

TIMBER

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

MIDDLE EAST

www.timberdesignandtechnology.com

December 2020 | Issue 49



Mitosis by GG-loop brings biophilic regenerative architecture to large-scale urban developments

Boulder-shaped hotel featuring wooden latticed façade rises over artificial sand dune casino

SoLo: a 'temple to douglas fir' by Perkins & Will

Neutelings Riedijk Architects and Bureau Bouwtechniek restore and reimagine Gare Maritime

Enter Projects incorporates natural, renewable rattan for the interiors of Spice & Barley

Fold House: a sculptural pavilion with an undulating roof that pushes the boundaries of compression-bent wood

ANALYSIS | INTERVIEWS | DESIGN | SUSTAINABILITY | TECHNOLOGY



SoLo © Andrew Latreille

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Timber Design & Technology is
published 4 times a year



by Citrus Media Group (powered by
WillyMac Associates FZ LLC)

Level 14, Boulevard Plaza - Tower One,
Emaar Boulevard, Downtown Dubai, PO
Box 334155, Dubai, UAE

Is designed by dozign and is printed by
SUQOON Printing Press & Publishing
Great care is taken to ensure the accuracy
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Technology but the publishers accept no
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the final issue of this year. On the cover is SoLo, a prototype alpine home designed by Perkins & Will that demonstrates a unique approach to building off-grid in a remote environment where every choice has consequences. Performance led, the home expresses a restrained material palette while generating more energy than it uses, eliminating fossil fuels and combustion from its operation. A Passive House certified building, wood was chosen as the primary structural material and is authentically expressed and exposed its entirety throughout the home. With the goal of Passive House certification, Perkins & Will applied a two-layer approach to the enclosure - an outer heavy timber frame acts as shield, resisting the weather, while the heavily insulated inner layer acts as the thermal barrier.

This issue also features the American Hardwood Export Council's (AHEC) design collaborations - 'Connected' at the Design Museum in London and 'Please Sit Here' at Dubai Design Week 2020. Recognizing the fact that COVID-19 has significantly changed the way people live, interact and work, both projects looked at how creatives and makers had to adjust their processes using new technologies to work together at a distance and often operate from new, improvised, home offices. AHEC's 'Connected' project challenged nine designers to create a table and seating for their personal use, to suit their new ways of living and working from home whilst 'Please Sit Here' was a design collaboration with three prominent Emirati designers who were asked to develop versatile public seating solutions in thermally-modified American hardwoods.

Testament to the benefits of building in timber, Neutelings Riedijk Architects together with Ney & Partners and Bureau Bouwtechniek, have completed the largest cross-laminated timber (CLT) project in Europe. Using CLT and façade finishings in FSC-certified oak for Gare Maritime has led to an enormous reduction in the amount of cement; in concrete, the building would have been five times heavier. The choice of wood also had a favorable effect on the construction process. Thanks to prefabrication and a dry construction method, the construction time was considerably shorter than when using traditional construction methods. Meanwhile in Tokyo, Kengo Kuma and Associates (KKAA) have designed a temporary pavilion made from CLT for events and performances. After their period of use in Harumi comes to an end, the panels will be transported back to the Hiruzen National Park in Maniwa and reassembled in an area surrounded by greenery.

With the holiday season approaching, I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays and the best for 2021. As always, I would like to encourage you to log on to the website - www.timberdesignandtechnology.com - for the latest updates and please get in touch if you have any suggestions for subjects we should consider covering. In closing, I would like to thank our advertisers, our partners and our readers and look forward to the next year.

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image © Shutterstock

NHG Timber: The hardwood supply challenge

Worldwide demand for timber has been good as people have continued to build and use wood but we're now seeing the strains on the supply chain

2020 has been a most peculiar year for business as no doubt all will agree. It has put into sharp focus how we are all reliant on our business partners to support our supply chains to ensure that everything can continue to function during uncertain times. For producers worldwide, the pandemic has created many challenges which have inevitably impacted the ability of sawmills to produce lumber, be that labor shortages due to lockdowns or infections, material shortages due to logistical problems, or capital shortages due to funds being required elsewhere to shore up struggling operations. There is no doubt that only the strong, well organized, and well capitalized companies can get through such a period of time successfully.

Here at NHG, we have noticed

that despite our inability to do the normal amount of travelling to visit sources of supply to verify quality and monitor production, or to visit clients in person, we have found that the trust that already exists with our partners has been crucial in ensuring that business can continue as seamlessly as possible. We are nevertheless starting to see the knock-on effects of restricted production and disrupted markets. The truth is that worldwide timber demand has been good on the whole as people have continued to build and use wood. Now we are seeing the strains on the supply chain.

To all of our clients in the MENA region, we would like to emphasize the point that it is important to ensure that

orders are confirmed promptly to ensure continuity of supply, especially from Africa: we are already seeing kiln dried capacity in Africa already committed for the first few months of 2021. Lead time of 4-6 months are not unusual in normal times - we would expect these to be stretched rather than shortened now. North American hardwood production in 2020 is likely to be half that of 2019. The good availability and steady pricing of a year ago has now changed to shortages and increased pricing for many key items.

We are fortunate that our supply network built up and nurtured over decades continues to be strong in difficult times. It is our number one priority to ensure that our clients are properly considered, properly

informed, and well supplied with the hardwoods they need both now and in the future.

NHG Timber specializes in tropical and temperate timber sourcing worldwide with a special focus on West Africa. Many readers will be familiar with NHG logos adorning packs of Sapele, Iroko, Dabema, Kossipo and many other timbers in various markets in the Gulf. This success has been built up not only on a deep and practical product knowledge, but also on forging long-term relationships with clients based on mutual respect and trust.

**This article has been supplied by NHG Timber. For more information and to learn more about the company, please visit www.nhgtimber.co.uk.*



Hardwood Lumber

NHG Timber specializes in the supply of hardwood lumber from West Africa, North America and Europe. These are available in fixed dimensions as well as standard sizes, and Ben Goodwin, Guy Goodwin and Stuart McBride have the in-depth knowledge and experience of their supply areas to be able to source practically any desired hardwood product that clients require, along with providing advice and support. New ideas for grades, species and specifications are suggested on a regular basis.

Softwood Lumber

Echoing the company's European sales, species such as Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir and Southern Yellow Pine are sourced from NHG's North American network of suppliers.

Finished and Semi-finished products

NHG can supply a variety of products such as hardwood decking, machined profiles, moulding blanks and finished sections to give clients a fully bespoke hardwood service from expert and experienced producers.

Logs & Boules

Market trends are progressively realizing the importance of added value, but NHG still has a good business in log supply, and sources African and American logs for those buyers who wish to control their own yields.