike me as very fitting, considering GGBA, because of their passion for LEED, is helping us precisely to achieve our vision of a centralized nervous system and distributed intelligence for LEED by making parts of LEED "Made in Bavaria, Made in Germany, Made in DACH". This group joined the LEED International Roundtable in fall of 2012 and since then has been the voice of Germany on LEED technical issues, assisting the USGBC to make LEED even more applicable in the region. What is even more admirable is that these hard-working and dedicated folks of the GGBA most recently approached us with the idea to expand the impact of LEED in the DACH region (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), by introducing a new partner organization in Switzerland. Drawing on the strengths and resources of each, these groups will be able to contribute even more to the growth of LEED in the region. Who would have thought that a meeting with such chaotic beginnings as the meeting last year, could reap such fruit in so short a time.

Leave a comment

Don't have an account? [Create one](#)

You must be signed in to leave a comment.

Email

Password

**SIGN IN**