

WorldSkills gold medal with Leica NA 720 automatic level



The world's best young vocational professionals gather at WorldSkills

Every two years, the best young vocational professionals in the world meet up for the WorldSkills Competition. In 2003 this was held in St. Gallen, Switzerland and previously in Montreal and Seoul. A total of 665 skilled vocational students from 36 countries competed for medals. Before they arrived, all of the participants had won difficult qualifying trials in their home countries. Six hundred expert jurors evaluated achievements in 42 different vocational fields, including numerous careers in construction.

180,000 visitors and numerous TV teams from all over the world watched as the world's best landscape gardeners, among others, teamed up in pairs to complete their assigned task within an area 7m x 7m in four days: using lawn, nursery plants, humus, natural and concrete stones, sand, gravel, pond lining and water as well as the surveyor's level of their choice. The Swiss team, which was made up of Reto Schefer and Mathis Schnyder, opted to use the Leica NA 720 automatic level to determine height, evenness and slope – and took home the gold medal.

There was a tie for the gold medal in brick-laying, which went to the Korean SungWon An and the Dutchman Arnold Ros. German Jochen Ströhle and Stefan Schoch of Switzerland shared the gold medal in cabinet making.

The nations winning the most honours at WorldSkills included South Korea, Switzerland, Japan, Austria, Germany and Taiwan. Preparations will soon be underway for the 38th WorldSkills Competition in the Finnish capital Helsinki in 2005.

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Above: High-performance landscape gardeners with the Leica NA 720 automatic level. 2003 gold medalists Mathis Schnyder and Martin Schefer together with 2001 WorldSkills gold medalists Dominic-Felix Jost and Philippe Hug. Martin Schefer: "This level is sturdy and precise. It helped us maintain the most accurate measurements, throughout the difficult four days of competition."

Left: SungWon An of Korea worked his way to a gold medal in brick-laying. He also took home the Leica DISTO™ 5 from the host country: "This is a very cool device that I can use in a variety of ways in my work. It reduces preparation time, offsets and checks and makes the work more precise."



Carpenter Jochen Ströhle "fashioned" a gold medal for himself in St. Gallen. Jochen Ströhle received a Leica Disto™ 5 laser distance meter from the German carpentry expert: "It's a great thing. It lets you make measurements in no time and can even measure heights indirectly. It's accurate down to the millimeter."