

Ask For Wood!

PHOTO: Bolton Dining Commons at the University of Georgia

Providing a Natural Connection in the Built Environment

Wood provides a deeper connection to nature in the built environment, while adding warmth and comfort to the places we live, work and play. It connects us to the outside world while invoking a sense of social responsibility.

- Across the U.S. south, forest landowners are sustainably growing and managing forests for products that we use every day. By choosing wood, you are supporting local economies and helping to keep forests as forests.
- Whether it is a school, church, office or playground, using wood creates a memorable, culturally significant experience that connects us to nature while bettering the world around us.

Why Choose Wood?



SUSTAINABLE

When comparing life cycle analysis of wood to other materials, using wood lowers greenhouse gas emissions during construction, decreases air and water pollution and lowers the volume of solid waste material.



HEALTHY

Researchers have discovered that wood contributes to the health and well-being of building occupants. Exposed wood can reduce stress, improve cognitive and creative functions and increase productivity.



CLIMATE-FRIENDLY

When wood as a construction material, the carbon absorbed by the tree as it grew is effectively locked away. Maximizing wood use could remove an estimated 21 million tons of CO2 from the atmosphere annually – equal to taking 4.4 million cars off the road.



SAFE AND VERSATILE

Building codes require all building systems to perform to the same level of safety, regardless of the material used. 70% of commercial buildings in the U.S. could be built with wood according to local and state buildings codes.



COST-EFFECTIVE

Research shows that one-to-four story office buildings can cost 20-30% less per square foot than their non-wood counterparts. Building with wood is efficient, often completed faster than other systems, and can be done year-round in almost any climate.



KEEPING FORESTS

Privately-owned working forests are growing 52% more wood annually than they remove. By choosing wood products, landowners can make investments in replanting and reforestation, forest health treatments and regular maintenance that keep forests strong and resilient.



**KEEPING
FORESTS**

www.askforwood.org



El Dorado High School Gymnasium

Case Study: El Dorado High School - Arkansas

woodworks.org

El Dorado High School was the first school in Arkansas that made the choice to build with wood. The original budget estimate was over \$60 million dollars — \$50 per square foot over budget. Thanks to a brilliant team, the final construction costs were lowered to \$43.2 million by building with wood.

“Originally, the project was designed in steel and masonry, which is common for a building of this size, but the budget was too high. So our response was to look at other framing types. That’s where we found considerable savings.”

J. RICHARD BROWN
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.

How You Can Ask For Wood!

IN YOUR HOME

Maximize wood as a primary building material in your home. Ask your builder about these ways to use wood.

1. Structural

- Light Wood Framing
- Prefabrication
- Mass Timber

2. Interior

- Cabinetry & Furniture
- Texture Accent Walls

3. Exterior

- Siding & Decks
- Gazebos & Pergolas
- Landscaping & Fencing

IN YOUR SCHOOL

Wood construction can be critical for reducing costs and creating spaces conducive for learning in schools. Ask your school board about these wood construction opportunities.

1. Structural

- Mass timber beams or panels
- Wood truss systems for roofs

2. Athletics

- Gymnasium
- Locker Rooms & Athletic Facilities

3. Interior

- Library / Study Hall
- Learning Areas

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Community spaces can benefit from the development of wood spaces that cultivate a sense of place and a connection with nature.

1. Government Buildings

- Court & Judicial Centers
- City Hall

2. Gathering Spaces

- City Square Gazebos
- Concert Stages
- Art Installations

3. Religious Buildings

Need more information?

www.ThinkWood.com | www.woodworks.org | www.awc.org | www.softwoodlumberboard.org



**KEEPING
FORESTS**

www.askforwood.org