

Why does prefabricated timber construction fit the bill for a sustainable future?

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ABSTRACT

Prefabricated Mass Timber Towers offer a solution to the major urban challenge of sustainable and affordable development. Why does prefabricated timber construction fit the bill for a sustainable future? This construction methodology has the potential to save on building costs, deliver projects faster with healthier, more beautiful and more sustainable buildings. Major North American markets have simultaneously been hit with labor shortages in the construction sector while manufacturing jobs continue to shrink, leading to friction within the jobs market. Work within a sheltered, productive and controlled factory to work is more predictable and efficient than today's urban construction environment. This prefabricated timber technique offers a solution to slow productivity growth, poor safety and working conditions onsite, and delivering higher quality products, while filling labor gaps effectively providing accelerated project schedules for space constrained urban environments.

BIOGRAPHY

Evan Reidel is part of the Building Innovations group at Sidewalk Labs. After having spent several years building thousands of excruciatingly similar units in Toronto it became clear that the current construction practices were unsustainable and inefficient. Modular construction became an obvious and attractive alternative. In order to contribute to the future of this new construction methodology Evan pursued a Dual MBA and Master of Structural Engineering at the University of Western Ontario, and completed a thesis for Sidewalk Labs on a strategy for modularization of structural and building Systems within cores of tall wood buildings. His continued work at Sidewalk Labs is focused on the constructability of its modular building strategy.

When Evan is not dreaming of large wooden buildings, he can be found planning his next remote adventure, most recently road tripping across Bulgaria, exploring the Chinese mega cities and hiking the Andes in Peru.