

SetraNews

////////////////////// OCTOBER 2018



Full steam ahead at Långshyttan

Major investment for wood industry hub of the future

SUSTAINABILITY WORK
FOCUSES ON PEOPLE AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

SETRA'S WOOD FLYING
HIGH IN AUSTRALIA



TALKING ABOUT TIMBER: *What do builders think about building in wood?*

“SUSTAINABILITY IS A COMMON THREAD THROUGH EVERY PART OF OUR BUSINESS.”



Setra's 15th anniversary

THIS AUGUST WE WERE celebrating at Setra. It was fifteen years ago Setra started its journey. We're proud of what we have achieved together but we're not going to rest on our laurels. We are forging rapidly ahead and Setra is and will continue to be an important actor in the wood industry market and in the transition to the bioeconomy.

We are seeing increasing demand and great interest in wood and wood products in Sweden and around the world. Setra has an advantage in working with a renewable raw material, which means we belong to a sector that is part of the solution to the climate challenges we face. We want to do our bit and sustainability is a common thread that runs through every part of our business. We simply want to do business that benefits our customers, society and the planet too.

On pages 5–8 our Sustainability Director Charlotte Thedén talks about why sustainability is important to us, how we are going to reduce our climate impact and how we can play our part in finding solutions.

EXCITING THINGS ARE GOING ON at Långshyttan where we are creating a new wood industry hub. This is a major investment for us, which also affects the local community in and around Långshyttan. The factory, which produces components for the door and window industry, will start operations in the autumn. The next step will be the CLT factory, which is scheduled for completion in early 2020. Read more about the progress on pages 9–11.

Enjoy the read!

Hannele Arvonen
CEO Setra



Students create smart solutions in Swedish pine

This spring, 27 students at Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), most of them from Singapore, were commissioned by Swedish Wood to identify and develop new products in Swedish pine in the interiors and lifestyle segment. The students worked in groups of three or four and were given about three months to complete the project.

“Building the course around a genuine challenge from Swedish industry created great commitment from the students and from Swedish Wood, which made the end result very exciting,” explains Björn Berggren, professor at KTH.

In their presentations, the students showed everything from smart office solutions and musical instruments to window glass made from wood fibre. The Dörrlar concept is a compact and smart storage solution in which a pine door is fitted with moveable modules in the form of shelves and hooks. The modular door becomes a modern feature that provides smart and adaptable storage.

Read more about planning and assembling CLT structures

Swedish Wood's Glulam Handbook Part 4 is now being launched, subtitled Planning and assembling CLT structures. The book is primarily geared towards planners, structural engineers, contractors and fitters. It can be bought from Swedish Wood's web shop or downloaded from their website.



SETRANEWS is Setra's customer magazine. It is published in Swedish and English for customers, employees and other stakeholders in Sweden and abroad. The purpose of the magazine is to spread information about the company and tell readers the latest news.

PRINT RUN: 5,200

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PRINTED BY: Åtta 45

COVER PHOTO: Kjell Lilltjernbakken, Anna-Lena Gull and Axel Sternö outside the Kloster factory in Långshyttan.

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Setra first to produce undercoated glulam beams

Setra has produced a standard range of undercoated glulam beams in seven different dimensions with fixed lengths. Builders' merchant Beijer Byggmaterial is the first to sell the range and has been given information material and training by Setra.

"We're already seeing high demand although the products have only been on the market a short time," says Thomas Kling, Glulam Product Specialist.

The advantages of undercoated glulam beams are the same as for undercoated cladding. It saves time for DIY enthusiasts and professionals. The beams are ready to be fitted at any time of year and users have up to six months to put on the final coat.

"Our undercoated glulam beams will give builders an opportunity, for example, to build the frame of an outdoor structure at any time of year. This means that more people will be able to enjoy the first warm days of spring in their finished outdoor spaces," says Thomas Kling.



Three days with Setra in Venice



On 19–21 September, Setra was responsible for the programme in the Swedish pavilion during the Venice Architecture Biennale. The focus was on building in wood, and visitors were able to find out the latest in materials technology, architectural examples and LCAs.

The pavilion featured researchers, builders and other representatives of Swedish wood construction, plus Lara Lesmes and Fredrik Hellberg from the architecture firm Space Popular. In partnership with Setra they produced the installation 'The Timber Hearth', which was shown in the pavilion during the Biennale. In commercial terms, Setra's involvement in the Architecture Biennale is expected to raise awareness of the investments currently being made in cross-laminated timber (CLT) and components for use in windows and doors.

The Swedish Wood Award 2020 will soon be open for entries

The Swedish Wood Award is an architecture prize founded by Swedish Wood and is one of Sweden's biggest and best-known architecture competitions. The award is presented every four years to a building constructed in Sweden that represents good architecture in wood and that reflects and improves the times we live in. The 2016 winner was Råå Preschool in Helsingborg. Entries for the 2020 Swedish Wood Award can be submitted from 15 October 2018 until 15 January 2019.



NEW FACES



Mill Manager

We welcome **JONAS ANDERSSON** back to Setra as the new Mill Manager for Setra Kastet. In the past, Jonas worked at Setra Skinnskatteberg and returns from a post as CEO of Moelven Årjäng.



CFO

JOHANNA GYDINGSGÅRD is the new CFO at Setra. Johanna has been working at Scania in Södertälje for the past nine years. She has broad experience of process development from different industries, in Sweden and internationally.



Production Manager

SVEN BÖRJESSON has been employed as Production Manager for CLT at Setra Långshyttan since July. Sven has twelve years' experience as a Production and Mill Manager. His most recent post was as Mill Manager at Rundvirke Impregna AB.

THREE WOOD TRENDS

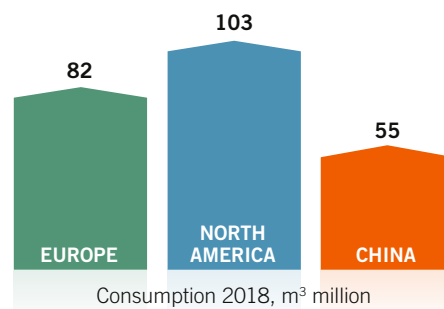
Setra's Market Director Olle Berg takes the temperature of the wood market.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



1 Demand for sustainable buildings

IN SWEDEN AND AROUND THE WORLD climate discussions are in progress at all levels and there is a political drive for more sustainable building. There is a global trend towards more energy-efficient buildings and more eco-friendly materials. Consumers demand climate-neutral homes, sustainable materials, low energy values, safer buildings and good work environments no matter where in the world they happen to live.



2 CLT effective

CHINA HAS LONG had unlimited access to labour but today we are seeing moves towards more industrial construction, with more efficient building methods and a smaller workforce. Australia has a tradition of timber-framing, which is labour intensive. Read more about Australia on page 12. Here too we are seeing an increasingly rapid shift to industrial construction and growing interest in CLT. In the USA there is a focus on building more energy-efficiently and on reducing materials consumption simply by building on a smaller scale.

3 Strong demand

IN GENERAL, DEMAND FOR wood products continues to be strong in most markets although we have naturally seen lower activity during the summer holiday months in Scandinavia and Europe. In the Swedish market, the abnormally hot summer reduced the inclination to build. Markets in North America and the Middle East remained normal, but we are seeing a more worrying situation in Egypt due to a lack of foreign currency. In September Japan suffered a number of bad weather events which had a negative impact on construction in the short term. In China the government has closed thousands of small furniture businesses because they do not meet the environmental requirements set by the Chinese authorities. A falling Chinese yuan against the US dollar and falling house prices have created great uncertainty in the market with a negative effect on imports.

In the longer term, demand for wood products continues to look very positive. There is a major need to build homes around the world and we are seeing growing interest in processed wood products such as CLT in markets as varied as Japan, China, Australia and Europe. This is largely thanks to the considerably lower carbon footprint produced in comparison with other construction materials.

Olle Berg is Market Director at Setra. Have you missed any of Olle Berg's outlooks from previous issues? Visit www.setragroup.com/setranews to read more.



The road to sustainability

Working sustainably naturally means running operations with as low an impact on the climate as possible. However, it also means working for maximum safety for all members of staff, good business ethics, and, not least, the company being in a sound financial position. Setra's work on sustainability spans many areas and is under constant development, with a number of important projects in progress this autumn alone.

TEXT: ANNA MATZINGER



SAY THE WORD SUSTAINABILITY AND

most people think of the environment. A sustainable company strives to reduce emissions and to cut the use of fossil fuels. However, responsible business also involves working to combat corruption, ensuring a safe working environment and running a business that rests on healthy finances.

“If you were to sum it all up, you could say that Setra’s sustainability work is social, economic and environmental. Every aspect of our business must be sustainable,” says Charlotte Thedéen, Sustainability Director at Setra.

Ensuring that the entire business is sustainable means Setra taking responsibility for its impact on the environment and people throughout the whole value chain, from forest to end product.

“The main aim is to reduce our negative footprint and increase the value and positive impact of our operations. It is a major endeavour that will never be fin-

ished, not least because our operations are developing all the time and conditions in the world around us are always changing. But it’s gratifying to work in an industry that in many ways is part of the solution to the climate challenges faced by the world, and that we know can contribute towards many improvements,” says Charlotte Thedéen.

Important energy survey

Sustainability work spans many aspects and in order to prioritise and select the most important focus areas, Setra is conducting ongoing dialogues with stakeholders. This means talking to shareholders, customers and employees about what is most important to them in terms of sustainability.

Proper business intelligence is also an important tool in identifying the most relevant sustainability projects.

“We monitor what is going on in society and the world around us because it’s

“It’s gratifying to work in an industry that in many ways is part of the solution to the climate challenges faced by the world”

Charlotte Thedéen, Sustainability Director at Setra



Find out more about Setra’s sustainability work at setragroup.com



Building in wood has major environmental benefits.

important for us to be ahead of the game on sustainability. Sometimes we’re also directly affected by what is going on in society, such as new regulations,” Charlotte Thedéen points out.

One such new regulation was the new act on energy surveys which entered into force in 2014. This means that major companies have to systematically examine the energy consumption of each unit and list steps that can be taken to reduce it. The efficiency measures are then reported to the Swedish Energy Agency.

“The survey is a major task and will take about four years to complete in total. It involves a large amount of resources and will give us an excellent understanding of what our energy consumption really is and how we can work to cut it,” says Charlotte.

Because Setra’s operations are energy-intensive, it is also important that the energy that has to be used comes from renewable sources.

“Today all the electricity we buy in is renewable and heating consumption is more than 99% based on biofuels,” says Charlotte Thedéen.

Transport is another major aspect of Setra’s total climate impact.

“Transport accounts for about 70% of our emissions. Our hauliers aim to run with full loads as far as possible and never return empty. We are conducting a dialogue with our partners on the timber supply and transport side and are working constantly to increase the proportion of renewables in the tank. 65% of our goods are exported, and much of this is by sea,

“Our customers can rest assured that we only use raw material from responsibly managed forests”

which is the most eco-friendly means of goods transport after rail,” says Charlotte.

Sustainable forestry

When Setra chooses the focus for its sustainability work, it zeroes in on areas where ‘Setra has a significant impact, a clear responsibility and an opportunity to contribute’. Therefore the raw material, the actual forest, has a key role to play.

“The fact that our raw material comes from sustainable forestry is a cornerstone of our sustainability work,” says Charlotte Thedéen. “Currently around 40% of our raw material is certified under PEFC™ and meets the criteria of the FSC® standard (read more about these in the Wood School section on page 14). The rest of the raw material is checked against five criteria, including that it is sourced from legal forestry and that the supplier has not conducted logging in key biotopes. Our customers can rest assured that we only use raw material from responsibly managed forests.”

Lobbying for wider use of wood products, for example by increasing wood construction, is also a core element of Setra’s sustainability work.

“Every cubic metre of wood captures the equivalent of 800 kilos of carbon dioxide. Put like that, this may not mean much, but if I draw the parallel that our sales volume for last year equated to the greenhouse gas emissions of around 123,000 Swedes, it may be easier to convey the magnitude of the figures,” says Charlotte.

“The government expressed an ambition to increase wood construction in its policy statement and many municipalities are working actively to encourage more wooden buildings to be built. This is a journey that Setra is naturally keen to get on board with.”

Safety and business ethics

Two other sustainability areas of considerable importance are safety and business ethics.

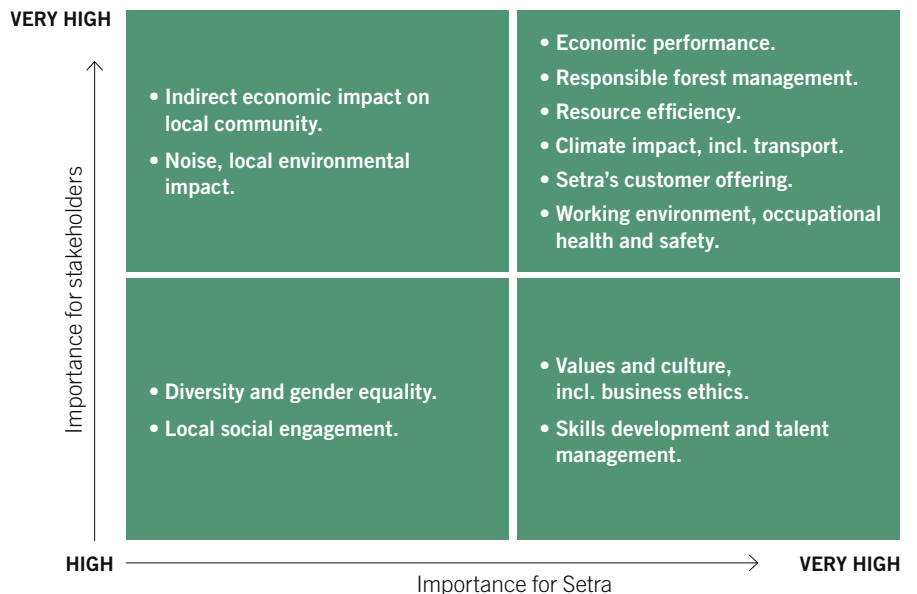
“Zero tolerance of accidents is a given. →



Transport accounts for around 70% of Setra’s total emissions.

Materiality analysis

The key issues for a sustainable Setra



2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda is an agenda for changes to a sustainable society agreed by the UN and has 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, solving the climate crisis and promoting peace and justice.

There are many benefits to being an industry that is part of the solution to climate change. Setra aims to work



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

actively towards the goals in the 2030 Agenda, and so has appointed an internal working group to examine what Setra can do to help achieve these goals.

“Zero tolerance of accidents is a given”

We’ve been working for a long time on perimeter protection, putting barriers around sawlines, conveyors and other moving parts that pose a risk if you get too close. We have also introduced compulsory courses on workplace health and safety for all employees and contractors. In our operations we’re striving to systematically improve our results. Our meeting structure, with what we call ‘pulse meetings’ is an important part of that. Here we follow up on our targets on a daily basis and improve where we’re falling short. Safety is top of the agenda at every one of these meetings,” says Charlotte Thedéen.

The sustainability work and the way it is communicated also play an important role in attracting new recruits.

“Many people who apply to work with us value our sustainability work very highly. There is an interest in working for a company that operates responsibly. And it’s important for our talent management, not least because we need to recruit all across the country, including in places where the competition for talent can be tough,” says Charlotte.



Setra’s most important resource is its people.

With Setra operating in many different markets around the world, work on business ethics is vital on every level.

“We’ve already drawn up guidelines and trained our employees in business ethics. But we need to keep this dialogue going. In the spring, we made an inventory of the business ethics-related risks we see within Setra, many of which are incidents or situations that our employees have encountered. We collected these in what we call a White Book, and we are now in the process of producing an e-learning course in this area, so all the employees

concerned can benefit from the material.”

How do you feel about working in sustainability?

“I love being involved in these matters! It’s enjoyable and incredibly varied. Sometimes, when you see the challenges the world faces, it can feel overwhelming. But for the most part, I feel that the people of Sweden, and Setra, can really help to make a difference. We may only be a relatively small player, but we have every opportunity to lead by example. That’s an extremely important task,” says Charlotte Thedéen.

Sawdust becomes bio-oil

One part of Setra’s investment in sustainability is the production of pyrolysis oil. Pyrolysis oil is formed by heating sawdust to a high temperature without any oxygen. This turns the sawdust into a gas, which then condenses into pyrolysis oil. Once further refined, the oil can be used to replace fossil oil in heating boilers, for example. It can also be used to produce biofuel.

Setra’s sawmill in Kastet, just outside Gävle, is currently planning a plant that can use the pyrolysis technique to convert sawdust into bio-oil. Setra may be one of the first companies to turn the concept into commercial technology. Kastet will certainly be the first industrial-scale pyrolysis plant in Sweden. The investment decision is expected to be reached in early 2019 and the aim is for it to be ready for production in summer 2021.



Wood takes over at Långshyttan

*Setra is creating a wood industry hub
with more processed wood products*

Now Setra is harnessing the power of Dalarna's primary industry and making a major investment in niche specialist products. This time wood is playing the lead role in shaping the future of Långshyttan.

TEXT: KATARINA BRANDT PHOTO: MAGNUS LAUPA

→ **WHERE A FEW YEARS AGO**, sheet steel as thin as a leaf rolled off Finnish steel giant Outokumpu's machines, Setra is now introducing the very latest technology for wood processing. The idea is that Långshyttan will sit at the heart of a future wood industry hub, injecting new life not only into this industrial town in southern Dalarna but into the whole region. The move is based on a desire to meet the demand for processed wood products such as components for the door and window industry and the structural elements in cross-laminated timber (CLT) that are used to build apartment blocks.

People had almost lost hope of a new business ever moving into the Kloster industrial site after Outokumpu shut down its steelmaking operation four years ago. But at the start of the year, the news came that Setra had signed an agreement to buy the whole site in Långshyttan, all six football pitches' worth. The purchase means that Setra now has plenty of space to develop its business in the direction of more processed products.

The first phase is the component factory that became operational this autumn. It makes components for doors and windows as well as other processed wood products used by door and window manufacturers. Phase two is a CLT factory that will also be

housed on the Kloster site. CLT is prefabricated solid panels made up of planed timber that is glued together in alternating layers for increased dimensional stability. The technique is ideal for structures that require a high degree of strength and load-bearing capacity while being fire-resistant and relatively light.

The right timber for doors and windows

Axel Sternö has extensive experience of component manufacture, including from Stora Enso. Now he is responsible for setting up Setra's new component factory with all that entails, from procuring new machines to recruiting the right workers.

"The fact that Setra already has a successful production facility for glulam manufacture in Långshyttan is, of course, a help. The plant is a beacon of forward

"In addition to more jobs, I believe our investment in Långshyttan is going to have a ripple effect that benefits the wider community."

thinking and innovation, and over the past few years they've worked on every detail to make their working practices optimal and efficient. In addition to knowledge of finger jointing and glueing, they're accustomed to working with short lead times and fast deliveries."

Since Setra took over the premises, the foundations have been dug up and the floor levelled to create a functional production hall. The absence of internal columns was a major advantage, since the machinery takes up a lot of space. The finger jointing line at the heart of the operation is 75 metres long and 50 metres wide.

Finger jointing involves milling the ends of the wood into 10 or 15 millimetre long 'fingers' that enable separate elements to be joined together. Before the milling, defects such as knots are cut away. Once the parts have been bonded together using glue and pressure, the result is a wood product with practically invisible joints. The technique releases many of the tensions in the wood, making it straighter, with greater torsional rigidity and dimensional stability. The end product is also more homogenous and defect-free.

Since windows and doors are exposed to difficult conditions, it has always been known that they require carefully selected



Axel Sternö finds it helpful that Setra already has a successful production facility for glulam manufacture in Långshyttan. Pictured here with Kjell Lilltjernbakken.



Anna-Lena Gull has considerable experience of working with CLT, with previous jobs including project management in the construction industry.

timber. The concept in Långshyttan is based around raw material with a large proportion of heartwood from the sawmill in Skinnskatteberg. To find the parts of the log that are high in heartwood, each log is x-rayed before being sawn up.

“To start with, we have four employees in the component factory. The idea is that production will gradually be ramped up over the next two years. In time, we expect to be able to run a full three shifts, which will require us to triple the workforce,” says Axel Sternö.

Building material of the future

Alongside Axel Sternö, Anna-Lena Gull is working on establishing the CLT operation. She has a slightly longer schedule, with the CLT factory in Långshyttan planned for completion in early 2020. The required machinery has lengthy delivery times, plus the complex organisation requires many resources to be in place before you can push the start button.

“Demand for CLT has really taken off in recent years and now there is a growing interest in using the material for apartment blocks and industrial buildings. Locating the CLT factory in Långshyttan, close to the glulam production site, is good for Setra as the products have various commercial synergies,” explains Anna-Lena Gull.

Setra’s investments in Långshyttan have attracted a great deal of attention and there are many people who see a future career in the new factory. By the start of the summer, as many as 120 applications had already been received.

“In addition to more jobs, I believe our investment in Långshyttan is going to have a ripple effect that benefits the wider community. I expect it to create a demand for specialist construction companies that can take our products and add further value. The operation will also need consultancy services. Hopefully what we do will also

“Hopefully what we do can also attract more young people into our industry”

attract more young people into our industry,” says Kjell Lilltjernbakken, who manages the Setra site in Långshyttan.

Inger Wilstrand is CEO of the municipal business development company Hedemora Näringsliv AB. She is pleased to see Setra investing in Långshyttan and bringing Outokumpu’s old factory back to life – something she feels is giving the whole municipality hope for the future.

“Just like Setra, we see this as the beginning of a wood industry hub that will hopefully encourage more related businesses to locate here. We want to be part of this journey and provide support wherever we can. It may be necessary, for example, to introduce new educational provision locally to secure continued growth and create the right skills base.”



Both Setra and Hedemora Municipality hope the investments at Långshyttan will ultimately lead to the formation of a wood industry hub.

Timber from Setra is highly prized ‘Down Under’

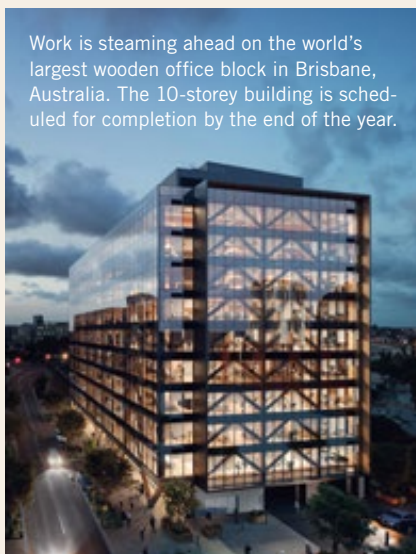
The future is bright for Australia, one of Setra’s new markets on the other side of the planet. Wood construction has really taken off here and Swedish timber is a new and popular resource in increasing demand. TEXT: KATARINA BRANDT

Of course Australia has its own forest, mainly various kinds of pine. But since most of its domestic forest grows quickly, Swedish wood products have the competitive edge, not least when it comes to strength. The Australian standard for machine graded structural timber is heavily enforced. It is the sawmill’s responsibility to ensure that the timber supplied meets the strength and stiffness requirements, and certification of this must also be available.

“As a market the size of the UK, Australia is interesting to us in many ways,” says Peter Hofbauer-Hoffman, Setra’s Sales Manager Overseas, covering Asia and developing markets. This role includes developing and building up Setra’s sales in Australia.

High quality from sustainable forestry
Australia builds in a similar way to the USA, with structural frames, simple wall units and roof trusses in wood. Although the country has a long tradition of building in wood, domestic production of wood products is on the decline. This is partly due to the fact that many of the nation’s sawmills are aging and neglected. Instead of sawing it themselves, many forest com-

Work is steaming ahead on the world’s largest wooden office block in Brisbane, Australia. The 10-storey building is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.



“In the long run, high quality from sustainable forest management is in demand and wood from Setra is highly prized”

panies now choose to export their wood to China.

“Our customers in Australia require wood certified at least to PEFC™, although FSC® is also appreciated. Essentially what they want is high quality from sustainable forestry, and timber from Setra’s sawmill in Bergslagen is in particular demand.”

Forecast suggests increased use of wood

Like elsewhere, Australia has opened its eyes to wood as a renewable and climate neutral material that contributes to lower carbon emissions than other building materials over its life cycle. The forecast for homebuilding looks positive, indicating a greater use of wood.

“Even though it takes over 50 days to send our goods by container ship to Australia, they’re willing to wait because the quality is higher. In the fourth quarter of this year alone, we’ll be delivering 2,500 cubic metres of structural timber per month to Australia,” concludes Peter Hofbauer-Hoffman.

Setra distributes and sells its wood products in partnership with sales company Vida Wood, which has its sales and logistics operations in Brisbane, on the country’s east coast.



In both the USA and Australia, houses are commonly built around a structural timber frame comprising posts, beams and roof trusses.

Peter Hofbauer-Hoffman is Sales Manager Overseas, covering Asia and developing markets.





JAPAN TAKES WOOD CONSTRUCTION TO NEW HEIGHTS

Japan's capital is famed for its innovative architecture and now a new landmark is planned in the form of a 350 metre tall skyscraper. The company Sumitomo is planning to build this spectacular design in central Tokyo. Boasting 70 storeys, the project, named W350, will be the tallest wooden building in the world.

TEXT: KATARINA BRANDT

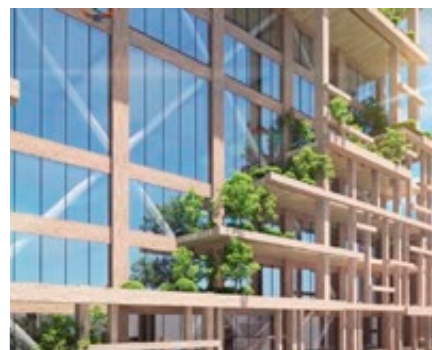
SUMITOMO IS WORKING with the Japanese architectural practice Nikken Sekkei, which designed the building to resist both strong winds and earthquakes. The plan is for the building to contain 90% wood, with parts of the load-bearing structure using a special hybrid technique based on steel reinforced tubular structures made from laminated wood. In contrast to many other skyscrapers, W350 will have balconies on all four sides, plus integral gardens on various levels.

An area of 455,000 square metres will house shops, offices, a hotel and 8,000 apartments. The price tag is put at roughly JPY 600 billion, which is a little over EUR 4.5 billion.

Cities transformed into forests

The skyscraper will be built using wood from the huge cedar and cypress forests that were planted around the time of the Second World War and are now ready for harvesting. The aim of the project is to increase interest in sustainable cities by raising the proportion of wood in high-rise architecture.

There are in fact a large number of wooden buildings in Tokyo already, as a result of a government policy decision from 2010 that requires all small-scale municipal buildings of up to two storeys to include wood in their design. A project such as W350 has a long gestation period and as such the skyscraper is not expected to be finished until 2041.



ABOUT THE W350 PROJECT

Working title: W350 Project

Stakeholders: Sumitomo Forestry's R&D company Tsikuba Research Institute and architectural practice Nikken Sekkei.

Height: 350 metres
No. of storeys: 70

Amount of wood in the building:
180,000 cubic metres

Cost: EUR 4.5 billion

Source: Sumitomo Forestry

WOOD SCHOOL

Certifications that ensure competence

A certificate is a guarantee that the business meets certain requirements. Three certificates that Setra uses are FSC®, PEFC™ and ISO 140001. But what do they actually stand for? Wood School explains. TEXT: ANNA MATZINGER

A certificate may be defined as proof of a certain level of achievement. The word can be traced back to the Latin *certus*, which means certain.

And that's exactly true. The certifications that Setra holds are there to reassure all stakeholders that the company meets certain requirements, such as the raw material coming from responsibly managed forests and our environmental work maintaining a certain level of quality.

Setra makes use of FSC® and PEFC™, which certify responsible forest management, and ISO 14001, which governs the way the company works on, and improves, its environmental performance.

“The environment we're talking about in ISO 14001 is the external environment, for example our emissions profile, the kind of fuel we use and how eco-friendly the products we use in our business are,” says Tommy Kronholm, who works with business management systems at Setra.

To obtain ISO 14001 certification, the company has to draw up an inventory of its key environmental issues, produce procedures and action plans to tackle these issues, and work systematically on improvements aimed at reducing its environmental impact. This can involve conducting an energy review to identify the right course of action or showing that you have a grip on the risks posed by the various chemicals used in the business.

“ISO 14001 gives us a regulatory framework to fall back on. It sets tough requirements, which are reassuring both to us in the organisation and to our customers. The latest version of the standard introduced a requirement that environmental issues must also involve



Tommy Kronholm works with business management systems at Setra.

“The certifications guarantee that the raw material we use doesn't come from illegal logging or from a key biotope”

top management, which gives them even greater weight,” says Tommy.

“Under the certification, each year we're audited by an independent, accredited third party. It's always useful to get an outsider's view of the business, and it gives us greater credibility.”

Certifications for forestry

FSC and PEFC focus more on the forest and the raw material, along with traceability from the forest to the finished product. Both standards require the forest to be managed in a way that takes account not only of the environment but also of social conditions. The finished products must also be labelled in order to provide clarity for consumers.

“The certifications guarantee that the raw material we use doesn't come from illegal logging or from a key biotope. Around 40% of our wood products are currently certified, and this meets the demand from our customers. Other products are checked against a number of criteria, including that the raw material must be sourced from legal forestry,” states Charlotte Thedéen, Sustainability Director at Setra.

The reason for opting to use both FSC and PEFC is that the certifications have, in the past at least, been used by different players.

“There has been a tradition for smaller, private forest owners to have their forestry PEFC certified, while large forest owners have chosen FSC. Over the years, however, FSC has simplified its rules, making it a certification for smaller forest owners as well. So now, many forest owners have double certification,” says Charlotte Thedéen.

ISO 14001

ISO stands for the International Organization for Standardization. This body has issued a range of standards aimed at guaranteeing the quality of various management systems in corporations and organisations. ISO 14001 is a standard for environmental management, where companies obtain certification in part by conducting a life cycle analysis, and by measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions.



PEFC – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes – is an international non-profit organisation. Swedish PEFC’s forestry standard aims to promote economically viable and valuable forest production, while also protecting biodiversity, cultural environments and social and ethical values.



FSC certification is issued by the Forest Stewardship Council, an international members’ organisation. Its members include large organisations such as WWF and Greenpeace. FSC promotes environmentally aware, socially responsible and economically viable management of the world’s forests.

TALKING ABOUT TIMBER

Building more homes in wood has many advantages. Wood is a climate-smart construction material and modern production methods are cutting construction costs, improving quality and speeding up the building process. We asked representatives from three construction companies for their views on building in wood.

TEXT: KATARINA BRANDT

What do you think about wood as a construction material and how is it used in your company's projects?



ANDREAS FURENBERG
TECHNICAL MANAGER PEAB

“It’s all about choosing the right material with the right properties for the right job”

Wood is a fantastic construction material and we use it in almost every project in one way or another. With material development making huge strides, it’s all about choosing the right material with the right properties for the right job. Wood’s key benefits boil down to its unbeatable environmental performance, its aesthetic and emotional appeal and the fact that it is so easy to work with. We primarily use wood for the surface layer for that reason, but also as a material in simple load-bearing structures. In recent times we’ve seen major advances and a strong environmental focus, which has led to increased use of wooden structural frames even in larger buildings. However, this throws up challenges of its own, which brings it all back to the right material for the right job.



JOHAN GERKLEV
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, SKANSKA

“It’s important to leave your emotions at home and remain focused on the facts”

At Skanska, we aim to use the material that best achieves the functions we want. Then we try to work out how all the pieces fit into the puzzle and see what we’re going to use in each case. Around 50% of the homes Skanska constructs today have a wooden frame, and most of those are part of our partnership with IKEA’s BoKlok concept. My personal attitude to wood is that I love the forest and I think wood is a fantastic material. But as a professional, it’s important to leave your emotions at home and remain focused on the facts. We’re going to need steel, concrete and wood in our urban planning. This means material development can’t stand still – it has to push forward at a rapid pace.



ANNA ERVAST ÖBERG
PROJECT DEVELOPER, VEIDEKKE BOSTAD AB

“I feel the industry has a strong willingness to collaborate”

Veidekke has taken the strategic decision to invest in wood construction, in line with the company’s ambitious climate goals. In Sweden, we’re currently working on building up our knowledge by drawing on experience from Norway, where Veidekke is the biggest name in wood construction. The focus is on developing projects and finding principles, suppliers and technical solutions. It’s exciting and I feel the industry has a strong willingness to collaborate. With Folkhem Trä, of which Veidekke owns 50%, we have large wooden housing projects on the go in the Stockholm area, including in Hagastaden, where we’re building four blocks with 240 apartments, and in Sundbyberg, which is gaining an entire district, with different types of housing and forms of tenure.