



Technology For Timber

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TFT's Director and Principal Consultant : James C Coulson, FIWSc FFB

He spent 16 years with TRADA (the Timber Research And Development Association), leaving at the end of 1990 to set up Technology For Timber. In 1975, he passed the Proficiency Examination in Visual Stress Grading (now called “Strength” Grading) of Softwoods, at the Building Research Establishment.

He studied at Buckinghamshire College (now Buckinghamshire Chilterns University) in High Wycombe in the School of Art, Design, Furniture & Timber, gaining a Distinction in their Certificate in Timber Studies in 1976. He went on to qualify as an Associate of the Institute of Wood Science in 1978.

He has been a member of the IWSc Council of Management since the mid-1980's and was President of the IWSc from 2002-2004. Following this, in recognition of his outstanding services to the IWSc over many years, he was elected to Fellowship in December 2004.

He was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Building in 1986; and has been accredited as a timber consultant with UNIDO (registered with the UN in Vienna) since 1991.

In 1993, he was invited to join the UK Wood Committee of ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) and in 2004 he was elected as a member of the ICOMOS UK Executive Committee.

He has been a member of the UK Timber Grading Committee since 1995 and a Member of the Association of Consulting Scientists since 1998.

In 1997, he added the Proficiency Certificate in Strength Grading of Temperate Hardwoods to his list of formal qualifications, and in 1998 he gained a further Proficiency Certificate in the Strength Grading of Tropical Hardwoods.

He was manager of the Regional Advisory Services of TRADA until December 1990; and still retains a subcontract link with BM TRADA Certification Ltd, as an external Assessor for timber graders in the UK and overseas.

For almost 30 years, he has developed a broad knowledge of manufacturing processes in the timber and furniture industries and the uses of timber and wood-based products; especially relating to the construction, shopfitting and furniture trades. His expertise covers all aspects of historical, renovation and new build, as well as many factory production techniques. In his career, he has carried out hundreds of inspections and consultancy projects on construction sites and in completed buildings; covering processing, machinery, quality of materials and workmanship, and the conformity of finished works with published standards or other relevant specifications.

His “hands on” industrial experience includes studies of, and visits to, major sawmills and other wood-based manufacturing plants; as well as timber research facilities in the UK, Europe, North America and Australia.

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