



Project: Hines T3 Collingwood, Melbourne  
Architect: Jackson Clement Burrows Architects

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at CTICC, Cape Town**

# **Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> WOOD Conference**

A Knowledge-Based Platform Connecting all Architects,  
Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Project Managers,  
Developers, Investors and Architectural students at  
“The Forefront of Timber Innovations”.

**Timber Metropolis:  
Shaping Africa's Cities through  
Sustainable Construction**



**WOOD** Cape Town  
**Conference**

[www.woodconference.co.za](http://www.woodconference.co.za)

## 13<sup>th</sup> WOOD Conference, Cape Town

# Timber Metropolis: Shaping Africa's Cities through Sustainable Construction

The trend towards sustainable construction means that wood is increasingly being used as a building material in modern urban and infrastructure construction. Timber construction is not only gaining in importance in the field of new construction, but is also increasingly being used in the refurbishment of existing buildings, such as conversions, extensions, and re-densification. It is therefore impossible to imagine modern urban development without the concept of sustainability. Around the world, an increased amount of apartment buildings, entire building complexes and infrastructure buildings are being constructed using multi-storey ecological timber construction.

We have been pursuing the vision of sustainable construction with wood in South Africa since the Wood Conference was first held in Cape Town 13 years ago. Today, this idea has also become increasingly accepted by society, architects, and planners. Their conviction to use wood as a renewable, CO<sub>2</sub>-storing, multifunctional building material and to consider its life cycle holistically is constantly growing.

It is pleasing to see that the Wood Conference has successfully established itself in the timber industry in South Africa and that the number of participants is growing. The positive response underlines our long-standing commitment to promoting timber construction in Africa.

We are convinced that an interesting program has been put together for the 13th edition – in collaboration with Zaida Davids from HWZ International SA (Pty.) Ltd. and in cooperation with our South African partner "Universal Plywood". The varied program offers architects, engineers, students, and all construction professionals interested in timber construction an insight into new dimensions of modern timber construction.

The possibility of holding the conference both physically and digitally enables those interested in timber construction from all over the world to take part. As well as being inspired by projects from international speakers and learning from their experiences.

I would like to thank our long-standing sponsors, our loyal participants, the organizing team and the speakers for their support and contributions to advancing timber construction in Africa and worldwide. The promotion of sustainable building practices and the use of wood as an environmentally friendly building material are crucial steps towards more sustainable cities – for the sake of our future.

Yours, George Kuratle and Roger Kuratle

**Get inspired – join the 13th WOOD Conference –  
the spiritual father, George Kuratle, looks forward to your participation.**

**Location** Cape Town, East and West Ballroom  
CTICC Convention Center,  
South Africa

**Date** Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Registration Time** 08:00 – 09:00

**Conference Time** 09:00 – 17:00



**George Kuratle**  
Initiator  
President Kuratle Group



**Roger Kuratle**  
CEO  
Kuratle Group

## 13<sup>de</sup> Houtkonferensie, Kaapstad

# Houtmetropool: vorming van Afrika se stede deur volhoubare konstruksie

Die neiging tot volhoubare konstruksie beteken dat hout toenemend as boumateriaal in moderne stedelike en infrastruktuurkonstruksie gebruik word. Hout konstruksie word nie net belangrik op die gebied van nuwe konstruksie nie, maar word ook toenemend gebruik in die opknapping van bestaande geboue, soos omskakelings, uitbreidings en herverdigting. Dit is dus onmoontlik om moderne stedelike ontwikkeling voor te stel sonder die konsep van volhoubaarheid. Rondom die wêreld, 'n groter hoeveelheid woonstelgeboue, hele boukomplekse en infrastruktuurgeboue word gebou met behulp van ekologiese houtkonstruksie met meer verdiepings.

Ons streef na die visie van volhoubare konstruksie met hout in Suid-Afrika sedert die houtkonferensie 13 jaar gelede vir die eerste keer in Kaapstad gehou is. Vandag word hierdie idee ook toenemend aanvaar deur die samelewing, argitekte en beplanners. Hul oortuiging om hout as 'n hernubare, CO -bergende, multifunksionele boumateriaal te gebruik en sy lewensiklus holisties te oorweeg, groei voortdurend.

Dit is verblydend om te sien dat die Houtkonferensie hom suksesvol in die houtbedryf in Suid-Afrika gevestig het en dat die aantal deelnemers groei. Die positiewe reaksie onderstreep ons jarelange verbintenis tot die bevordering van houtkonstruksie in Afrika.

Ons is oortuig dat 'n interessante program vir die 13de uitgawe saamgestel is - in samewerking met Zaida Davids van HWZ International SA (Pty.) Ltd. en in samewerking met ons Suid-Afrikaanse vennoot "Universal Plywood". Die uiteenlopende program bied argitekte, ingenieurs, studente en alle konstruksiekundiges wat belangstel in houtkonstruksie 'n insig in nuwe dimensies van moderne houtkonstruksie.

Die moontlikheid om die konferensie fisies en digitaal te hou, stel diegene wat belangstel in houtkonstruksie van regoor die wêreld in staat om deel te neem. Sowel as om geïnspireer te word deur projekte van internasionale sprekers en om uit hul ervarings te leer.

Ek wil graag ons jarelange borge, ons lojale deelnemers, die organiseringspan en die sprekers bedank vir hul ondersteuning en bydraes tot die bevordering van houtbou in Afrika en wêreldwyd. Die bevordering van volhoubare boupraktyke en die gebruik van hout as 'n omgewingsvriendelike boumateriaal is deurslaggewende stappe in die rigting van meer volhoubare stede - ter wille van ons toekoms.

Die uwe, George Kuratle en Roger Kuratle



**George Kuratle**

Initiator  
President Kuratle Group



**Roger Kuratle**

CEO  
Kuratle Group

**Word geïnspireer - Sluit aan by die 13de HOUTKONFERENSIE, Kaapstad die geestelike vader, George Kuratle, sien uit na jou deelname.**

**Plek** Cape Town, East and West Ballroom  
CTICC Convention Center,  
South Africa

**Datum** Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Registrasie Tyd** 08:00 – 09:00

**Konferensie Tyd** 09:00 – 17:00

# Program 13<sup>th</sup> Hybrid WOOD Conference Cape Town SA – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

"Timber Metropolis: Shaping Africa's Cities through Sustainable Construction"

<b>08:00 – 09:00</b>	<b>On site and online registration</b>
09:00 – 09:10	<b>Hannu Garny</b> – South Africa – Master of Ceremonies
09:10 – 09:20	<b>Roger Kuratle</b> – Switzerland – Kuratle Group – <i>Opening</i>
09:20 – 09:35	<b>Markus Thür</b> – Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town – South Africa – <i>Welcome Address</i>
09:35 – 10:00	<b>Thomas Kaestner</b> – New Zealand – Hector Egger – <i>Modern Timber Construction – Think, Plan, Build</i>
10:00 – 10:25	<b>Pirmin Jung</b> – Switzerland – Pirmin Jung AG – <i>Wooden Dock A with commercial building at Zurich Airport</i>
10:25 – 10:50	* <b>Jaakko Paloheimo</b> – Finland – UPM – <i>Responsibility made easy – how sustainability is vital in modern wood construction and partnerships</i>
<b>10:50 – 11:10</b>	<b>Tea breakaway/Networking</b>
11:10 – 11:35	<b>Duncan Harrison</b> – Australia – Arup – <i>Applying mass timber across property sectors to strengthen community</i>
11:35 – 12:00	<b>Schalk Grobbelaar</b> – South Africa – University of Pretoria – <i>Protobuilding – Developing sustainable and valuable timber housing and modular structures</i>
12:00 – 12:25	<b>Mark O'Connor</b> – South Africa – Rothoblaas – <i>The challenges and technicalities of introducing mass timber construction to the traditional construction sector in Africa</i>
12:25 – 12:50	<b>Hans Lemm</b> – Tanzania – Green Resources Sustainable Building to Sustainable Development in Rural Economies
<b>12:50 – 13:35</b>	<b>Lunch breakaway/Networking</b>
13:35 – 14:00	<b>Radek Oslizlo</b> – Czech Rep – Novatop – <i>Visual quality wood in the service of sophisticated structural solutions</i>
14:00 – 14:25	<b>David Renggli</b> – Switzerland – Renggli Group – <i>Industrialised timber construction: Challenges and opportunities in opening up new markets</i>
14:25 – 14:50	<b>Arthur Bezuidenhout</b> – South Africa – MAXXLIVING – <i>The future of timber in construction</i>
14:50 – 15:15	<b>Hugo Schumacher</b> – Switzerland – Polyloft – <i>Get out of the box!</i>
15:15 – 15:40	<b>David Talbot</b> – South Africa – Platform Architects – <i>Kloof Road House, Bettys Bay: Aspirational timber home design</i>
15:40 – 16:05	<b>Stefan Zöllig</b> – Switzerland – Timbatec – <i>Timber constructions – what does the future hold? A look into the crystal ball</i>
16:05 – 16:20	<b>Roger Kuratle</b> – Switzerland – Kuratle Group – <i>Vote of Thanks and Poll</i>
16:20 – 16:30	<b>Hannu Garny</b> – South Africa – <i>Closing</i>

\* *Online Speaker – Please note that the conference will be held in local time (SAST).*

## Register online

[www.woodconference.co.za](http://www.woodconference.co.za)

(to receive a link to the online platform)

**RSVP (by no later than) 23<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

# WOOD Conference

## HWZ International

Zaida Davids  
Contact Details:  
Tel: +27 (0) 76 401 91 20  
Email: zaida.davids@hwzi.ch  
4 Sedgemoor Rd, Camps Bay 8005 Cape Town

## Register online

www.woodconference.co.za  
(to receive a link to the online platform)

**RSVP (by no later than) 23<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## Registration Options

**Conference Fee:** Delegate – R350 (via EFT)  
Delegate – R450 on site registration (cash or card)  
**Students Fee:** Delegate – R100 (via EFT)  
Delegate – R150 on site registration (cash or card)

## Participation rates includes:

Entrance fee, CPD credit (for Architects), parking, booklet, meals & drinks  
Free Parking available – P1, P3 & P5

**NB the register for cpd points will be available at the end of the conference.**



Zaida Davids  
Organizer  
HWZ International



Hannu Garny  
Master of Ceremonies



Silvia Furlan  
Head Marketing,  
Communications  
Kuratle Group AG

## Organization



## Presenting Partner



## Main Sponsors



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