WOODEN STRUCTURES IN BRAZIL: PRESENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT: The use of wood for construction is increasing every year in Brazil. This paper gives an overview of the use of wood in Brazil with a short historical and geographical introduction followed by a number of examples of works by Ita Construtora, which will illustrate the market developments during the last 34 years of its existence.

KEYWORDS: Timber construction in Brazil, WCTE 2014, House Hélio Olga, Haras Polana

1 PROPOSAL

Brasil has almost 50% of its territory covered by the Amazon Rain Forest in addition to big forests planted with eucalyptus and pines. However, the use of wood in civil construction, especially in structures, is still much reduced.

In recent years we have noticed a resumption of the use of wood. Due to environmental issues, relatively low costs, facility to be obtained, appearance and comfort, wood arouses each day more the interest of engineers, architects and consumers.

Our purpose is to give you an overview of the use of wood in Brasil with a short historical and geographical introduction followed by a number of examples of works by Ita Construtora, which, as of the 80s, have been a roadmap to better understand the changes that have come about. From a starting point of traditional constructions using wood from native forests, we moved on, in the 90s, to the execution of contemporary architecture works of more complex structure. This rich collection of experimentation will be the base for a new leap. Since 2008 we have started the production of glue-laminated eucalyptus timber. The freedom of form and the big dimensions of the parts change the way of thinking structures.

The home of Helio Olga, designed in 1987 by the architect Marcos Acayaba and the Haras Polana, designed in 2009 by the architect Mauro Munhoz, the most representative works of these two last periods, will be presented in detail, among many others that well illustrate the evolution of the constructive processes.

Figure 1: Hélio Olga’s house

The dedication of many researchers, engineers and architects is allowing for the refining of traditional techniques, the adoption of new technology and the deployment in the country of an industry focused on the construction in wood.

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Figure 2: Haras Polana, 12m cantilever

REFERENCES