

WoodWorks

Building with Wood in Brazil and Switzerland

October 8th - October 9th 2012
FAU USP São Paulo

Cidade Universitária
Rua do Lago, 876
05508.080 São Paulo SP Brasil



FAU USP

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

WoodWorks

Building with Wood in Brazil and Switzerland

For the proposed academic exchange between the two architecture faculties FAU Universidade de São Paulo and D-ARCH ETH Zurich an internationally renowned group of architects, engineers, manufacturers and forest scientists, will gather to discuss the potential of wood construction and its evolution as a material in Brazil and Switzerland.

In recent years wood has become increasingly important as a building material. The UN declared the year 2011 the “International Year of Forests” and this global drive for ecological awareness also inspired a new way of thinking within the building sector.

Improvements in fire protection and soundproofing as well as the use of computer-aided calculus in manufacturing have greatly enhanced the design potential and architectural application of wood. Thus wood, as one of the oldest building materials, is no longer disadvantaged in comparison with the “modern” materials - steel and concrete; we can now see the potential of wood to play a vital role in building projects of the future.

In addition to this, the forest sector where the concept of sustainability originates, is also experiencing a new way of thinking. They are increasingly recognising that woodlands serve not only as an energy deposit and as a building material, these woodlands primarily act as a factor in climate control and as a natural habitat for thousands of species. The forest is a means of subsistence for life on earth that has to be managed in a sustainable manner to secure life in the long term.

This conference will demonstrate this shift of attitude towards wood; the ways in which it is fast becoming an innovative and versatile building material whose proper application both supports the economy and contributes to the preservation of the forests.



Building/Weaving

The exhibition is part of the conference „WoodWorks-Building with Wood in Brazil and Switzerland“

In March 2012 a group of 11 students from the architecture school at ETH Zurich went to Brazil in order to understand and explore native timber construction. The aim was to investigate a very different construction concept within another cultural environment to enlighten traditional timber construction concepts in Switzerland while approaching the very fundamental conditions of timber as a building material in a radical different way.

Being hosted by an Indian village in a reserve near Tangará da Serra (Mato Grosso), the students built a traditional Oca, a type of primordial hut in that larger area of South America, during a period of 5 days. They have been instructed and assisted by natives from the village who also explained basic concepts and demonstrated various techniques and numerous construction details. This hands-on workshop enabled the students to personally approach the basic idea of building with simplest means and without advanced craftsmanship but implicitly in strict accordance with the material conditions.

Imbedded into this culture context, which intensively relates many types of crafts like weaving clothes or baskets, it turned out the greatest insight to understand building as a type of weaving.

The workshop has been documented by the well-known Brazilian photographer José Medeiros. Appr. 20 large-size monochrome photographs will be presented in the exhibition, which will tell the story of building an Oca.

Organisation

Conference

Prof. Annette Spiro
Udo Thönnissen
Chair of Architecture and Construction
D-ARCH, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

thoennissen@arch.ethz.ch

Milton Braga
Architect and Associate Professor at FAU USP
Departamento de Projeto
Grupo de Disciplinas de Projeto
Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo
São Paulo SP Brasil

miltonbraga@mmbb.com.br

Angelo Bucci
Architect and Associate Professor at FAU USP
Departamento de Projeto
Grupo de Disciplinas de Projeto
Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo
São Paulo SP Brasil

angelobucci@spbr.arq.br

Exhibition

Lara Borgonovi e Silva
Architect, researcher at ETH Zurich

lasilva@ibi.baug.ethz.ch

Mario Rinke
Structural engineer, researcher and lecturer at ETH Zurich
Chair of Structural Design, Prof. Dr. Joseph Schwartz,
D-ARCH, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

rinke@arch.ethz.ch

Support

Gabriela Blatter
International Institutional Affairs IIA
ETH Zurich

gabriela.blatter@sl.ethz.ch