

Wooden Observation Tower
Pyramidenkogel, Keutschach (A)



WHAT DOES TIMBER CONSTRUCTION MEAN FOR US?

We can mean every single person for whom high living comfort and a green footprint of a building have top priority. Or companies that make their living from timber construction, like Schmid Schrauben Hainfeld from Austria, where essential timber connecting elements have been manufactured for almost 180 years. But also for countries like Austria the building material timber has gained more and more importance in the last 20 years. The proportion of timber construction has already doubled in this period. A quarter of the newly constructed buildings are currently made of timber. The trend is similar from a global perspective - timber construction is booming. There are good reasons for this, because timber is a real jack-of-all-trades. Every cubic meter of used timber captures one ton of CO₂ in long term. Glulam and CLT are highly developed building materials, which means that significantly heavier concrete panels can be replaced by them. Despite its low weight, wood has a very high load-bearing capacity, it carries many times its own weight. The high degree of prefabrication in timber construction is undoubtedly a good reason to use this sustainable raw material. Buildings can be erected on site in the shortest possible time, which saves time, money and also the disruptive factor for neighbours - that's often the reason for timber construction in city centers.

The fact that timber is a burning raw material is often used as an argument against it. Yes, timber burns, just like other building materials. However, the fire behaviour of timber is easier to calculate and control than other building materials. At elevated temperatures, timber forms a layer of coal, this layer maintains the load-bearing capacity for a long time.

North America is also a very important economic factor for Austrian manufacturers. The mass timber boom is growing faster here than almost anywhere else in the world. It is therefore only logical that exports to the North American timber market are an important commercial factor for manufacturers from Austria. This is also the case for Schmid Schrauben Hainfeld as a supplier of timber construction fasteners. Therefore, we have strategically placed our first overseas warehouse in Canada. This should enable our Canadian partner TielnTimber to serve this important market with our Austrian-high-quality timber construction screws in the shortest possible time. The COVID19 pandemic has not yet hit our industry. In recent years Schmid Schrauben has invested in new manufacturing equipment and a new production hall, with the currently increasing capacity level this was an important strategic step to satisfy the growing demand of our products. I wish for all of us, and thus also for our climate, that this positive trend will continue.

Heidi Dodes as Key Account Manager – Timber Construction at Schmid-Schrauben; For more info see: www.schrauben.at