

THE WORLD IN 30 MINUTES

WOOD – THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING?

30' (ENG, GER)

Wood regenerates and stores carbon dioxide. In the face of the climate crisis, wood could become the building material of the future.

The tallest wooden high-rise building in Germany is currently being built in Hamburg, with 19 floors and a height of 65 meters. A 80-meter tall wooden residential tower is also set to be built in Switzerland soon. This is new territory for architects and building authorities, but it is a trend that is gaining momentum. The traditional building material offers great advantages: it guarantees high load-bearing capacity, is comparatively lightweight, and provides excellent insulation. Concrete, on the other hand, is one of the biggest drivers of climate change. At universities such as Cambridge and ETH Zurich, research into wood as a building material is being carried out intensively, in order to make it even more load-bearing and resilient. Technically processed wood is set to be used more frequently in the global construction sector. The scientists' vision is that houses could be built from wood in a climate-friendly manner and could also become huge CO2 storage facilities. However, this can only work if we manage our forests differently. "We save the forests, and the forests save us," says Marc Palahi of the European Forest Institute.



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