

Third International Seminar and Workshop: **Why Build in Wood – Outdoor timber structures**

Where: Ascoli Piceno, Marche Region, Italy

When: 25–28 November 2026

Registration: on page 2

We are pleased to invite you to the third edition of the *Why Build in Wood* International Seminar and Workshop (see page 4 for the programme).

The event is aimed at students, managers and professionals in the wood industry, engineers, architects, researchers, and anyone with an interest in wood and timber construction.

During the seminar, we will explore the use of wood as a construction material, discussing both its potential and the challenges associated with its use in modern construction.

This year, we will focus particularly on **outdoor timber structures**. Among other topics, we will discuss the following questions:

- What have we learned from our experience with timber structures in outdoor environments?
- What strategies can be adopted to ensure the long-term durability of outdoor timber structures?
- What is the current state of the art in the design, construction and maintenance of outdoor timber structures?
- How can we improve the service life of timber structures while maintaining their environmental and structural benefits?



The programme will combine lectures, discussions and a practical workshop, providing participants with an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with colleagues from academia and industry.

This year's event will take place in Ascoli Piceno, a beautiful historic city in the Marche region of central Italy. Famous for its elegant travertine architecture, historic centre and lively atmosphere, Ascoli Piceno provides a unique setting for discussing the past, present and future of timber construction.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ascoli Piceno for four days of knowledge exchange, discussion, practical experience and, of course, good Italian food and hospitality!

Registration

Please note that **all students, accompanying persons of presenters, and other participants** must register for the seminar using the following link (Ctrl+Click):

[Click here to register](#)

We will get back to you shortly with further information and confirmation of your registration.

NOTE: we want you to register no later than October 30, 2026. The number of participants in the seminar and the workshop is limited to 60 people, “the first-come, first-served” principle applies!

Please note that accommodation and travel arrangements are the responsibility of all participants, including students and speakers. Booking your flight as soon as possible may be the most economical option.

Program overview

We will meet on the evening before the seminar, **Wednesday, 25 November**, for a get together and enjoy a dinner. The evening will have a buffet-style arrangement, providing an informal opportunity to mingle and enjoy good food, wine and the beautiful views.

The **seminar will take place on Thursday, 26 November**, from **09:00 to 17:30**. After the seminar, there will be an evening event with drinks and informal networking, followed by dinner.

On **Friday, 27 November**, we will hold a **workshop from 09:00 to 17:30 primarily aimed at students from different European universities**.

After the workshop, On Friday, 28 November, there will be another evening event with informal networking, followed by dinner.

On **Saturday, 28 November**, we will visit a local vineyard, where we will enjoy a wine tasting accompanied by local snacks.

Participation Fee

The participation fee for the seminar and workshop, including the events on **27 and 28 November**, is: **€175, including VAT**

The fee includes **lunches and coffee breaks** during the seminar and workshop.

Additional Costs

For those wishing to participate, the following additional activities are available:

- **Dinner, 25 November:** €50 (25€ for students)
- **Dinner, 26 November:** €60 (30€ for students)
- **Dinner, 27 November:** €60 (30€ for students)
- **Vineyard visit and wine tasting, 28 November:** €35

Accompanying persons are welcome to participate in all the culinary and social events at the prices listed above.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Companies and industry representatives interested in supporting the event are welcome to contact us to discuss the available sponsorship packages and opportunities for participation.

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation are booked on your own. See page 7 & 8 for travel tips and suggestions for accommodation.

Sincerely welcome,

Roberto Crocetti, KTH and TBS

Daniel Honfi, KTH and TBS

Magnus Wålinder, KTH

Lars Blomqvist LB, Träteknik

Fredrik Westin, Svenska Träskydds-föreningen

Roberto Ruggiero, Unicam

Detailed program November 25-28

Day 0, November 25

18.00 - Reception in Ascoli Piceno, providing an opportunity to get together and enjoy a buffet-style dinner.

Day 1, November 26th: Sant'Angelo magno, Viale della Rimembranza n. 3, Ascoli Piceno

09:00 - 17:30

DAY 1- Ascoli Piceno November 26th 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Theme: Outdoor Timber structures: Materials, protection, function, durability, architecture

a	Weather-exposed timber structures – experience from Norway <i>Gunnar-Adolf Aanesland · Aanesland Treindustrier, Norway</i>	
b	Durability of wood and timber structures -old and new challenges <i>Michela Nocetti, CNR- Italy</i>	
c	Digital/Circular innovation for timber reuse in building processes <i>Roberto Ruggiero, School of Architecture and Design, University of Camerino, Italy</i>	
d	Durability criteria for exposed timber structures <i>Andrea Bernasconi, Universities of Applied Sciences HES-SO, Switzerland</i>	
e	Timber bridges projects at KTH <i>Roberto Crocetti · KTH Royal Institute of Technology</i>	    
e	The durability and detailing of the connections in outdoor structures (focus on timber bridges) <i>Andres Reyes, RothoBlaas</i>	
g	Timber construction details for architectural projects exposed to weather <i>Ernst Alexander Dengg · TU Graz</i>	
h	Alternative methods for wood protection/ New handbook on "design for durability of outdoor timber constructions" <i>Magnus Wälinder- KTH, Fredrik Westin-Träskyddsförening, Sweden</i>	

Dinner: 19:30 – 22:30

Day 2, November 27th: Biblioteca Municipale Gabrielli, Corso Giuseppe Mazzini 90 Ascoli Piceno

09:00 - 17:30

DAY 2- Ascoli Piceno November 27th 2026

Student Workshop

Design task: Bus stop with integrated cycle parking and battery charging

A sustainable, durable timber-based concept for public outdoor spaces, mainly made from waste materials



Tallinn bus shelter "an experimental fragment" built from reclaimed materials, built 2024



Roberto Crocetti, Magnus Wålfinder, Daniel Honfi - KTH
Alexander Degg, TU-Graz
Roberto Ruggiero, UNICAM
Olga Popovic Larsen, KADK
Angelo Aloisio, Federico De Matteis, Univaq

Organization of the workshop

- Approximately 15 students
- Formation of groups (3 or 4)
- Introduction to the task by the teachers
- Groups brainstorm and develop suitable proposals for an outdoor timber structure - approx. 4 hours
- Presentation of preliminary ideas and results
- After the workshop, students return to their universities and continue working on their proposals as a form of "homework", developing their ideas into a final design. In February 2027, the students will present their final proposals to a jury of experts. It is also envisaged that one or more of the proposed projects may subsequently be built.

 **1 000 € cash prize to the winning group**



Dinner: 19:30 – 22:30

Day 3, November 28

10:00 - 13:30

Vineyard visit and wine tasting, 29 November

How to get to Ascoli Piceno- *some travel tips*

The nearest airports are Ancona and Pescara, both approximately a one-hour drive from Ascoli Piceno.

However, flying to Rome or Bologna is usually easier and often cheaper. From either airport, Ascoli Piceno is approximately 3–3.5 hours away by car. Buses and trains are also available.

If you do not wish to rent a car upon arrival, there are several options for travelling from Rome or Bologna to Ascoli Piceno.

If you arrive in Bologna (Guglielmo Marconi Airport), the easiest option is:

a) Take the Marconi Express from Bologna Airport to Bologna Centrale railway station. It runs very frequently, approximately every 7–10 minutes, and the journey takes about 8 minutes.

<https://www.marconiexpress.it/en/>

b) From Bologna Centrale, take a train to San Benedetto del Tronto. Trains run relatively frequently, and the journey takes between approximately 2.5 and 3.5 hours, depending on the type of train.

Once you arrive in San Benedetto del Tronto, you are almost there! Ascoli Piceno is about 30 km away. You can either take a local train or a bus. The local train runs approximately every 50 minutes and takes about 45 minutes. You can check train connections and timetables here: <https://www.thetrainline.com/>. Another option here is that someone from the organizing group will pick you up in San Benedetto and drive you to Ascoli

If you arrive in Rome Fiumicino (also called Rome, Leonardo da Vinci), the easiest option are:

a) Take a bus from the airport directly to Ascoli Piceno or San Benedetto del Tronto. For buses to Ascoli Piceno, check **FlixBus** (there is currently one direct bus per day from the airport).

For buses to San Benedetto del Tronto, check **FlixBus** and **FrecciaRoma**:

<https://booking.frecciaroma.it/en/>

b) Take a train from Rome Fiumicino Airport to **Roma Tiburtina**. Trains run very frequently, and the journey takes about 45 minutes:

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

From Tiburtina, there are several options to reach **Ascoli Piceno** (FlixBus and START: <https://startroma.startspa.it/home/index>). START buses currently leave Tiburtina at approximately **14:00, 17:00 and 20:00**.

There are also several options from Fiumicino airport to **San Benedetto del Tronto** (FlixBus and FrecciaRoma: <https://booking.frecciaroma.it/>). Once in San Benedetto del Tronto, you can take a train to Ascoli or some of us will pick you up by car.

A few suggested accommodations in Ascoli Piceno

- Palazzo dei Mercanti – Dimora Storica & SPA
Corso Trento e Trieste, 35 – Ascoli Piceno
www.palazzodeimercanti.it
- Hotel & Residenza 100 Torri
Via Costanzo Mazzoni, 4 – Ascoli Piceno
www.centotorri.com
- Palazzo Ciotti – Rooms & Suites
Piazza Arringo, 49 – Ascoli Piceno
www.palazzociotti.it
- Luxury B&B '700
Via dei Soderini, 10 – Ascoli Piceno
www.bedandbreakfast700.it

Short bio of the presenters:

Gunnar Adolf Aanesland is a Norwegian timber entrepreneur and CEO of Aanesland Treindustri, a third-generation family business specialising in customised and large-scale timber products. He is known for innovative applications of wood in architecture, structures and industrial products, combining traditional craftsmanship with advanced timber processing. He is also Chairman of Norske Trevarer, the Norwegian trade association for timber-product manufacturers

Michela Nocetti is a researcher at the CNR Institute of BioEconomy (IBE) in Italy. Her research focuses on the mechanical characterization and strength grading of structural timber, the development of wood products for structural applications, and non-destructive techniques for assessing timber. She also has extensive experience in the diagnosis and assessment of existing and historic wooden structures. Her work includes research on machine strength grading, engineered wood products, timber durability and the mechanical properties of both new and historic timber.

Roberto Ruggiero is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture and Design of the University of Camerino (UNICAM). His research focuses on architectural technology, sustainable construction, digital fabrication and innovative building systems, with particular attention to post-disaster reconstruction and the circular use of materials. He has coordinated research projects exploring robotic fabrication, digital material banks and the reuse of waste timber and other materials in construction. His recent work combines computational design and digital manufacturing with lightweight and timber-based construction systems.

Andrea Bernasconi is a Swiss civil engineer, Dr. sc. techn. ETH, and Professor of timber technology and timber construction at HEIG-VD/HES-SO in Yverdon-les-Bains. He has more than 30 years of experience in timber engineering in Switzerland and internationally and is regarded as a pioneer of modern timber construction. His expertise includes timber structures, multi-storey timber buildings, seismic design, fire protection and innovative timber construction systems. He is also co-owner of the engineering firm Borlini & Zanini SA in Lugano CH.

Roberto Crocetti is Adjunct Professor in timber-based hybrid structures at KTH Royal Institute of Technology and has more than 20 years of experience as a structural engineer and researcher in timber engineering. He has served as Full Professor of Structural Engineering at Lund University for about 9 years and has also taught steel and timber structures at Chalmers University of Technology. His expertise includes long-span timber structures, timber bridges, connections and timber–concrete hybrid systems. He is co-founder of TBS Timber Bridge Specialists and has led numerous research and development projects combining structural engineering, timber technology and innovative construction systems

Andrés Reyes García is a Civil and Environmental Engineer from the Central University of Venezuela, with an MSc in Building Engineering and Environmental Systems from Sapienza University of Rome. He is Product Line Manager at Rothoblaas, specialising in connectors and fastening systems for timber construction, and serves as an industrial expert for European standards on timber connections. He is also an experienced lecturer and technical trainer in timber construction, with particular expertise in connections, durability and corrosion of timber fasteners.

Ernst Alexander Dengg is an Austrian architect and timber-construction specialist working at TU Graz and Circulate ZT GmbH. His work focuses on timber structures, construction technology, circularity and the development of design and construction approaches that enable the reuse and long-term value retention of timber components. His doctoral research at TU Graz examined integrity-oriented timber construction and design strategies for maintaining the reusability of structural timber elements over multiple building cycles.

Magnus Wålinder is Professor of Building Materials at KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Head of the Building Materials research group. He has more than 20 years of experience in wood technology

and materials research, with a focus on biobased building materials, wood composites, durability, moisture behaviour and wood modification. His research also includes innovative timber-based hybrid systems and engineered wood products, with particular emphasis on material performance, service life and resource efficiency. He previously held research and management positions at SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden and was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Maine.

Fredrik Westin is CEO of the Swedish Wood Protection Association (Svenska Träskyddsföreningen) and has extensive experience in wood protection, treated timber and the development of durable timber products. He is active in national and European standardisation related to wood durability and wood protection, including the Nordic Wood Preservation Council (NTR). His work covers industrial wood preservation, durability, environmental regulations and the development of standards for durable timber products.