Wood for Good’s Spring 2016 conference programme is focused on the use of timber in new housing design. Through the course of four one-day events to be held in different parts of the UK during May and June, a series of separate but interconnected housing themes will be explored in detail. Each one-day conference will investigate the latest developments and innovations in the use of timber products and construction systems and their relationship to other complementary areas of building technology and energy use. Cumulatively, the knowledge gained from all four events will provide the most comprehensive information available on the current and potential future use of timber in housing design in the UK.

The four conferences are:

» **The Innovative Timber House**
  (Edinburgh, Tuesday 3 May)

» **The Prefabricated Timber House**
  (Sheffield, Tuesday 24 May)

» **The Self-Build / Custom Build Timber House**
  (Bristol, Tuesday 14 June)

» **The Solid Timber House**
  (London, Tuesday 28 June)

Through its conference programme, Wood for Good aims to effect a transformation in the way we currently think about housing provision - whether urban, suburban and rural - and the various ways that timber and timber products/systems can be combined to substantively contribute towards the ambitious targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments for the number of new houses to be built in the next five years.

One-Day Conference
Tuesday 3 May 2016
King Khalid Building, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Hill Square, Edinburgh
What is ‘the Innovative Timber House’?

Arguably the most interesting innovations to emerge in the construction industry in recent years have been in the world of timber technology: whether as new engineered timber products or in new approaches taken by architects and engineers, the possibilities for advanced design in timber have been pushed further and higher with large-scale timber housing projects built or proposed in many major cities around the world. From London to Melbourne, Bergen to Chicago, the energy currently being applied to innovation in the use of timber in housing design is international. The reasons for this are clear: the need for low carbon solutions to global urban intensification as well as demand for greater speed and accuracy in construction and more efficient use of renewable materials have all contributed to new thinking on housing delivery. In the fast changing and highly competitive world of housing design and construction, speed of innovation is increasingly recognised as the only sustainable advantage* and one that can be met by the distinctive benefits provided by new timber solutions.

At the scale of larger housing developments, such innovation requires strong, creative collaborations between academics, designers, developers, manufacturers and contractors. The same is true at more modest levels of housing provision but where the need to deliver best value and quality in the face of continuing regulatory change, ongoing loss of skills to the industry and financial uncertainty are all too often given as reasons for slow uptake of new technologies and the continuation of tried and tested construction methods. Yet 50% of Scotland’s current carbon emissions derive from the country’s buildings - whether existing or still in construction - and are a primary reason why aspirations to move from wasteful and polluting practices towards a low carbon, circular economy continue to gain political and institutional momentum. With demand for ever more energy efficient and sustainable products and systems now high on client briefs, the new world of timber manufacture and construction provides the vehicle to deliver innovative housing solutions in response to these demands.

* “We are now in the creative era: the information age is over and speed of innovation is the only sustainable advantage.” (Nomura Institute, Japan)
» Conference Aims & Objectives

» To provide delegates with fresh insights into the imperatives affecting the design of new housing and the opportunities they provide for innovation in the future development of timber technology and timber construction methods

» To illustrate where timber sits within the Circular Economy and the possibilities this offers for future timber housing design

» To outline the innovation ecosystem that now exists in Scotland to support new thinking in design and construction

» To identify funding support and potential partners for new smart timber house initiatives

» To illustrate how innovation success can be achieved via broad-based partnerships with external agencies/organisations and the economic benefit this can bring to small practices, consultancies and companies

» To showcase some of the radical thinking currently taking place in timber housing design

Registering is simple and easy. Click here to register online.
» Why here?

With well over 70% of Scotland’s new housing based upon timber construction methods, the country already has an industry well-versed in the application of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to housebuilding with wood. The Scottish Government’s economic strategy and carbon emission reduction targets for 2020 have prompted it to establish the infrastructure needed to support innovative, transformational change in the country’s construction industry. Universally, however, this industry is guilty of huge levels of waste: not only in its cavalier use of materials, but also in its inefficient use of energy. To combat this, new funding has recently been announced to support alternative approaches to align with the delivery of an efficient Circular Economy in Scotland and the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre is now available to assist all in the industry to conceive and deliver new and advanced building components, systems and processes. With other new products and system developments that make exemplary use of home-grown timber beginning to impact on the domestic house design and construction markets, Scotland is well placed to become the UK centre for innovation in timber house design and construction.

» Why now?

Demand for new housing throughout the UK is rising inexorably and with it the need for new approaches to housebuilding that also address the funding and land acquisition challenges which, in their interaction, can stimulate urgently needed innovative design and manufacturing solutions. Modern housing design also requires sophisticated responses to changing demographics, continuously rising building standards and the integration of smart technologies as well as answers to environmental concerns and the better utilisation of indigenous resources such as timber. The long period of recession since 2008 has also witnessed large numbers of skilled people departing the construction industry which as it begins to recover, render traditional approaches to house building much less able to deliver the quantity, build quality and energy efficiency now generally expected. There is no more important moment for all parts of the supply chain to come forward with radical ideas and innovative offerings and time, therefore, for construction professionals to actively engage with Scotland’s innovation ecosystem.
» Why you?

The conference programme is designed to offer valuable insights to architects, engineers, planners, construction and housing professionals operating in, or supplying to, the Scottish and UK housing markets. Those seriously interested in the future direction of timber housing design cannot afford to miss this important conference. Support from Wood for Good has allowed the delegate rate to be kept as low as possible to encourage attendance by sole practitioners and small companies, practices and consultancies who would normally find one-day conferences too expensive to attend.

» Where?

The King Khalid Building is a dedicated conference facility within the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in Nicolson Street. The building is entered via the north east corner of Hill Square, which sits behind the main complex of Surgeons’ Hall.

» Cost?

Cost to attend the one-day conference is £96 inclusive of VAT, finger buffet lunch, refreshments throughout the day and comprehensive delegate pack. Each delegate will also receive a copy of The Modern Timber House.

» How to book?

Simple and easy. Click below to register online. Payment of the delegate fee is made through Eventbrite’s secure portal and once you’ve completed your details you will receive confirmation of your place immediately by email.

Registering is simple and easy. Click here to register online.
Continuing Professional Development

Attendance at the conference can contribute to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for design and construction professionals. ‘The Innovative Timber House; The New Architecture of Wood’ event equates to 5 CPD hours (300 minutes). Wood for Good Certificates of Attendance will be provided to all delegates.

The Modern Timber House publication

In parallel with its Spring 2016 Conference programme, Wood for Good is launching its new book, ‘The Modern Timber House’. Written by architect Peter Wilson, this extensively illustrated publication celebrates the many creative ways that architects and engineers in the UK have recently utilised timber and timber products/systems in the design of new housing. ‘The Modern Timber House’ aims to extend the audience for timber house solutions and to reach not only construction professionals who will be interested in the chapter distinctions made between different approaches to timber house design and construction, but to politicians, planners and building regulations inspectors together with members of the general public who may still perceive timber to be an unusual material choice for housing.

Wood for Good

Wood for Good is the UK’s wood promotion campaign and works on behalf of the whole timber industry in the UK. It aims to promote the suitability and sustainability of timber as a building material to architects, engineers and other construction professionals. This conference is one of four in the organisation’s Spring 2016 programme to focus upon the many different ways timber and timber products/systems are currently being applied in residential design in the UK and aims to stimulate further innovative approaches to the use of timber in housing.

Organiser

Timber Design Initiatives Ltd works to deliver new approaches to education, innovation and the demonstration of best practice in the use of wood in architecture, design and construction through applied research collaborations between academia and industry. The Timber Design Initiatives team has long experience in the provision of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) material and events to architects, engineers and other construction professionals.

Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design

2016 is the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in Scotland with architecture events taking place throughout the country over the course of the next six months. The Innovative Timber House conference is listed within the ‘Say Hello to Architecture’ programme of Architecture + Design Scotland.

Registering is simple and easy. Click here to register online.
### Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30 - 09:55</td>
<td>Registration / Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:55 - 10:00</td>
<td>Chairman’s Introduction to Conference &amp; Morning Session</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1 - Timber Innovation &amp; the Circular Economy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td><em>Where does timber fit in a Circular Economy?</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charlie Law, Managing Director, Sustainable Construction Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:00</td>
<td><em>The Circular Economy Investment Fund</em></td>
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<td>Louise McGregor, Head of Circular Economy, Zero Waste Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:20</td>
<td>Coffee / Tea &amp; Networking</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2 - Research, Development &amp; Innovation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:20 - 11:45</td>
<td><em>Fostering a culture of timber innovation</em></td>
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<td>Professor Sean Smith, Director, Institute for Sustainable Construction, Edinburgh Napier University</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 - 12:15</td>
<td><em>Developing the future timber house within the innovation ecosystem</em></td>
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<td>Bruce Newlands, Head of Technical Operations, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 12:45</td>
<td><em>The energy self-sufficient timber house: a development model</em></td>
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<td>Dr. Neil Burford, Architecture &amp; Planning School, University of Dundee</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 - 12:55</td>
<td>Questions &amp; Answer Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:55 - 13:00</td>
<td>Chairman’s Summary of Morning Session</td>
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<td>13:00 - 13:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45 - 13:50</td>
<td>Chairman’s Introduction to Afternoon Session</td>
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<td><strong>Session 3 - Unlocking innovation: alternative solutions to related housing challenges</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:50 - 14:15</td>
<td><em>A new financial model for design-led housebuilding</em></td>
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<td>Matthew Benson (TBC), Head of Land &amp; Development, New Homes &amp; Research, Rettie &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15 - 14:45</td>
<td><em>The WikiHouse: designing digitally, manufacturing locally</em></td>
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<td>Alastair Parvin, Communication/Vision/Product lead, WikiHouse Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:40 - 15:00</td>
<td>Coffee / Tea &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 4 - Innovation, realisation &amp; education: the future timber house</strong></td>
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<td>15:00 - 15:30</td>
<td><em>Timber house innovation: working in the wood, with the wood</em></td>
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<td>Piers Taylor, The Invisible Studio, Bristol</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 - 15:30</td>
<td><em>Imagining the timber city</em></td>
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<td>Haiko Meijer, Onix Architects, Groningen, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00 - 16:10</td>
<td>Questions &amp; Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:10 - 16:15</td>
<td>Chairman’s Summary of Day and &amp; Closing Remarks</td>
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(5.0 CPD Hours)
Where does timber fit in a Circular Economy?

Charlie Law MIEMA ICIoB
Founder and Managing Director,
Sustainable Construction Solutions Limited

Sustainable Construction Solutions was set up in 2014 by Charlie Law, who has almost 30 years of problem solving experience in the construction industry, covering cost and construction management, as well as sustainability. The company operates UK-wide to assist organisations in realising their sustainability objectives, and firmly believe that the three pillars of sustainability – Environmental, Social, and Economic – must be equally balanced to succeed. Charlie has worked in the construction sector for almost 30 years, and has extensive knowledge of its processes through his roles in cost management, construction management, training, and sustainability at BAM Construct UK Ltd, one of the largest construction and property services organisations in the UK. In his 11 years as Head of Environmental Management at BAM, Charlie developed their ISO14001 management system, and was thought leader in the areas of circular economy thinking, resource efficiency, and responsible timber procurement.

The Circular Economy Investment Fund

Louise McGregor
Head of Circular Economy, Zero Waste Scotland

Zero Waste Scotland leads on the delivery of the Scottish Government’s Zero Waste Plan and other low carbon policy priorities and is at the forefront of efforts to create a resource efficient, circular economy.

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The Innovative Timber House:
The New Architecture of Wood

Speakers: Session 1 - Timber Innovation & the Circular Economy
Fostering a culture of timber innovation

Professor Sean Smith
Director, Institute for Sustainable Construction, Edinburgh Napier University

Sean Smith is currently Director of the Institute for Sustainable Construction and Professor of Construction Innovation at Edinburgh Napier University. He is widely known for his role in the development of Robust Details and product innovations for the housing sector. He has previously served on the industry leadership group Construction Scotland, the 2020 Climate Group committees for Built Environment and Innovation and Infrastructure. He is currently co-chair and member of the Advanced Construction Group for the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, BIM Industry Task Group and is founding member of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation and Retrofit Scotland. Sean Smith is an Honorary Fellow of the RIAS.

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se.smith@napier.ac.uk
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Developing the future timber house within Scotland’s innovation ecosystem

Bruce Newlands
Head of Technical Operations, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre

Bruce leads on the technical aspects of the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, including supporting the Business Relationship team with the technical review of projects and co-ordinating large scale research bids between academic partners and industry. He works closely with the Chief Executive to create strategy, processes and procedures. Bruce is leading the establishment of CSIC’s Advanced Construction Centre, a large scale prototyping centre aimed at supporting industry needs for physical prototyping and testing of new products and the development of new processes and skills. He also leads on the development of training including digital skills and BIM awareness. Bruce is a qualified architect with over 14 years construction industry experience and is a Certified Section 6 Energy Assessor.

Prior to joining the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, Bruce Newlands founded MAKLAB, Scotland’s Open Access Digital Fabrication Studio.

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bnewlands@cs-ic.org
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The energy self-sufficient timber house

Dr Neil Burford
BSc., BArch Honours (1st Class), PhD (Dundee/Munich), ARIAS, RIBA, ARB
Architecture and Planning, School of Social Sciences, University of Dundee

Neil Burford is an architect and senior lecturer at the University of Dundee. His work focuses on the design of sustainable communities and low-energy housing and is the foundation for his teaching an MSc in Zero-Carbon Buildings and the MacroMicro© MArch design unit that undertakes live projects. He was awarded the prestigious biannual RIAS Scottish Design Tutor Award for 2013-15. His research is both practical and academic: as consultant, he was a finalist on the British Homes Awards, 2010 and the 100 Mile House, 2012. His most recent writings posit new concepts in sustainable rural housing and the relationship between housing energy efficiency and regional climate. Recent work includes his leadership of an interdisciplinary consortia of academics and industry to design and build the UK’s first zero-energy building at the Botanic Gardens, Dundee. This project addresses future regulatory changes and tests the efficacy of decentralised micro-grids where buildings will become future renewable energy power stations and energy stores.

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www.macromicro.co.uk
A new financial model for design-led housebuilding

Matthew Benson
Head of Land & Development, New Homes & Research, Rettie & Co.

On graduation from Oxford University Matthew Benson began his career with Morgan Stanley, working in international finance in London. He subsequently established his own consultancy business focused upon the structuring and planning of high quality residential and leisure projects. He joined Rettie & Co in 1998 where he has overseen the expansion in the Land and Development, New Homes and Research teams. He has recently been working closely with the Scottish Government as well as regeneration agencies in England to look at new ways of stimulating housebuilding and delivering mixed tenure affordable housing in the current low grant environment. Matthew developed much of the thinking behind the National Housing Trust initiative and has been developing parallel private sector led initiatives. He is chair of Ectopharma Ltd; on the boards of Springfield Homes, the Edinburgh Arts Festival and the volunteering charity, Project Scotland. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of Kleinwort Benson Private Bank

The WikiHouse: designing digitally, manufacturing locally

Alastair Parvin
Communication/Vision and Product Lead, WikiHouse Foundation

Alastair Parvin is a strategic designer with 00 London, and the co-founder of WikiHouse Foundation. He is currently working on better housing systems, open production & citizen-led cities. Although he trained in architecture, his work extends outside its traditional framework, looking at the economic, social, political and technological systems behind it. He is a co-inventor of WikiHouse, a digital building system which is using open design and distributed digital manufacturing to radically democratise the production of homes. He also thinks, writes, speaks and advises companies and governments on housing crises, democratic cities and what the ‘third industrial revolution’ means for the future of cities, business, development and urban planning, as well as on how the technology is reshaping our politics, and how design can be engaged to address some of the most critical social, environmental and economic challenges we face.

Alastair Parvin
WikiHouse Foundation
enquiries@wikihouse.cc
www.wikihouse.cc
Timber house innovation: in the wood, with the wood

Piers Taylor
Invisible Studio, Bath

Piers Taylor is renowned as an award-winning architect, broadcaster and academic. With Kieran Long, he co-presents the successful BBC2 series ‘The House that £100k Built’, demonstrating to self-builders how to do more with less. He also co-presents the hit spin-off BBC2 series, ‘Tricks of the Trade’. Piers Taylor is known for his resourceful ‘thinking outside of the box’ and his challenging of mainstream convention in architecture and in education, with built work that typically pushes boundaries in terms of cost, technique and process: skills exemplified in several seminal buildings, including the RIBA Award-winning ‘Room 13’ and the ‘Moonshine’ house which won the AJ Small Project Award. The founder of two architectural practices - Mitchell Taylor Workshop and Invisible Studio - he is a former Design Fellow at the University of Cambridge, a Studio Master at London’s Architectural Association and the founder of a number of educational programs including the annual Studio in the Woods. Piers contributes regularly to many architectural journals including the Architects’ Journal, Blueprint, Building Design and the Architectural Review. He lives in a self built house in a woodland near Bath.

Imagining the timber city

Haiko Meijer
Onix Architects, Groningen

Haiko Meijer founded Onix Architects with partner Alex van der Beld 1994. With bases in Groningen in the north of the Netherlands and Helsingborg in southern Sweden, Onix has demonstrated through more than 100 projects its continuing preference for the flexible, warm, natural and environmentally friendly qualities of timber, achievements recognised by the Wood in Architecture Prize (2002) and the Wood Innovation Prize (2009). Haiko Meijer grew up among the woods on the edge of a country estate in Groningen and wanted from boyhood to be a carpenter. He stuck closely to this early dream by opting to study at the Architecture Academy in Groningen. Woods remain a rich source of inspiration for him: ‘The form of trees and branches, the way the light filters through the leaves, the chemistry that arises when you build a treehouse together…’ His passion for wood is captured in the Onix book ‘WoodWorks’, an exploration of wooden architecture and the boundless opportunities the material affords for experimentation and innovation. A pioneer amongst Europe’s timber architects, Heiko Meijer was awarded the Netherlands’ OeuvrePrijz in 2014 for his two decades of outstanding timber projects.