Wisconsin Council on Forestry Update

Elle Soderberg

Forest Products Specialist

October 1st, 2025

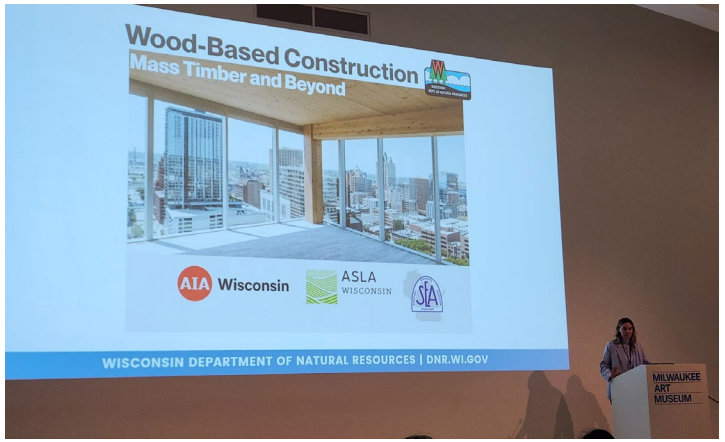
Objectives

- Explore benefits of using wood as building component, including structural versatility, prefabrication, lighter energy and carbon footprints, and reduced labor costs.
- Examine code and standard updates relevant to mass timber elements and the State of Wisconsin process for gaining approval of special projects
- Investigate the extent of locally sourced wood including urban wood, as a resource available to the construction industry and how to specify urban wood for a project.
- Acquire knowledge of environmental and performance research of mass timber.
- Discover how tall timber can achieve structural performance and approval in the US.

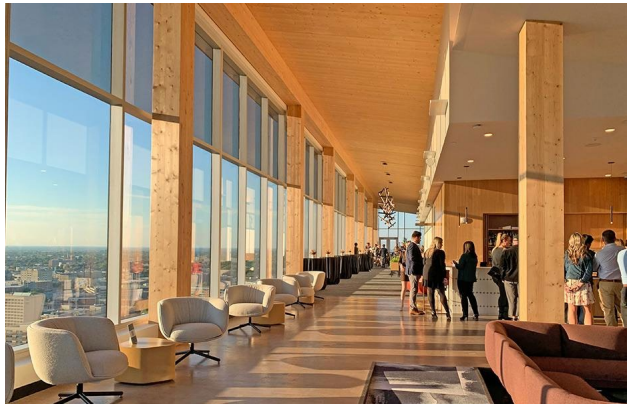
Vendor Booths

SIMPSON Strong-Tie	Thornton Tomasetti	ROCKWOOL®

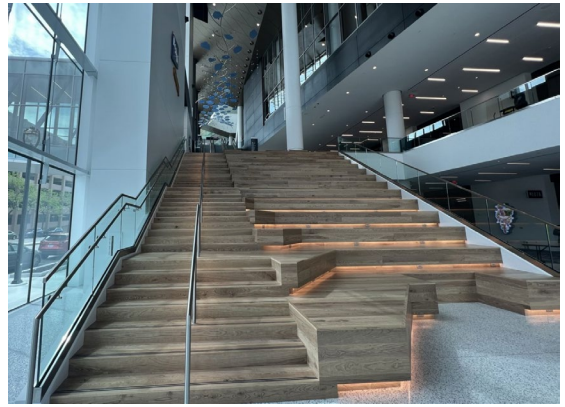
Milwaukee Art Museum



Ascent MKE



Baird Center



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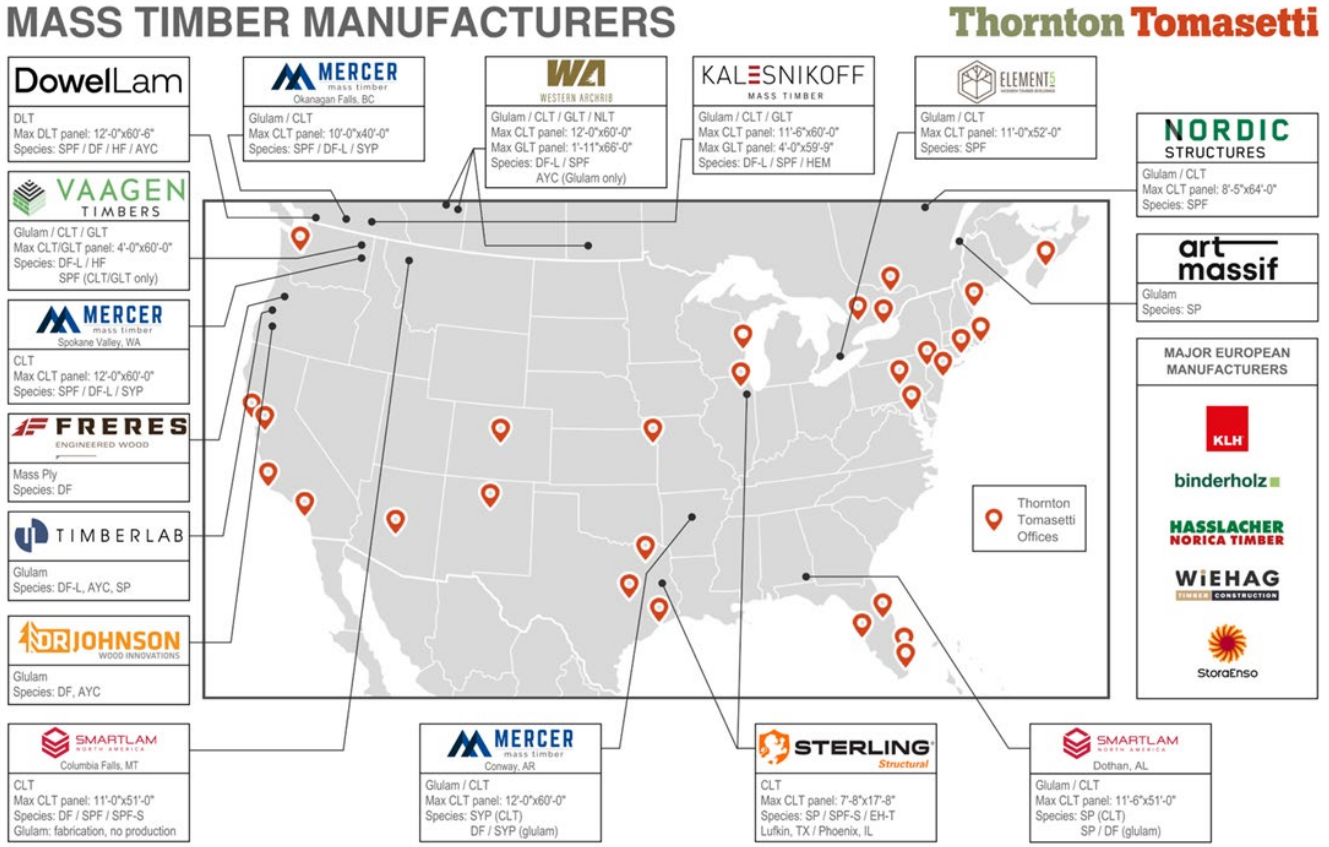
Mass Timber Technology and Variance Permitting in Wisconsin:

Eric Diels

Eric Diels joined Thornton Tomasetti (TT's) Structural Engineering practice in 2019 after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Structural Engineering at Northwestern University. At TT, he has developed expertise in reinforced concrete, post-tensioned concrete, and mass timber design. Eric was instrumental in the design and on-site special mass timber inspections for Ascent, currently the world's tallest hybrid mass timber/concrete building, located in Milwaukee, WI.

1. Mass Timber as a Transformative Building Material
2. Design, Performance, and Safety Considerations
3. Wisconsin's Path to Tall Mass Timber Construction



Hardwood CLTs Past and Future:

Sailesh Adhikari

Sailesh Adhikari is the Director of Research and Development at the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA), where he leads initiatives to advance the use of hardwood in engineered wood products and sustainable construction. He holds a graduate degree in wood science and has extensive experience in product development, standards work, and structural testing of hardwood species. Sailesh has played a key role in the inclusion of yellow poplar in the PRG 320 CLT standard and continues to collaborate with industry and academic partners to expand the role of hardwoods in mass timber. His work bridges technical research with market development to support innovation in the U.S. hardwood sector.

1. [illegible]
2. Technological and Market Developments
3. [illegible]

Commercial Adoption:

NHLA has reintroduced its SGHL grading rules

Hardwood CLTs are commercially adopted for CLT mats

Dedicated New CLT Mill:

Crosswood is a Hardwood CLT Manufacturing Facility in Western Virginia

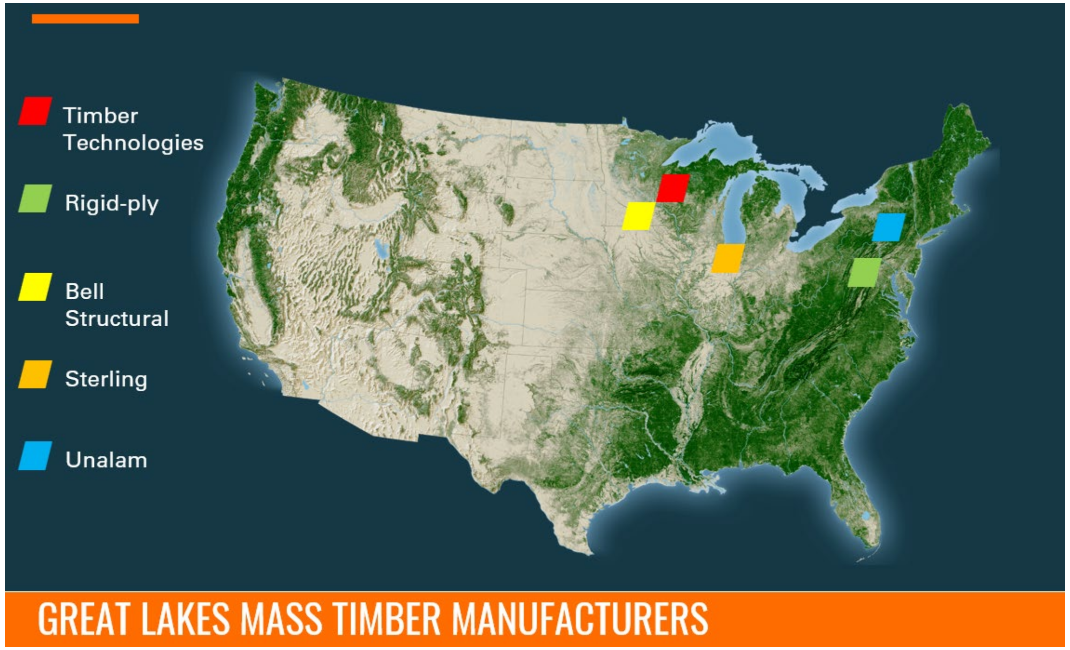
Search for Alternatives:

Virginia Tech is working with CLT mills in using random-width 2 common and lower-grade SGHL

Growing Interest in Other Species:

Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, University of Kentucky, Michigan Technological University, and other universities are working to test multiple hardwood species on CLTs

Driving Successful Projects and Empowering our Region's Woodland Communities with Mass Timber



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Archie Landreman

Archie is an experienced Mass Timber Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the building materials industry. Previously, Archie had a 14-year career with WoodWorks. In his current position with Sterling Structural he acts as a Mass Timber Specialist. Archie has experience in a variety of projects including, Bakers Place and The Edison, both located in Madison and the current tallest mass timber building in the world, the Ascent building right here in Milwaukee.

Michaela Harms

Michaela Harms holds a degree in Civil Engineering with a focus on Sustainable Building from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland. She has co-written and managed over $5M in USDA-funded research on mass timber construction and small-diameter utilization and has published work in Structures Magazine. Her career spans roles in R&D, sustainable forestry certification, and life cycle assessment software before joining Sterling Structural, where she now serves as VP of Mass Timber. Michaela brings expertise in business development, strategy, and standards compliance to advance mass timber adoption and sustainable construction.

Urban Wood: Maximizing the Full Worth of Urban and Community Forests

Dwayne Sperber

Dwayne Sperber is the president of Wudeward Urban Forest Products, a company dedicated to the sustainable recovery and repurposing of wood from urban and community forests. A passionate advocate for urban wood utilization, Dwayne has been a leading voice in advancing awareness, education, and infrastructure to ensure that these valuable local resources are used to their highest potential.

1. Significant Resource Potential
2. Supply Chain Integration
3. Comprehensive Health and Equity Benefits

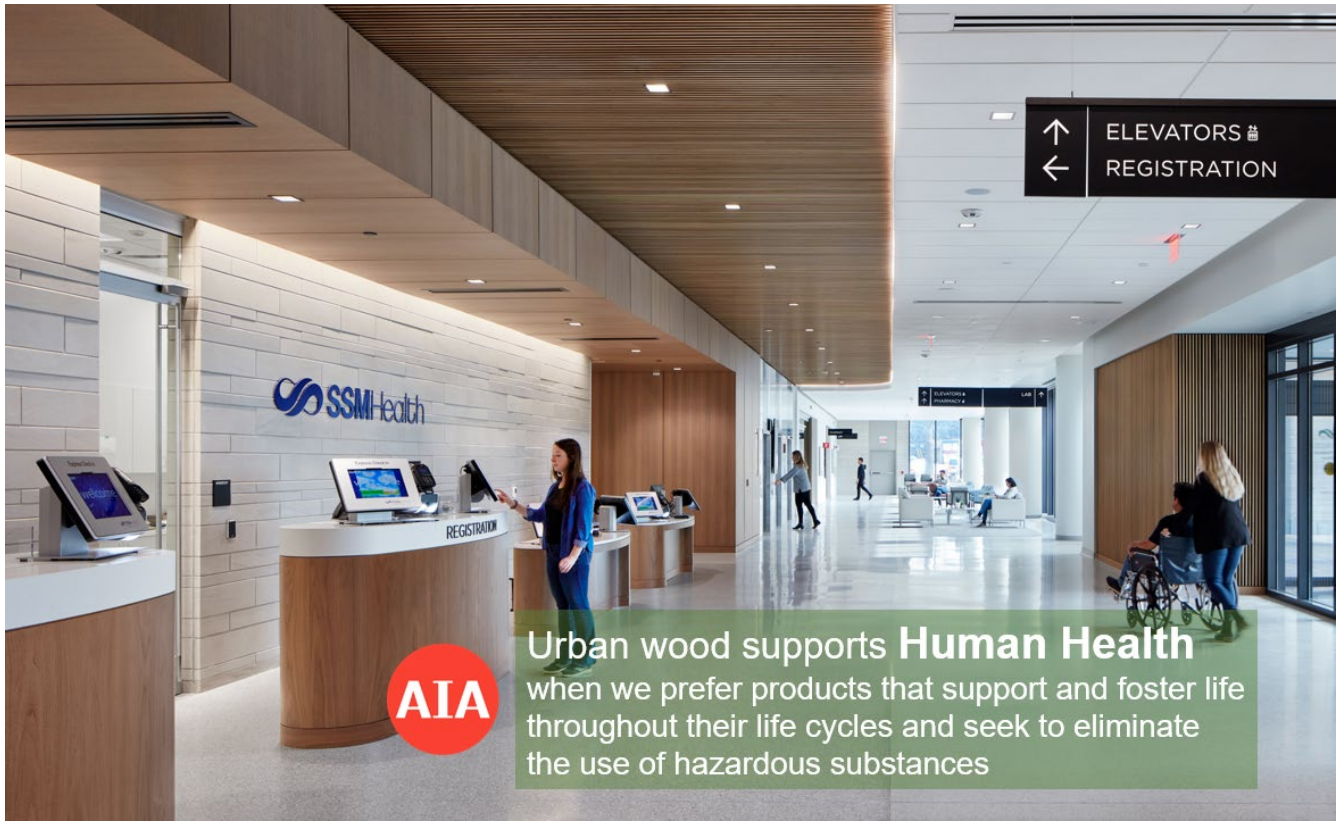

Photo Credit: Dwayne Sperber Wudeward

Urban and Salvaged Wood for Interiors: A Design Playbook

Emma Kiel

Emma Kiel is the Sustainability and Material Coordinator at Urban Evolutions, where she partners with municipalities and wood producers to build local, sustainable supply chains for salvaged and responsibly harvested timber. She evaluates material health and sustainability performance throughout product development ensuring high standards from concept to completion. Emma also chairs the Small Manufacturers' Engagement Group with Mindful Materials and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. She is passionate about creating local and regional systems for responsible procurement and material reuse in the built environment, viewing them as powerful tools for future climate action.

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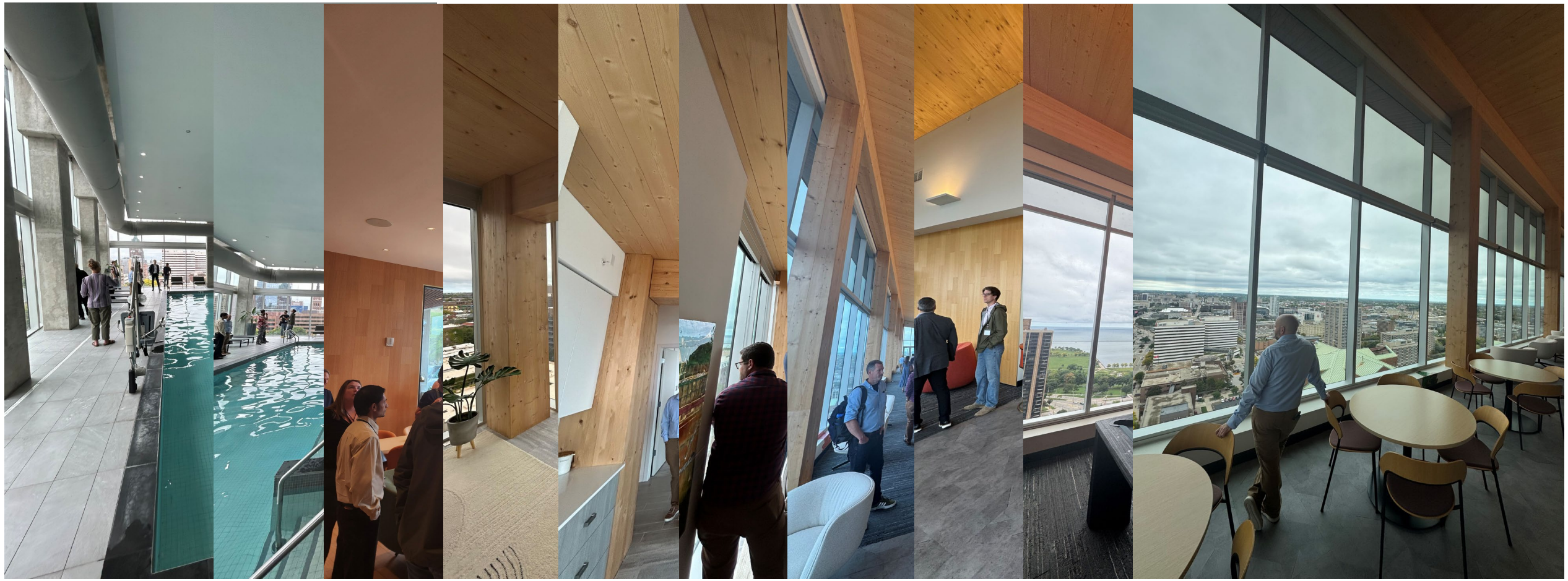
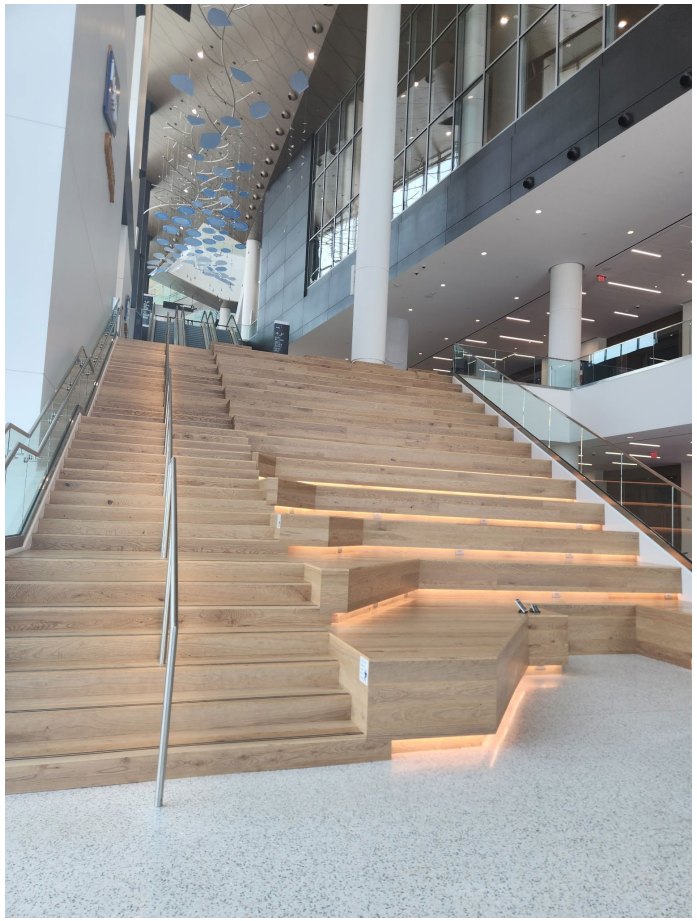
2. [illegible]
3. Urban Wood is a Practical and Scalable Material for Modern Design

Ascent Building Tour



Baird Center Urban Wood Steps



Attendance Stats

Wood Based Construction Mass Timber and Beyond Survey!

Industry	Number
Architects	6
Engineers	10
Urban Wood Users	4
State/University/Federal	16
Other	7
Total	43

Surveys are currently being completed, and data will be analyzed in the coming weeks.


Questions

CONNECT WITH US

Elle Soderberg

Forest Products Specialist

Elle.Soderberg@wisconsin.gov

920-883-9980

@WIDNR

@WI_DNR

/WIDNRTV

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OFF THE RECORD"