



Timber
Development
UK

JOINED-UP BUSINESS

The timber supply chain magazine
for the UK Joinery sector

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**TIMBER YOU
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One voice with one vision

David Hopkins, Timber Development UK Chief Executive, says it's time for the industry to unite with one voice.

There's a real buzz around the timber market as we enter 2022 and, as the world continues to open up after a challenging 18 months, it's time for us all to come together to drive our industry forward.

The desire for sustainable construction and a circular economy is generating significant interest in timber as an ideal low-carbon building solution among architects, builders, joiners, and across many other trades. New regulations and a renewed political will following the COP 26 climate talks are moving us all towards a net-zero future.

Over the winter the Timber Trade Federation and TRADA came together to become Timber Development UK. Uniting two of the largest associations within the timber supply chain means we can speak with one voice, representing the very best interests of the industry to government and right across the supply chain during these changing times.

We'll continue to bring you the latest market data, supply chain expertise, technical advice and guidance to help you navigate these changing times. We're creating a single, central resource to help position timber not just as a strong low-carbon building material, but to make sure that the systems by which timber is delivered, assembled, manufactured and designed are also green and low carbon, driving new synergies and efficiencies at every point of the industry.

We are the only organisation offering an end-to-end service linking producer to end-user in the timber supply chain, and we will continue to levy the lobbying power of the entire industry to make sure our voice is heard, by speaking with one voice and one vision.

Calculate your carbon

James Latham has released a carbon calculator to help direct customers towards more sustainable products.

Built in partnership with the BioComposites Centre at the University of Bangor, the tool calculates the carbon footprint of James Latham's products, from production through to delivery to the depots. It also looks at how much carbon is stored within the wood's structure, known as biogenic carbon.

Each product receives a rating from C1 (highest) to C4 (lowest), based on the confidence that Latham's has in the data used. Latham's will be adding the carbon data to delivery notes, quotations and other key documentation. The calculator covers just over 70% of the company's range and focuses on timber products. It will later be expanded to include composite materials.



TRADE NEWS ROUNDUP



Brooks adds Specialist range

Brooks Bros. (UK) is continuing to develop its timber products portfolio. In the four years since the company decided to add sheet materials to its range it has enjoyed continued significant growth.

Brooks Bros. (UK) became a Finsa stockist in 2021 and is now offering Finsa's new 12Twenty Specialist Surfaces range, which is a selection of decors and finishes carefully chosen to enhance the value of melamine as a decorative material. The specials include high gloss, coloured core and ultramatt options.

The range is available on MDF core, composed of wood fibres, giving a flat and smooth surface, high density and stability, which the company says makes it excellent for processing.

Visit www.brookstimber.com



Doorsets for all applications

Intelligent Door Solutions provides specialist timber doors and doorsets for domestic and commercial applications.

Products include veneered doors, laminated doors with concealed or exposed lippings, paint grade doors, HTM 58 doorsets and timber glazed screens. Fully certified doors are available with fire ratings from FD30 – 120 and acoustic doorsets up to 44dB.

Laminated and paint-grade finishes are available, with doorsets complete with recessing for locks and ironmongery. There are a range of frames including MDF, foil-wrapped MDF, veneered and solid timber, and products can be supplied as certified, where required.

Intelligent Door Solutions is part of the National Timber Group family, which also brings together the Thornaby, Thornbridge, Arnold Laver and Rembrand brands. Visit www.inteldoors.co.uk



Virtual showroom

Hanson Plywood's Virtual Showroom contains an environmental section within the Professional and Technical Zone. Here, online visitors can learn more about the environmental processes and strategies Hanson Plywood follows, including policies surrounding FLEGT, Chain of Custody, ISO 14001 and procurement. Also on display are Hanson Plywood's Eco Vadis ratings, which show how well the business performs with regard to its environmental processes.

Visitors to the showroom can also learn more about Hanson's full range of panel products, as well as accessing product videos and a library of brochures, resources and datasheets.

Visit www.hanson-plywood-showroom.co.uk



New EPDs from UPM

UPM Plywood has published updated Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for WISA plywood, covering both coated and uncoated plywood.

The updated EPDs indicate the carbon sequestration capacity of WISA spruce plywood throughout its life cycle. They are third-party verified and internationally comparable.

The life-cycle assessment for WISA plywood covers the production phase, the construction phase, the use phase, the end-of-life phase and the reuse, recycling and recovery potential. It also takes into account the environmental impact of the acquisition, manufacture and transport of raw materials for products.

Visit www.wisaplywood.com



James Latham

Celebrating success

The Wood Awards aim to recognise, encourage and promote outstanding design, craftsmanship and installations using wood. Each year the entrants represent the very best in British design and architecture.

This year's winners were named at a prestigious ceremony in London on 25 November, 2021, highlighting just what can be achieved when you choose to work with timber. Here, we take a look at some of the winners and their inspiring designs.



Education & Public Sector Award

- Joinery: Wedd Joinery
- Timber external doors, windows, shutters and cladding: Piper Joinery
- Internal timber doors and screens: Trojanwood Joinery
- Wood supplier: James Latham

Magdalene College Library is an arrangement of simple brick volumes with timber windows and pitched roofs echoing the gabled architecture of the existing college. The new library is a suite of interconnecting rooms lined with bookcases, reading desks and galleries.

The interior spaces are created by a glulam and CLT structure, supported on load-bearing brickwork and populated with oak shelves and tables. Roof lights, columns, floor beams, shelves, windows, desks, and balustrades form a coherent warp and weft throughout the space. The roof is formed of a grid of timber lanterns with glazed gables separated by wide internal gutters.



Commercial & Leisure Award

- Joinery: Timber Workshop
- Wood supplier: East Brothers
- Photographs: ©HuftonCrow

The Alice Hawthorn is Nun Monkton village's last remaining pub. This community-led project transforms the pub's sustainability by adding 12 guest bedrooms, eight of which are of an entirely timber frame construction around a new courtyard.

The home-grown Douglas Fir-framed buildings use authentic agricultural building materials, such as galvanised corrugated steel roofing and Larch cladding, to create the sense that the animals have only recently moved out. Externally, a single layer of tight-grained Larch cladding has been used, while internally there is a sarking layer of Fireshield poplar ply. Subtle distinctions between the timber species are blurred by a tinted treatment.



Structural Award

The Welcome Building, RHS Garden Bridgewater, Manchester

- Joinery: Reds Joinery
- Wood supplier: Prowood, Stora Enso, Russwood

The Welcome Building at the new Royal Horticultural Society garden at Worsley New Hall provides a gateway to the gardens as well as a visitor meeting and interaction point. All the public elements are contained under a single overarching glulam timber diagrid, supported on structural glulam trees.

The horizontal form is broken by projecting timber boxes sitting below the main roof line, which house kitchens, WCs, offices, and classrooms. The timber forms extend east beyond the building with a timber decking floating over a new lake. Externally, the roof is clad in vertical Larch, whilst the projecting boxes are clad horizontally.



Small Project Award

Built: East Pavilion, Belfast

- Joinery & wood supplier: BPJ Group
- Timber Distributor: International Timber
- Photographs: ©Joe Lavery

The Belfast truss used in the Built: East Pavilion's design represents the area's history of manufacturing ingenuity. Each element is designed to evoke memories of the area's industrial structures and draw attention to Northern Ireland's emerging construction innovation. The pavilion is an assembly of three elements, each crafted in a local factory.

Traditional craft skills were combined with innovative technologies to create bespoke components that could be rapidly assembled on site. 1:1 scale truss and joint prototypes were CNC produced to develop the design of each connection. To test the fit of each element, the entire roof structure was assembled in the factory before being dismantled and transported to site.



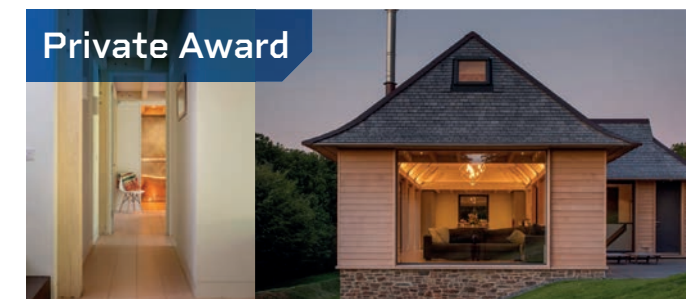
Interiors Award

St John Street, London

- Joinery: Harbour Joinery Workshop

This large Victorian apartment opens directly into the library space, a rectangular room lined entirely in solid Oak joinery, featuring bookshelves and hidden storage. Large format terrazzo tiles pick up the warm Oak tones and align with the joinery panelling.

The library's thick timber lining contains deep entrances into connecting spaces, with Oak chevron parquet in the living and sleeping spaces. Sliding oak pocket doors create lateral views from one end of the apartment to the other. A palette of lime-washed Birch plywood, set against the richer Oak parquet flooring, continues in the dressing room and bedrooms in the form of storage elements and a slatted bedhead and window seat. Carefully calibrated and crafted joinery runs throughout the apartment.



Private Award

The Boathouse, Devon

- Joinery: Rozen Furniture
- Wood supplier: Stones Marine Timber
- Photographs: ©Jim Stephenson

The Boathouse is a practical family residence that respects the beauty of its surroundings. Everything above ground is made from timber supplied by the owners' timber import company, sourced from Canada. Yellow Cedar tiles and cladding adorn the roof and exterior, while the upstairs floor is made from Douglas Fir. The long, straight grain of the wood has been exposed on all levels.

Interesting design features include the eaves, which were inspired by thatched roofs, and the use of surplus roof copper throughout the project. The large, open plan living space features a glass and timber balcony above the lower-level entrance door.

Talking timber and net-zero

The COP 26 climate summit in Glasgow brought together almost 200 countries to discuss ways to secure global net zero by 2050, and to agree how countries can accelerate the phaseout of coal, curtail deforestation and encourage investment in renewables.

The summit began with a global financial pledge to end deforestation by 2030, signed by countries who together cover around 85% of the world's forests, including Brazil, China, Russia, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the US and the UK.

Timber Development UK believes that the issue of deforestation is one of a governance deficit, rather than funding. The Tropical Timber Accord, which was launched at COP, and facilitated by Timber Development UK, says strong, inclusive legal frameworks are essential for the sustainable management of tropical forests.

The Accord calls for governments to support and commit to:

- A new approach to promote strong forest law enforcement and trade policy worldwide
- Measures to strengthen forest governance and support legal and sustainable forest industries

The current threat to tropical forests is clear. For the first time in human history, global forest cover has fallen below 4 billion hectares (Mongabay, 2019), and around 12% of global greenhouse emissions from human activity result from tropical forest deforestation and degradation (World Bank, 2021).



welcome this call to action. We have to be able to support growth in countries across the world where the forests are an important economic resource, but at the same time, protect and support our climate change objectives."

David Hopkins, CEO of Timber Development UK, adds: "This is the first time the global private sector has come together to speak with one united voice to advocate for greater global governance and enforceable legal frameworks. We need to act now – there is no time to lose."

You can read more about the Tropical Timber Accord at www.ttf.co.uk

Join the net zero movement

So, how will this global move towards net zero affect the joinery sector?

David Hopkins believes that timber's status as a low-carbon material puts it in a strong position to take the lead in the UK's move towards net-zero emissions, especially since the country needs to increase the number of houses it builds every year while minimising the required energy consumption.

He says: "One of the holy grails on the journey to a low-carbon infrastructure is how to expand your manufacturing base without increasing your emissions. Timber frame and timber construction allows you to produce high-performance goods with a very low energy cost. A miniscule amount of energy is used to create a timber house compared to the amount needed to create a house from other materials."

For joiners in particular, Charlie Law, Timber Development UK's Sustainability Director, believes it is becoming more important than ever for companies to invest in carbon footprinting and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) to establish exactly how low carbon their timber products really are.

"Joiners need to make sure they know how much embodied carbon is in their products. Embodied carbon is the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted through the production and delivery of their products, from extracting and transporting the raw materials, as well as the emissions produced in the manufacturing process.

"Establishing these facts, and then producing the relevant EPDs, means you can provide independently verified documentation that will help architects, engineers and other specifiers compare the



carbon data of the materials they're considering using. This is going to become even more important as we move towards the whole-life carbon assessment of buildings (which many believe should be a legal requirement) and embrace the circular economy, because specifiers are going to be building based on carbon data going forward, and if joiners' products don't have an EPD then the architects may well choose a different building material that does, even if it actually has a higher carbon cost."

New governance

The paper proposes a new governance approach for the global tropical forest sector based on national standards within an international framework. Crucially, it also proposes supporting an international secretariat to administer and oversee the development of this framework.

It says: "We need new policies that incentivise legal and governance reform to ensure long-term forest sustainability and growth. Countries putting those reforms in place should be rewarded with enhanced trade benefits, which would attract investment to industries and supply chains that depend on retaining forests as forest and constantly improving their value – notably timber production, but also a range of other environmentally positive goods and services."

The Accord was produced from a series of workshops with trade associations and businesses throughout the tropical production belt. It is supported by associations in producer and consumer nations including China, Europe and the UK.

Vel Gnanendran, Climate and Environment Director, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, says: "We really

Showcasing tropical forestry

INTERHOLCO held an event at COP26 to showcase public-private partnership in tropical forestry in the Republic of Congo. The event explored the Congo's strategic vision and collaboration with the private sector, particularly with FSC-certified forestry companies, in implementing the protection of its forests through responsibly produced wood products, ie, protecting the natural habitats and ecosystems on which the climate depends.

The aim of the event was to strengthen the synergy between stakeholders and present a best-in-class model which can be replicated in other natural tropical forests in Africa, Latin America, or South-East Asia. It also raised awareness of the benefits of synergies between the State and the FSC-certified timber sector, including contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



INTERHOLCO is an FSC-certified producer specialising in producing and trading logs, sawn timber, glued laminated scantlings and other products. The company protects 1.1 million hectares of natural forest from permanent conversion to agricultural land, giving 16,000 local inhabitants access to quality basic services and maintaining the habitat of thousands of gorillas and elephants.

Industry trends in 2022

The entire timber industry has been impacted by rapid changes in demand, fluctuating prices and supply issues during 2021. What lies ahead as we start 2022?

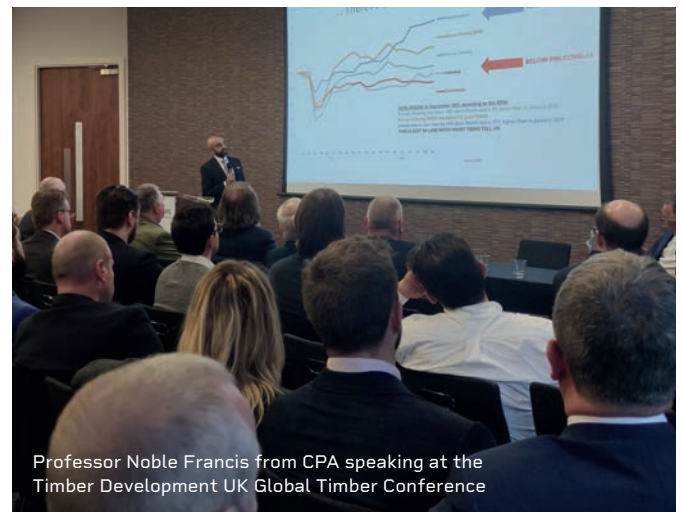
Construction growth on track

Construction growth will continue to recover from the immediate aftermath of the pandemic over the next two years, according to the latest Glenigan construction industry forecast. Strong demand during 2021 means the total value of underlying construction project starts is forecast to reach £54.2 billion – up 11% on 2020, but still 8% lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Construction growth is expected to be moderate over the next two years, with an increase of 7% forecast in 2022.

Glenigan economics director Allan Wilén says: “Construction industry growth will be shaped by the UK’s and global path out of the pandemic, as well as the response by the private sector and the government.”

Other factors include a check on private housebuilding due to weak real earnings growth, and disruption to the supply chain and labour shortages from post-Brexit customs regulation.



Professor Noble Francis from CPA speaking at the Timber Development UK Global Timber Conference

Supply issues

The construction industry has been struggling to find materials for much of the past year, with demand outstripping supply in almost every building material.

Speaking at Timber Development UK’s Global Timber Conference in November 2021, Professor Noble Francis, Economics Director of the Construction Products Association, said problems with importing timber, plastics and polymers appeared to be easing in the UK, but that copper, aluminium and steel, paints, resins, roofing and cladding materials were still an issue.

There are also concerns that continuing shortages of other materials, such as bricks and cement, are likely to impact the rest of the sector, since many housebuilders are struggling to find sufficient bricklayers and brick materials to get builds off the ground and to the point where they can bring in other materials, such as timber.

Nick Boulton, Head of Technical and Trade at Timber Development UK, says: “At the end of 2021 the amount of wood on quay at UK ports was already high, so much so that a number of vessels were being delayed or postponed into January and beyond. Some of these should have been carrying shipments destined for joinery companies and, depending on how these fitted into the overall purchasing picture, may be creating difficulties in your production schedules.

“We can only repeat the message that it is critical to work closely with your suppliers, telling them your requirements as far as possible in advance. Given the higher stocks on the ground you may be able to purchase short-term requirements more easily, but only if they are the popular stock lines. Anything more unusual or very length specific is unlikely to be available on the ground and, with the current shipping logistics issues, could take much longer to arrive. This situation is unfortunately outside the control of sawmills or importers.”

More industry statistics are online at: www.ttf.co.uk/statistics