

Qualifications & Awards:

BS 4978 - Certificate of Proficiency: Visual Strength Grading of Softwoods [1975]
Buckinghamshire College - Certificate in Timber Studies (Distinction) [1976]
Final Examination, Institute of Wood Science (AIWSc) [1978] – *Diploma: Timber Engineering*
BS 2482 – Certificate in Scaffold Board Grading [1985]
Fellow of the Faculty of Building [1986]
BS 5756 - Certificates of Proficiency: Grading of Temperate Hardwoods [1997]
Grading of Tropical Hardwoods [1998] [Updated 2017]
Fellow of the Institute of Wood Science [2004]
Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (update of FIWSc) [2014]
Chartered Environmentalist [2016]

I studied at Buckinghamshire College (now Bucks New University) in High Wycombe, in the School of Art, Design, Furniture and Timber. There I achieved a Distinction in the Certificate in Timber Studies (Winning First Prize) and I gained a further two national Institute of Wood Science Prizes, whilst qualifying as an Associate of the Institute of Wood Science in 1978. In 2004 I became a Fellow of the IWSc, having served as National President of the IWSc from 2002-2004.

I was a member of the Council of Management of the Institute of Wood Science for 30 years until its merger with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3). I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Building in 1986, in recognition of my experience of technical investigations into matters involving timber and wood-based products. I have been an accredited Timber Consultant with UNIDO since 1991 (registered with the UN in Vienna). I joined the UK Wood Committee of ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) in 1992, and I was later elected to membership of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee (IIWC). I have been a member of the UK Timber Grading Committee since 1994; and in 2006, I was appointed to the Sector Group 18 European Code Committee, concerned with Harmonised Timber Grading Standards for all of Europe. I am now a Member of the Board of the Wood Technology Society (a Division of IOM3): the successor to the IWSc. In 2014 I was made a Fellow of the IOM3; and in 2016 I qualified as a Chartered Environmentalist (awarded by the Society for the Environment). I am also a member of the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG), which reviews the latest research on wood preservatives, finishes, fire treatments and other matters.

Experience:

I spent 16 years as a Regional Officer (latterly becoming Manager of the Regional Technical Consultancy Network) with the Timber Research and Development Association, before founding Technology For Timber (now trading as TFT Woodexperts Limited) in 1991. Therefore, in over 40 years, I have investigated hundreds of technical problems with construction, shopfitting, furniture, fitted kitchens, joinery, flooring, decking, cladding and wood-based panels. I work very closely with the sawmilling, construction, trussed rafter and timber engineering industries, as well as with producers and installers of all types of wood-based panel products. I am experienced in the specification, shipping, manufacturing, installation and quality aspects of both solid timber and all wood-based products and their uses in construction, joinery, flooring, decking and packaging materials (crates, boxes, etc). I have therefore developed a very broad knowledge of the manufacturing processes and practical applications for all wood products in almost every aspect of the timber and wood-using industries. I work closely on Timber Engineering and joinery design projects; and I also give written technical advice to, and carry out investigations for, many Trade Bodies: the Timber Decking and Cladding Association, the Contract Flooring Association, Timcon (The Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation) and the BWF (British Woodworking Federation). My “hands on” experience covers new and historic buildings; forest practices (logging etc); primary sawmills and all other types of board-producing, joinery, flooring, kitchen, furniture and pallet/packaging factories; and I have first-hand experience of most types of manufacturing plants in the UK, Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Europe, USA, Canada, the Middle East, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia and Australia.

I have published two books: “Wood in Construction” (2012) and “The Sustainable Use of Wood” (2014). My new one “A Handbook for the Sustainable Use of Wood in Construction” is due out soon.