More than 140 construction industry experts met at The Building Centre in London on 23 October for ‘Future City, Future Wood’ - a one day Seminar and Masterclass hosted by UK Stora Enso Building Solutions. The event, which is the third in Stora Enso’s ‘Future Wood’ series, focused on Cross Laminated Timber’s increasing use for major UK and international regeneration projects and provided a technical overview for specifiers of CLT’s key benefits.

The day saw an international line-up of guest speakers including Richard Cook, Head of Residential Development at Lend Lease UK, Neil Winstanley of Spine Architects GmbH and Vesa Oiva of Finnish architects AOA present case studies including London’s Elephant & Castle regeneration, Barmbek - a community self-build project in Hamburg and Helsinki’s unique ‘Wood City’.

Also on the agenda was CLT’s suitability for specialist educational and health applications where health & wellbeing is a major design consideration. This issue was illustrated by Amir Ramezani of Avanti Architects and Wayne Riley of Mouchel Babcock Education who presented the case study for the London Borough of Hackney’s newly completed Ickburgh School for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

The afternoon Masterclass session was presented by Jonathan Fovargue of specialist timber engineers, Eurban along with members of Stora Enso Building Solutions’ team of R&D and timber engineers. This team presented the latest CLT knowledge on topics ranging from designing for CLT, structural analysis, fire and acoustics culminating in an informative round-up of R&D activities currently underway in Central Europe.

Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive and delegates have been unanimous in their praise of the speakers and content. Tim Butler of AECOM – a global provider of architecture and design services with more than 100,000 employees worldwide, came to learn about the R&D and design developments of Stora Enso. He commented that it was “very good to see more direct and general tackling of timber issues in open discussion, rather than simply a project showcase”.

Amrit Seera of Chartered Surveyor & Construction Consultancy Martin Arnold Ltd who came with a more basic knowledge and wanting to learn about the advantages and disadvantages of CLT, said how much he was ‘looking forward to sharing his new knowledge with colleagues and hopefully being able to use CLT in future projects’. Approximately 60% of delegates requested to receive further information from Stora Enso Building Solutions. This is a very high proportion of opt-ins, the norm being somewhere between 10 -30%.

Of those delegates requesting further information, twelve are involved in projects which are either at or beyond planning stage and have the potential to translate to direct sales leads. These projects range from a 14 unit passivhaus residential scheme, two new-build multi-

“A thoroughly informative series of presentations and talks, by expert speakers” - Paul Sired, Paul Edwin Design
residence blocks on tight sites and a variety of private residential and education schemes.

Feedback from the speakers has also been extremely positive. Neil Winstanley of Spine Architects GmbH was struck by the genuine enthusiasm for CLT’s potential, commenting “I am convinced that together we’ve got a good thing going which will really change how we all build for the better.”

Talking about the programme for the event Mr Winstanley said “There was a good mix between visionary, practical and technical information presented by a variety of presenters with different viewpoints and I learnt a lot about the UK (especially London) and global perspective of CLT. Sometimes it’s just good to hear from other people, that we’re on the right track.”

Organiser Wayne Probert, UK Sales and Marketing, Building Solutions, explains why he thinks the day was so well received, “Stora Enso has been at the forefront of developing the CLT market in the UK since 2010 and we work with some of Europe’s most influential architects and specialist engineers currently designing and building in CLT.”

“We now have an excellent track record of high profile and award winning projects and this, combined with our reputation for excellent quality and service means that we are taken seriously.”

“Stora Enso’s global position means that we can attract an international cast of high profile speakers to present case studies and technical material that is being heard for the first time. The Future Wood series allows us to deepen existing relationships and engage with new stakeholders by providing vital educational information and this is a real advantage for Stora Enso in the UK’s niche CLT market.” He continues.

For the Stora Enso Building Solutions team, ‘Future City, Future Wood’ formed part of a three-day visit to London also arranged by Wayne Probert. During their time in London the team attended meetings at global engineering firm Arup and CLT pioneering architects, Waugh Thistleton. The team also visited two of Lend Lease’s major regeneration projects currently on site at Elephant and Castle – Surrey Lane and Trafalgar House.

“Andreas Golger, R& D Engineer Building Solutions comments on how informative and useful he found the visit to London, “The agenda was just right with plenty of interesting issues being covered by the combination of site visits, the seminar and meetings with engineers and architects.

“The Seminar and Masterclass was really well organised and I learned a lot, especially when it comes to the UK market and building sector. It was the right programme for this very diverse audience. Although, I think that the engineers in the audience may have interest in even more technical presentations and lectures.”

This is echoed by Thomas Demschner, R & D Building Solutions who adds “I would see the Masterclass as a teaser which will create more appetite for CLT knowledge. Therefore I think, some longer workshops with a more detailed program could be planned for the future.”

CLT for all the projects featured in ‘Future City, Future Wood’ as well as the wider London programme has been supplied by Stora Enso Building and Living.

The Future City, Future Wood seminar was organised by UK Building Solutions Marketing Communications representative, Eve Dennehy of Structur Communications.