

## Green Roof Competence Center at Cities Alive Conference and NightLife event at the California Academy of Science



California Academy of Science (Picture: Magdalena Mioduszewska)



**From October 23 to 26, 2013, the Green Roof Competence Center of the ZHAW had the pleasure to participate in Cities Alive 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference as well as the NightLife event, which took place in San Francisco. Thanks to the Swissnex San Francisco initiative, which helped our group not only with organizing the trip but also by financially supporting our travel, we were able to present collective research from the ZHAW with respect to biodiversity on roofs.**

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The Cities Alive 2013 Conference ([www.cities-alive.org](http://www.cities-alive.org)), with this year's theme «Securing Urban Resiliency with Living Architecture», focused

on urban resilience. As extreme weather events are likely to occur, we are obligated to take the necessary steps in the direction of higher urban resilience. Participants had opportunity to look at connections between green roofs and walls in urban areas with respect to critical social, environmental and economic necessities that make needed changes possible. The conference program included 2 days of very intensive panel sessions pertaining to research, design and policy. And the presence of many interesting personalities who have a very high influence on green roof markets and policies all over the world and/or in the United States, made this event even more exciting. During the conference, our group had the pleasure to be part of a biodiversity panel. Presentations of our group considered green roofs as a potential space to recreate habitats for animal and plant species in urban areas.

NightLife at the California Academy of Science ([www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife](http://www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife)) is a weekly event on every Thursday between 6 pm and

10 pm. Since 2009, this science museum at the Golden Gate Park has provided a late open access with constantly changing themes. It's a place to engaging the public with certain topics in a relaxing and fun atmosphere, with music, dancing and open bars. On October 24, the

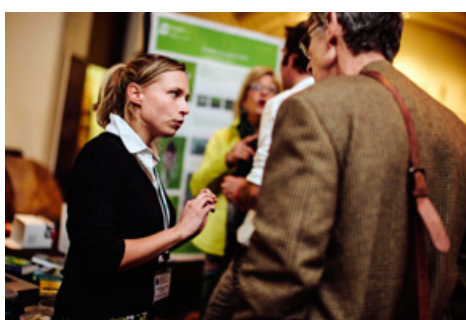
### Participation list

#### Biodiversity Panel

- Stephan Brenneisen
- Rafael Schneider
- Magdalena Mioduszewska
- Chiara Catalano
- Dimitri Meierhofer
- Scott MacIvor

#### Policy Panel

- Stephan Brenneisen; combining green roofs with fotovoltaic



IUNR at the NightLife event. (Pictures: Myleen Hollero and swissnex San Francisco)

theme for the event was green roofs and walls. With the great support of the Swissnex San Francisco Team, we were able to present our research about green roofs. At a level greater than we had expected, the people that attended NightLife were very interested in learning how a green roof can provide habitat recreation in urban space.

During our stay in San Francisco, we received an invitation to provide consultation for a project of

demonstration roof at the office of the non-profit organization SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association). The project included a green roof installation which could show a best practice example for future installation. We have committed ourselves to supporting the project by providing green roof design, which will include existing guidelines in Switzerland, but adjusted to the San Francisco conditions.

The visit in San Francisco played an important

role in understanding the green roof situation in the United States. Experience and opportunities for future cooperation and new projects are crucial for ongoing knowledge development about green roofs. In addition, recognition of ZHAW as an important partner for international projects is possible by participating in this kind of event. ●