



## DLA Annual Conference 2021 **Thursday, 2 December 2021, online** Report

Bringing daylight research under one roof is the ambition of the Daylight Academy (DLA) and could be a slogan for its newly initiated project “DLA House”. This figurative house is meant to be virtual and an interactive platform to showcase knowledge related to natural light in its diversity of perspectives. The platform also aims to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration within the Academy. The DLA Annual Conference 2021 was dedicated to this project and its development and was attended by over 80 participants. And because inspiration comes from the encounter of different viewpoints, a wide variety of speakers shared how they address daylight in their work.

The conference “Daylight research under one roof - The power of collaboration” was initially planned as a two-day hybrid event (in person at the [Empa Dübendorf](#), near Zurich, and online). Sadly, due to a sudden tightening of Covid-related measures in Switzerland, we were forced to cancel the face-to-face meeting and readjust the online programme at short notice (see updated programme on page 5). Except the fact that the workshops planned for the second day had to be postponed, the focus on the DLA House project and the content remained the same.

### **Keynote speeches**

Our three keynote speakers shared very diverse perspectives on daylight and delivered excellent talks despite the last-minute shift towards the virtual format. The sound recordings combined to the presentation slides are now available:



**Dr Elisabeth Janssen**, Department of Environmental Chemistry, Eawag Dübendorf, Switzerland

How daylight impacts the chemistry in aquatic environments

[See video](#) (sound recording with slides)



**Dr Simon Carter**, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, The Open University, UK

The sun & us: a historical sociology perspective on our relationship with sunlight

[See video](#) (sound recording with slides)



**Dr Michal Ganobjak**, Laboratory for Building Energy Materials and Components, Dübendorf, Switzerland

Let's build translucent walls!

[See video](#) (sound recording with slides)

## Virtual marketplace of running DLA projects

The Annual Conference is also always an opportunity to learn more about ongoing DLA projects. At this edition, the exchange between the working groups and the conference participants was planned in the form of a marketplace. To recreate this in an online format, participants were invited to meet the project leaders in different virtual rooms and were free to move from one "stand" to another. This could not entirely replace the interactions that would have taken place in person, but allowed interesting discussions, networking, and valuable feedbacks for the project leaders. The following projects were presented in this context:

- [The role of daylight for humans](#) (led by Dr Mirjam Münch and Prof. Manuel Spitschan)
- [Daylight and green cities](#) (led by Dr Bruno Bueno, Prof. Christoph Kueffer, and Dr Carlo Volf)
- [Educational package on daylight](#) (led by Prof. Steven Brown)
- [A room with a view](#) (led by Prof. Barbara Matusiak)
- [Can daylight protect children from myopia?](#) (led by Dr Mariëlle Aarts and Dr Richard Hobday)
- [Daylight Ambassadors](#) (led by Dr Oliver Stefani)
- [Light-dosimeter](#) (project of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts)

## DLA House project

The newly initiated DLA House project was at the heart of the conference. Having many DLA members and further experts together was a perfect opportunity to test the relevance of the concept, confirm the interest for this platform, and get essential inputs for the next steps.

As described above, the project aims to develop a virtual platform showing on the one hand the different aspects of daylight research and the interconnections between topics and disciplines and facilitating on the other hand the collaboration between experts:



### Communication platform (public)

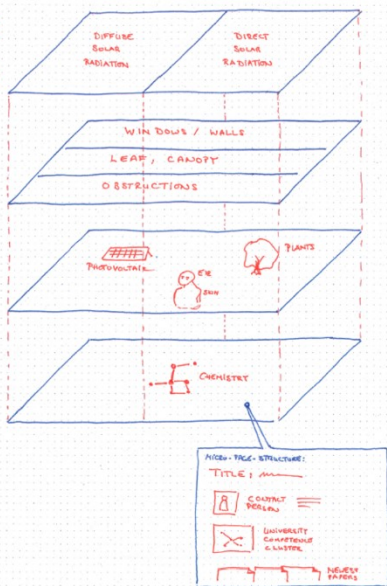
- Showcase the many aspects of daylight research and the interactions between fields and disciplines
- Present DLA projects
- Inform and create awareness of the importance of daylight

### Collaboration platform (for researchers)

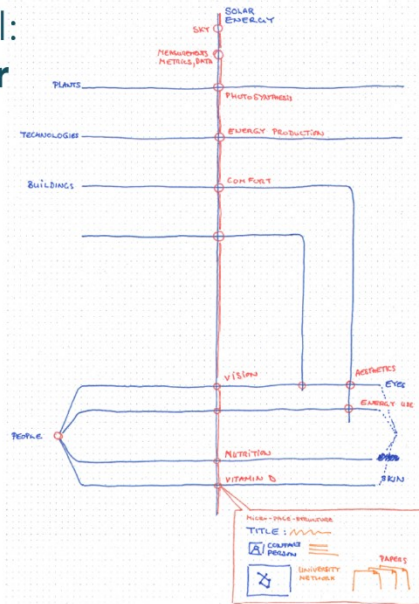
- Platform to share documents and data
- Tools and methods for collaboration
- Virtual meeting rooms
- Common frame for metrics and measurements
- ...

Different thematic groups are already involved in the project and one of them, the group "Daylight metrics, measurements, and data" (led by Prof. Brian Norton), has started a collaboration with Darjan Hil from the graphic design studio [Superdot](#). Four potential visualisations have emerged from this collaboration:

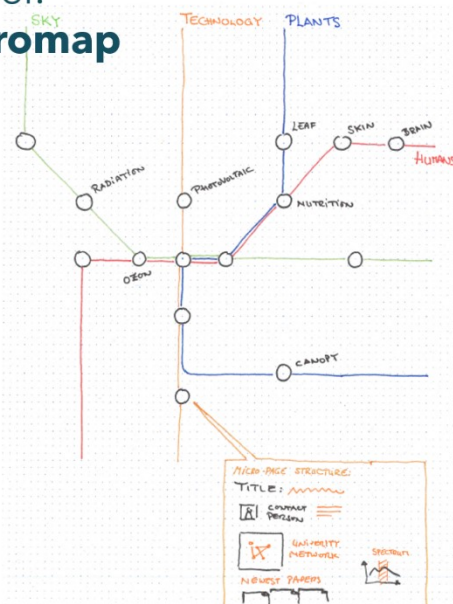
### Model: Layers



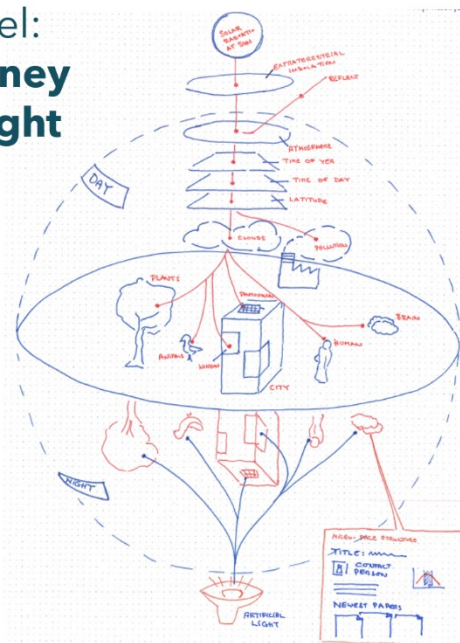
### Model: Linear



### Model: Metromap



### Model: Journey of Light



The conference ended with group discussions and an open forum about the DLA House project. The motivation and interest regarding the project were palpable and both the communication and collaboration functions of the future platform seem to meet needs in the daylight community.

This was confirmed by a survey conducted just after the conference: 87% of the respondents stated that they would like to contribute to the development of the platform and would use the collaboration tool planned on it. According to their comments, respondents are motivated to give their feedback on the development and particularly interested in the aspects of knowledge transfer, knowledge mapping and science communication. People who participated for the first time expressed a desire to get more involved in the discussion that had been started. Respondents also felt that the collaboration tool was an indispensable idea and that they would definitely use it. In their opinion, it would be best suited for people who want to collaborate on specific projects or get in touch with experts. Finally, the participants hope that the platform will create new ways of (better) collaboration.

### **Voting results**

At the end of the conference, participants were invited to “vote” for their favourite model/visualisation and to indicate which would be the most important functions the collaboration tool should provide. Here are the results:

Models/visualisations (35 votes in total):

1. A combination of the models “Journey of Light” and “Metromap”: 12 votes
2. Metromap: 10 votes
3. Journey of Light: 9 votes
4. A combination of the models “Layers” and “Metromap”: 4 votes

Most important functions the collaboration tool should provide:

1. Matchmaking / find each other’s affinity / find the right person for the right question
2. Interaction between working groups / support the work between on-site meetings
3. Support new collaboration
4. Discussion forum
5. Get to know networks / members / groups

Based on these valuable feedbacks and inputs, the working groups together with the graphic designer and the office will further develop the project and explore the best options and solutions to build a functional, attractive, and innovative platform. **Anyone interested in joining the project and/or supporting its development in any way is very welcome to contact the DLA office ([office@daylight.academy](mailto:office@daylight.academy)).**

## Updated programme of the DLA Annual Conference 2021

Moderation: Prof. **Burkhard König**, Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Regensburg, Germany

13:00	<b>Welcome note</b> By <b>Dr Peter Richner</b> , Deputy Director of Empa, Dübendorf, Switzerland
13:10	<b>Updates about the DLA House project</b>
13:40	<b>Virtual marketplace of running DLA projects</b>
14:30	<b>How daylight impacts the chemistry in aquatic environments</b> Keynote by <b>Dr Elisabeth Janssen</b> , Department of Environmental Chemistry, Eawag Dübendorf, Switzerland
14:50	<b>The sun &amp; us: a historical sociology perspective on our relationship with sunlight</b> Keynote by <b>Dr Simon Carter</b> , Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, The Open University, UK
15:10	BREAK Free networking
15:30	<b>Let's build translucent walls!</b> Keynote by <b>Dr Michal Ganobjak</b> , Laboratory for Building Energy Materials and Components, Dübendorf, Switzerland
15:50	<b>Building together the DLA House:</b> group discussions and open forum
17:00	The end

Times in CET