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#aquanale

## Water is the key to resilient living spaces - aquanale and FSB 2025 are set to inspire society

**Cologne, 23 June 2025** - Taking “Living spaces in transition - water as the key to resilient oases” as his central theme, Matthias Pollmann, Vice President Trade Fair Management at Koelnmesse, opened today’s press lunch for the international trade fairs aquanale and FSB 2025 with a compelling keynote. His speech centred on the question of how to create viable, sustainable and climate-resilient living spaces in both the public and the private spheres.

“It’s no longer just about aesthetics or comfort. It’s about taking social responsibility and developing sustainable concepts and long-term resilience,” said Pollmann. In the face of climate change, urbanisation and social transformation, he argued that planning and construction need to be redefined - with a holistic and environmentally and socially responsible approach that involves all the affected stakeholders.

### A platform for pioneering concepts

**aquanale and FSB 2025 (28-31 October in Cologne)** are conceived as a central dialogue, networking and innovation platform for all the sectors operating in the fields of public spaces, movement, water worlds, wellness and urban infrastructure. More than 900 exhibitors from over 45 countries will showcase their solutions for living spaces in the private sphere and those operated by local authorities. Accompanying content will be presented by leading partners such as the German Association for Swimming Pools and Wellness (bsw), the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), the EMEA Synthetic Turf Council (ESTC), the German Federal Association of Manufacturers of Playground Equipment and Leisure Facilities (BSFH), the North Rhine-Westphalia branch of the Federation of German Landscape Architects (BDLA NRW), the German Association for Natural Bathing Waters (DGfNB) and the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB).

Pollmann stressed the trade fairs’ crucial role: “The 2025 editions of the events will be more than just a reflection of the realities facing the participating sectors; they will be a space for possibilities in which new answers to upcoming issues can emerge - answers to challenges such as overheating, resource shortages, space utilisation and the desire for quality of life in urban environments.”

### Urban oasis meets private oasis - how apparent opposites can coexist

The tension between public spaces and private retreats is the recurring theme



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linking the programmes at the two events. Playgrounds, swimming pools, sports fields, green spaces and sports centres are in as much need of climate change adaptation as gardens, pools, saunas and rooftop terraces. “As we make this shift, water is not just a resource - it’s a fundamental design principle,” said Pollmann. Concepts such as sponge cities and sponge gardens are not visions of a distant future, he explained. Instead, these strategies can already be implemented today to promote heat prevention, responsible stewardship of resources, biodiversity and a sustainable urban climate.

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### **#bettertogether: Trade fair Boulevard to be transformed into a symbolic gathering place**

Once again in 2025, the **centrepiece of the two trade fairs will be the Boulevard connecting Halls 9 and 10 (FSB) and Halls 7 and 8 (aquanale)**. Curated as a symbolic space in which urban and private oases coexist, the Boulevard will link these two themes in collaboration with partners the BDLA NRW and the DGfNB. To accompany the presentations, exhibitors from both trade fairs will showcase examples of products that have been specifically developed as solutions and designs for this context. The Boulevard is set to be a place where visions meet real-world practice, where systemic solutions emerge from the community coming together. “Thinking holistically and linking public and private commitment is the only way to achieve a successful transformation,” emphasised Pollmann.

### **An invitation to shape the future together**

The co-located events aquanale and FSB 2025 are more than just an invitation to admire a showcase of products and services by international exhibitors. Instead, together with its partners, the trade fair duo is assuming responsibility and actively helping to shape this critical transformation. “We provide a platform where shared ground can lead to new alliances - partnerships that create cities that breathe, gardens that store water, and spaces that go beyond infrastructure and become an expression of our values,” said Pollmann in the conclusion to his keynote.

**aquanale and FSB 2025 will be hosted in Cologne from 28 to 31 October 2025.**

### **Koelnmesse - Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces**

Koelnmesse is the world’s top trade fair organiser for the areas of Living, Contract and Public Spaces. Alongside the new trade fair duo imm cologne and interior design days cologne (idd cologne), other formats hosted at the trade fair hub of Cologne such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, spoga+gafa and aquanale are among the most internationally renowned and established industry gatherings. These fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segment, the furniture and interior construction industries’ supplying sections, the kitchen world, all topics for the modern working world, garden lifestyle as well as modern work environments, the garden lifestyle, public spaces, sports and leisure facilities, along with saunas, pools and wellness centres. To complement the events in Cologne, Koelnmesse is constantly strategically expanding its portfolio in key growth markets around the globe. Its foreign trade fairs include La Feria De Diseño Medellín - powered by imm cologne in Colombia, the shows of the ORGATEC brand family with ORGATEC TOKYO

in Japan, ORGATEC India in Mumbai and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, as well as the trade fairs of the interzum brand family: interzum guangzhou in China, interzum bogota in Colombia, interzum jakarta in Indonesia and interzum forum italy in Bergamo. The “Living, Contract and Public Spaces” portfolio also includes the FSB Sports Show Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

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Further information: <https://www.fsb-cologne.com/trade-fair/fsb/fsb-worldwide/>

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