

RENEWABLE TIMBERS

The Problem:

In recent decades widespread concern for the depletion of the Amazon and Congo rain forests has arisen. The overriding message is that the number of trees on our planet is depleting at an overwhelming rate. The implications are that the earth's lung capacity is decreasing. Coupled with population growth and a continuation in the release of pollutants the situation is dire. Given this how can we use timbers at all?

Consider the alternatives such as plastic (poisonous production methods, results in waste and landfills), metals (high energy consumption in manufacture), concrete (poisonous and results in rubble), clay (a possible alternative); stone (high embodied energy, careful extraction is needed to limit damage)

Wood is a non-toxic product that can be replenished when properly managed, it has good insulation properties and it is comparatively low in embodied energy. It is warm to the touch and we find irregular patterns of the grain pleasing to the eye. In short we like it and will continue to use it.



When you order hardwoods do you know if it is depleting rain forests?

Solutions

- Renewable sources such as plantations that are regularly replenished after harvesting.
- Sources where timber has been culled to make way for new growth.
- Invasive aliens.
- Timber reclaimed from demolition sites.
- Don't use timbers known to come from dubious sources

Renewable Sources

- In South Africa, Mondi Timbers has extensive nationwide plantations of **SA Pine** and **Blue Gum**. **Saligna**, **Karree**., **Pinesta**, **Canary Pine**, **Cypress** are also farmed. (none of which are indigenous)
- **European** Beech (floors & furniture), Cypress, Douglas Fir (Flexible, floors and Ash (shock absorption capabilities used in pick handles), Oak (furniture), Walnut
- **America:** Oregon Pine (traditional)
- **Australia, New Zealand & Tasm** has been used in modern furn
- **The Far East (Japan, Taiw** performance capabilities narrow planks are l rubberwoods also c South America).

Note: always consir

NOTE ON INVASIVE ALIENS

After cutting down most of the l trees, colonialists discovere locals grow extremely slo taking hundreds of year to support the timber host of foreigners grow as replac

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