



Looking to the Future: Designing with Wood

From international seminars and professional development programs to online resources and sponsorship of the Australian Timber Design Awards, the forest and wood products industry is exploring new ways to support building professionals and their use of timber.

Now in their 12th year, the Australian Timber Design Awards are one of our country's leading design competitions for building professionals. Looking at entries over the years, two things are apparent. One is that wood has enduring appeal as a building material. Whether as a structural or decorative element, wood has always been a popular choice in a diverse range of projects and designs.

The second observation is that wood, as a material, is increasing in use. Projects using wood not only feature in these awards, but in many other competitions that are open to all materials.

The popularity of wood can be attributed to many factors, from traditional material preferences (research shows that people prefer the look and feel of wood to that of many other materials) to an increasing consideration of the environmental costs of built structures.

In overseas markets, especially under environmental regulations in Europe and the UK, wood is advantaged by its ability to store carbon (up to half the dry weight of wood is carbon) and low embodied energy.

In Australia, we are slowly recognising the environmental advantages of incorporating more sustainably sourced wood in our built structures.

Websites such as www.woodsolutions.com.au are providing designers, engineers and builders with information and resources to enable them to use wood and innovative wood products - such as engineered timber - with confidence. Even buildings in bushfire prone areas can incorporate wood, with suitable material selection and detailing.

Around Australia, property developers are beginning to see that engineered wood products can contribute time and cost savings as well as bringing environmental benefits to multi residential, multi storey projects. Complementing this, developments in fire engineering are showing that appropriately designed wood components can provide performance equal to that of other materials.

As the industry's service company, Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd is excited to be contributing to the increased use of one of our oldest and most renewable building materials - sustainably sourced wood.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric Sinclair".

RIC SINCLAIR
Managing Director
Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd

For more information about designing and building with wood, please visit:



www.woodsolutions.com.au

SPONSORS



WoodSolutions

2011 AUSTRALIAN TIMBER DESIGN AWARD

WoodSolutions is an industry initiative to provide information on timber and timber products to professionals and companies involved in building design and construction. Resourced by Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), WoodSolutions is a collaborative effort between FWPA members and levy payers. It is supported by industry peak bodies and technical associations. The WoodSolutions website provides a central repository for all technical and product information on wood and its use in building and construction. It allows users to easily find information on a topic, from cursory summaries through to detailed technical information.



Boral Timber

BEST IN THE REGIONS

Boral Timber is part of Australia's largest building and construction supplier. The company manufactures and markets a huge range of hardwood (flooring and structural), softwood, plywood and woodchip products. Boral Timber has a wide range of Australian native hardwood timber species in a variety of timber flooring products. Boral Timber's range of solid strip flooring, parquet, pre-finished hardwood engineered flooring and decking is suitable for new homes, renovations and commercial projects. All Boral Timber's products are Australian Forestry Scheme (AFS) Chain of Custody certified. This gives assurance that Boral Timber products are sourced from sustainably managed and legal forestry. The AFS certification is linked to the largest forest management certification scheme in the world (PEFC) and is the only scheme with an Australian Standard (AS 4708-2007). Boral Timber products are available throughout Australia through an extensive network of distributors and resellers.



American Hardwood Export Council

INTERIOR FITOUT

AHEC is the leading international trade association for the American hardwood industry. It represents companies and trade associations engaged in the export of a full range of US hardwood products. These products include lumber, veneer, plywood, flooring, moulding and dimension materials.