

“Holzbau 2016” Technical Tour and Conference – Switzerland, Austria, Germany



Evening view of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria, venue of the Holzbau Conference

The Centre for Advanced Wood Processing at UBC will offer a technical tour to Europe in 2016 to visit world renowned timber building sites, advanced manufacturing facilities and projects under construction in the field of modern timber construction. We are inviting interested individuals from the architecture, construction and wood building products manufacturing sectors, as well as related public sector officials and policy makers, to join us.

The tour will run from Sunday December 4th to Saturday December 10th. Starting in Zurich, participants will spend the first three days travelling through some of the most picturesque parts of Switzerland, Austria and southern Germany, with the ultimate destination being Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where the 22nd annual 3-day Holzbau Forum, the world’s largest international conference on wood building and design, will be held.

The aim of the tour is to give participants the chance to see state of the art manufacturing facilities for products that are important in modern timber construction, and to visit construction projects that demonstrate innovative use of advanced energy efficient products (such as passive windows and doors, HVAC systems, photo voltaic systems, and insulation materials) or mass timber products such as cross laminated timber and others. Our focus will be on energy-efficient homes and wood use in single, multi-family and non-residential construction

The final tour details are still being finalized but our **interim agenda** is as follows:

Friday December 2 - Participants fly from North America to Zurich, Switzerland, arriving on Saturday afternoon the following day. (Participants should make their own flight arrangements and make their way to the hotel by shuttle bus or taxi).

Saturday December 3 – The group will meet in the early evening to review the agenda for the week. Overnight at hotel in central Zurich.



Left: Tamedia Building, Zurich, during construction (photo credit – Lorenz Lachauer, Flickr 2012, Creative Commons). Right: Elephant House at Zurich Zoo

Sunday December 4 – Visit the Elephant House (Markus Schietsch Architecture) at Zurich Zoo, featuring a complex freeform timber canopy structure. Take part in an exclusive interior guided tour of the world renowned Tamedia Office Building, Zurich, designed by Shigeru Ban. Following this, visit recently-completed and in-progress projects by Swiss architect Beat Kämpfen within Zurich, including an example of renovation and retrofit using timber to improve environmental and energy performance. Overnight at hotel in central Zurich.



44-unit apartment building in Zurich by Kämpfen Architects (photo by Kämpfen Architects)

Monday December 5 - Technical visits to Renggli AG Holzbau, a leading energy-efficient prefabricated wood housing company that builds single family and multi-family homes as well as offices and hotels. Our group will start with a factory visit and also take in projects under construction. After lunch we will visit the fabrication facility of the freeform timber division of Blumer Lehmann, one of Europe's foremost timber fabricators, and view one of Europe's largest 5-axis computer-controlled timber processing centres in action. We will end the day's visits by touring Lignatur, an engineered wood ceiling and floor system manufacturer who have developed a unique range of products to address acoustic and other technical challenges and

marketed it skillfully to the construction and design sectors. Overnight at hotel in Bregenz, Austria, on the shores of Lake Constance. (For a video demonstrating Renggli's prefab construction process see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vpeq3IUCEiU>)



Twin CNC routers machine large-scale wood components at Blumer Lehmann Freeforms Division

Tuesday December 6 – Visit to the LifeCycle One Tower in Dornbirn, Austria. The building is designed to Passivhaus standards and uses prefabricated building modules that can be erected in half the time of a traditional building. The building was erected in eight days after the foundation was finished. It was the world's first hybrid wood passive house building built using a modular construction system. The architect – Hermann Kaufmann GmbH – is serving as the tall wood consultant on the 18-storey Brock Commons student dorm currently under construction at UBC, Vancouver. We will then travel into Southern Germany to visit a Schneider Holz, a manufacturer of wood fibre insulation boards for modern sustainable timber and passive homes.



Production facility of Baufritz, Erkheim

In the afternoon we will travel to Erkheim, Germany, to tour the production facilities of Baufritz, an innovative passive house manufacturer, and visit some nearby complete and in-progress

construction projects. We will then travel on to Garmisch-Partnekirchen in the Bavarian Alps and check into our hotel by early evening.

Wednesday December 7th - Pre-conference seminars in Garmisch at the Holzbau Conference. Evening welcome party at conference venue.

Thursday December 8th - Forum (all day) and semi-formal conference dinner in the evening

Friday December 9th - Forum (AM and until 2pm). Following the close of the conference our group will travel by train to Munich. Evening visit to Hofbrauhaus, one of Munich's oldest beer halls, established in 1589.

Saturday December 10th - Optional visit to Bauzentrum Poing permanent housing exhibition in Munich. Free time until return flights to North America. (Participants may choose to stay an extra day for personal sightseeing if desired).

A large number of the conference presentations will be primarily in English, and simultaneous translation is available for any non-English presentations. Up to five parallel sessions will be available for much of the conference, ensuring plenty of choices of topic for delegates. We will provide a link to the conference agenda when it becomes available this fall

UBC initiated the Wood Construction and Design Tour in 2001, and it has continued to be a popular learning opportunity each year. This year's tour is being organized in cooperation with University of Northern BC. A maximum participation limit of 20 people is in effect to allow building and factory tours to be kept to a manageable size. Thanks to generous funding support from [Forestry Innovation Investment](#) the tour (including the cost of hotels, transportation, and the conference itself) is being offered to BC members of the architectural and manufacturing communities at a reduced rate of \$2195. (The full cost of \$3495 per person). Participants should make their own flight arrangements. Breakfast and lunch during the pre-conference tour will be provided by the hotel. Participant will be required to pay for their own dinners (meals during the conference are included in tour fee). If you would like to know more about the tour, please email: cawp@cawp.ubc.ca or call Jason Chiu at 604 822-0082.