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

Where: Ascoli Piceno, Marche Region, Italy
When: 25–28 November 2026

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!

Program overview

We will meet on the evening before the seminar, **Wednesday, 26 November**, for 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, 27 November**, from **8:30 to 17:00**. After the seminar, there will be an evening event with drinks and informal networking, followed by dinner.

On **Friday, 28 November**, we will hold a **workshop primarily aimed at students from different European universities**.

The students will be given a theme related to the topics discussed during the seminar. Working in groups, they will brainstorm and develop suitable proposals for an outdoor timber structure. One possible example could be a bus stop with integrated bicycle parking and solar panels. At the end of the workshop, the students will present their preliminary ideas and results to a committee of experts. They will then 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.

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

On **Saturday, 29 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: **€400, 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, 26 November:** €50
- **Dinner, 27 November:** €60
- **Dinner, 28 November:** €60
- **Vineyard visit and wine tasting, 29 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.

Registration

Please register for the seminar via the following link:

Register for the seminar (not working yet)

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 15, 2026. The number of participants in the seminar and the workshop is limited to 60 people, "the first-come, first-served" principle applies!

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation are booked on your own. See page 5 for travel tips and suggestions for accommodation.

Sincerely welcome,

Roberto Crocetti KTH	Daniel Honfi KTH.	Magnus Wålinder KTH	Lars Blomqvist LB Träteknik	Fredrik Westin Svenska Träskydds-föreningen

Detailed program November 25-28

Day 1 November 25

18.00 Reception in Ascoli Piceno, for dinner and a buffet-style arrangement

Day 2 November 26

09:00 - 17:30

a	**Weather-exposed timber structures – experience from Norway**	*Gunnar-Adolf Aanesland · Aanesland Treindustrier*
b	**Durability of wood and timber structures -old and new challenges**	*Michela Nocetti, CNR- Italy*
c	**Durability criteria for exposed timber structures**	*Andrea Bernasconi, Universities of Applied Sciences HES-SO, Switzerland*
d	**Timber bridges projects at KTH**	*Roberto Crocetti · KTH Royal Institute of Technology*
e	**The durability and detailing of the connections in outdoor structures**	*Paolo Grossi, RothoBlaas*
f	**Timber construction details for architectural projects exposed to weather**	*Ernst Alexander Dengg · TU Graz*
g	**Alternative methods for wood protection/ New handbook on "design for durability of outdoor timber constructions"**	*Magnus Wålinder- KTH, Fredrik Westin-Träskyddsförening*

Dinner: 19:30 – 22:30

Day 3 November 27

09:00 - 17:30

KTH	KADK	TU Graz	Italian Universities
Stockholm, Sweden	Copenhagen, Denmark	Graz, Austria	1–2 TBC

~3–4 students per university · International mixed teams

Morning	Brief introduction (~40 min): project brief, technical requirements, design criteria
~4 hrs	Group work: concept development, sketches, structural ideas, architectural solutions
Afternoon	Group presentations to jury — direct feedback and discussion

Dinner: 19:30 – 22:30

Day 4 November 28

10:00 - 13:30

Vineyard visit and wine tasting, 29 November

Short bio of the presenters:

Coming soon

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

The best way to get to Ascoli Piceno is to fly to one of the cities suggested below, then renting a car on arrival at the airport.

The nearest airports are Ancona and Pescara - it takes just over an hour to get from these airports to Ascoli Piceno by car.

Easiest, and usually cheapest, is however to fly to Rome or Bologna. From these airports, it is about a 3-3.5 hour drive to Ascoli Piceno.

Proposed accommodations close to Ascoli

Coming soon