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Changing the way the world builds. People. Ideas. Integrity.

August 28, 2009 Issue # 16

Dear Jeffrey,

The use of wood as a technology in the built environment requires Building Serenity:

- Accept the things you can not change (wood "moves" -expands differently based on orientation)
- The courage to change the things you can (back-prime and back-vent your cladding, condition wood to the midpoint of it's expected moisture content range prior to installation, float your drywall corners to allow for truss uplift)
- The wisdom to know the difference (let the wood move. adapt your design to cover the movement. If this sinks in you may someday be able to achieve old-guy status. this is a good thing since it implies that you would have accepted your limitations and outlasted your competitors)

Read Dr. Joe's feature article "Wood Is Good . . . But Strange" below.

BSC's seminar series with John Straube and Joseph Lstiburek is in full swing. You can hear more from these 2 teachers of building science by attending [a seminar next week](#).

To view a list of past newsletters, click [here](#) for our archives.

Happy reading!



Jeff Melvin
Editor, buildingscience.com e-news

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Featured Article by Joe Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng., Fellow ASHRAE

Wood Is Good...But Strange

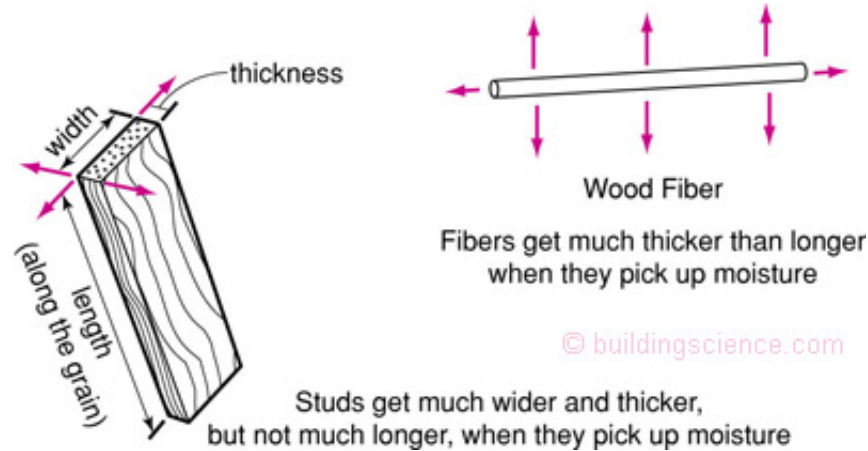
Building Science Insight No. 023

If someone invented wood today it would never be approved as a building material. It burns, it rots, it has different strength properties depending on its orientation, no two pieces are alike, and most cruelly of all, it expands and contracts based on relative humidity. Can it get worse? But, of course. Wood expands differently based on orientation. However, despite all of these problems, wood is the material of choice when it comes to building houses and I predict it will make significant inroads in commercial construction.

1. Wait for it...wood "curtain walls." Treated wood in an assembly performs better in a fire than steel studs and wood is not thermally conductive. Don't believe me? Visit New Zealand and Australia and check out some of their 10 and 20 story buildings. Concrete structural frames

and treated wood frame wall infill assemblies. Gypsum board linings on the inside and outside of the wood frame assembly covered with open rain screen vented fiber cement panels. Exceptionally energy efficient and low cost, and pretty "greenie weenie" to boot. [article continues]

To read the entire feature article and find a downloadable PDF version, click [here](#) to visit our web page.



Upcoming Events in the 2009 Building Science Seminars Series

[Building Science Fundamentals - September 9-10 - Westford, MA](#)

[Building Science Fundamentals - October 14-15 - Toronto, Ontario](#)

Building Science Fundamentals is a two-day seminar that teaches the basic knowledge needed to design and build durable, energy efficient, affordable and healthy buildings.

For the complete list of seminars, click [here](#).

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Building Science Corporation specializes in building technology consulting. Our focus is preventing and resolving problems related to building design, construction and operation.

We are internationally recognized for our expertise in moisture dynamics, indoor air quality, and forensic (building failure) investigations. We are also on the leading edge of the design of sustainable communities and buildings.

We believe in promoting energy efficiency and environmental responsibility within the constraints of marketable and affordable building technology.

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