



**FOR<sup>®</sup> ARCH**

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## **Project designers and builders are unprecedentedly busy – dozens of thousands of people seek inspiration at FOR ARCH**

Civil engineering is growing and the number of projects will increase even in years to come, according to directors of building companies. The capacities of project and construction companies are full to an extent which is unprecedented in history (87% and 90% respectively), and the prices of their work will most likely go up. We therefore expect that this year's FOR ARCH will see yet another record in the number of attendants – higher prices will make people resort to self-help and looking for inspiration at FOR ARCH.

After several years of recession, the prices of project and construction work reached their all-time low. These days, the capacities of both sectors are fullest since 2007. The capacities of project designers are at 87%, in case of construction companies the number is even higher - 90%. Both groups still have to work on unprofitable or loss-making projects which they were forced to accept in the past. Such projects account for 17.3 % of the work of building companies, and 21% in case of project companies. For five years, companies engaged in unprofitable business in order to get references or to keep their capacities, but their financial situation made them change this approach and, according to representatives of both sectors, the market will grow in years to come. The value of project designs, as well as of construction work will slowly increase.

It is possible that higher prices will make a portion of the Czech population turn away from professional companies and resort to self-help. People are cautious about money. The number of reconstructions increased in comparison to new buildings as early as 2008, when the recession began. In 2008, when civil engineering was at its peak, reconstruction of old buildings accounted for 23 per cent of the whole amount of money spent on construction works in the Czech Republic, while in 2007-2014, it has been almost a third (29 per cent in average). We are talking big numbers here – each year, building authorities issue building permits worth of hundreds of billions of CZK.

Each year, dozens of thousands of handy men seek inspiration for their reconstructions at the FOR ARCH trade fair held in Prague. Here, at one place, they find all relevant information about construction from materials, products and building technologies to financing and finishing of buildings. Visitors can easily and quickly learn parameters from the individual manufacturers and compare them to others.

Most of the visitors of FOR ARCH are residents of Prague and Central Bohemia. They account for 66 per cent of attendees. For manufacturers and suppliers from the construction sector, the trade fair is a great opportunity to present their products to both professionals and the general public. More and more people are interested in the GRAND PRIX prize – a trophy for the best exhibition at the fair. In 2014, judges were choosing from forty-six exhibitions and products the one that contributes the most to the given sector.

*The FOR ARCH building trade fair is currently the most visited and the longest-standing building trade fair in the Czech Republic. The jubilee 25<sup>th</sup> FOR ARCH 2014, which took place together with the simultaneously held fairs FOR THERM, FOR WOOD, BAZÉNY, SAUNY & SPA and FOR WASTE & WATER, was attended by an unprecedented number of visitors – almost 75,000 (which is 4,000 more than the previous year). The exhibition area exceeded 38,000 square meters in 2014. The number of exhibitors increased as well. The organizer of the fair, ABF a.s., expects an increased number of both exhibitors and attendees in the following year as well. The topic of the fair series, „ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS“, is certainly of interest to both professionals and laymen in search inspiration for their constructions and reconstructions. Each year, rich accompanying program takes place within the premises of the fair, such as the GRAND PRIX competition, the TOP EXPO award that goes to best exhibitions, the Young Architect Award finals, the Conference of directors of project companies, and many more. The next annual FOR ARCH takes place in Sept 15-19, 2015.*

*Find more information at [WWW.FORARCH.CZ](http://WWW.FORARCH.CZ).*

**Note.:** Data about the construction market has been provided by CEEC research, an analytical and research company.

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