



# REFRAMED: THE FUTURE OF CITIES IN WOOD

APRIL 25, 2023 – JANUARY 7, 2024

PRESENTED BY



CURATED BY



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# REFRAMED: THE FUTURE OF CITIES IN WOOD

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## OVERVIEW

REFRAMED: The Future of Cities in Wood was an exhibition co-curated by the Chicago Architecture Center and the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and presented by the Softwood Lumber Board. It told the story of building with mass timber featuring architectural models of mass timber projects from around the world, from public spaces to office buildings and adaptive reuse to new construction. This exhibition explored the many positive aspects of building with mass timber, including sustainability and safety.

It also reflected on biophilia, the human instinct to seek connections with nature. Biophilic design centered around the use of wood creates aesthetically pleasing environments and has been proven to promote well-being and positive mental health benefits among occupants. The exhibition also offered the hands-on opportunity to experience wood through a learning pavilion constructed from mass timber, with striking visual demonstration of the superior ability of mass timber to withstand fire.







Total  
Attendance  
**37,049**  
**VISITORS**

### ENGAGEMENT

#### 12 Visiting Organizations and Firms

- Studio Gang
- AIA Chicago
- Related Midwest
- UL Solutions
- Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture
- Ross Barney Architects
- Columbia College Chicago (Interior Architecture Department)
- Perkins + Will
- iitAIAS
- Johns Hopkins University
- Stantec





## CONTENT & PROGRAMMING

### Programming

The CAC and SLB hosted several programs over the run of the exhibition, encouraging industry professionals to visit the show and learn more about the impact of mass timber. Each program was offered in a hybrid format, so in-person attendees could explore the exhibition while still making the program accessible for non-local attendees via Zoom.

- Reframed and Recovered: A Conversation with the Curators
- Talking Timber: Can Wood Save Us?\*
- Talking Timber: Will Chicago Embrace Wooden High-rises?\*
- Talking Timber: Designing Future Cities in Wood\*

*\*Attendees of these programs received 1 AIA/CES Learning Unit*

### Video Content

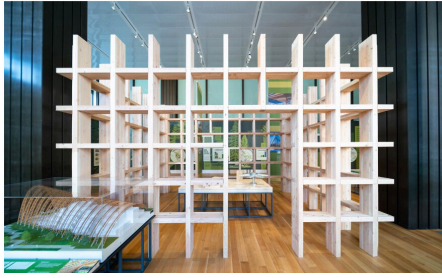
Each program was recorded, edited, transcribed and added to the CAC's YouTube channel for future viewing and use as a resource.

- [Panel Event Explores a World of Mass Timber Construction](#)
- [Talking Timber Interviews: Todd Snapp, Principal, Perkins + Will](#)



## ARCHITECT

### This Week in Tech & Culture: Building with Mass Timber and an Exhibition Curated by Carol Ross Barney



#### Exhibitions on Building with Mass Timber

The Chicago Architecture Center opened two exhibitions, entitled *REFRAMED: The Future of Cities in Wood* and *ReCovered: Chicago's Urban Tree Canopy*, that explore the benefits of wood in the built environment.

*REFRAMED*—presented by the [Softwood Lumber Board](#), an industry-funded initiative that promotes the use of softwood lumber in construction—is a learning pavilion constructed from mass timber that highlights the material's best qualities such as its strength, lightness, and ability "to withstand fire," according to a [press release](#) on the exhibition.

Architectural Record

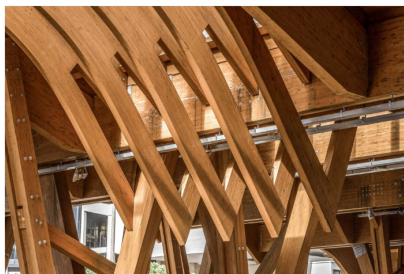
### Mass-Timber Exhibition in Chicago Barks Up the Right Tree



The benefits of [mass timber](#)—a structural system of engineered lumber formed by joining wood boards into larger members, each stronger and more durable than its constituent parts—are well known. Wood is a renewable resource and therefore has sustainable attributes. As trees grow, they capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a primary cause both of air pollution and global climate change. The production of concrete and steel, on the other hand, releases vast quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. It follows that using sustainably produced timber as a structural material reduces the harmful environmental impact of buildings.

## The Architect's Newspaper

### Four immersive exhibitions to check out before fall rolls in



(Paolo Fassoli)

#### *REFRAMED: The Future of Cities in Wood*

Chicago Architecture Center  
111 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Through October

Mass timber carries a lot of weight: namely, the weight of architects' expectations that the building material can be used to design ourselves out of the climate crisis. Though one of the oldest known architectural materials, and one that has been in near-constant use for millennia, timber (through its improved "massive" format) has taken on the mythic proportions previously reserved only for steel and concrete.



## MEDIA IMPACT

### Earned media

Placements: 12

Impressions: 931,470

### Social Media

Facebook: 24,389 impressions across 7 posts

Instagram: 49,072 impressions across 8 posts

