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29.11.2022

A Grand Challenge

Global share of buildings and construction final energy and emissions, 2019



Notes: Buildings construction industry is the portion (estimated) of overall industry devoted to manufacturing building construction materials such as steel, cement and glass. Indirect emissions are emissions from power generation for electricity and commercial heat. Sources: (IEA 2020d; IEA 2020b). All rights reserved. Adapted from "IEA World Energy Statistics and Balances" and "Energy Technology Perspectives"

Source: 2020 Global status report for buildings and construction, UN environment program



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Wood in construction

Main focus on climate change mitigation and sustainability



- Contributing to lower or zero emission in the building sector; requires easy and rapid scalability
- Retaining of sustainable forestry and biodiversity
- New and improved wood based products

Research Frangi Group, Timber engineering

Objective

- Enhance use of sustainable timber for structures
- · Improve safety and economy of timber structures

Structural Timber and Connections

Improve knowledge and reliability of members & connections with regard to safety and economy Better use of material



Analytical model for fibre reinforced glulam



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Innovative Timber Structures

Improve efficiency and competitiveness of timber Optimised use of timber in combination with other materials



ETH House of Natural Resources

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Fire Safety Engineering

Improve fields of application of timber structures based on advanced knowledge with regard to fire safety

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FE-thermal analysis of dowel-type connection with slotted-in steel plates 29.11.2022 4

Risch Rotkreuz Suurstoffi S22, 36m







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Wood in building operation

Connection to Smart Building Technologies



Panzarasa & Burgert (2021) Holzforschung Empa ETH, Wood Materials Science / Empa, Wood Tec

Sensors Active/adaptive Materials

- Control of room climate
- > Sensing
- Energy harvest / savings
- Light management
- Acoustics
- Self-shaping building elements

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Electric conductivity by laser-induced graphitization of wood

1. Ink deposition



Capacitive touch panel



Dreimol et al. (2022) Nature Communications

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Wood for climate regulation in more energy-efficient buildings



Densified Cellulose Materials High-strength cellulose composites



Frey et al. (2018) ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces

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Tensile Modulus (GPa) 07 05 09 09 0L 0 80 20 40 60 FVC (%) b 600 è 0 Tensile Strength (MPa) 0 DWRP 0 100 Ω 20 40 60 80 FVC (%)

DWRP

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Frey et al. (2019) ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces 29.11.2022

Broaden the perspective

Currently dominating species could be less available, with consequences for wood processing and wood products.

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Research on:

- Green chemistry for wood property improvements / functionalization
- Machine learning techniques to better predict wood properties and handle or even appreciate (bio)diversity of the natural resource
- > New separation techniques

Patent application filed: **Rod-based wood materials**

Splitting of 1m long rods from hardwood stem segments.



- High material gains
- No cutting of fibers
- Elimination of larger knots
- Low energy consumption
- Low tool wear

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