

From Forests to Heritage

Conference Programme

Helsinki, Finland, 28–31st May 2024

Monday 27th May

Pre-conference excursion to Myllymäki farmstead and Liesjärvi old forest, 9–18

Tuesday 28th May

18– Registration at Otaniemi Aalto University campus, Old Department of Architecture

18–21 Icebreaker at Otaniemi Aalto University campus, Old Department of Architecture lobby, option for seaside sauna at student union sauna

Wednesday 29th May

Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, Tenaille von Fersen

8:30– Registration

9:15 Introductory words by conference organizers

9:30 Keynote: Marta Domínguez Delmás

Wood culture unveiled: writing the biographies of forests, objects, and peoples

Wood has been an indispensable raw material for the development of civilisations and cultures since ancient times. Woodlands provided fuel, construction timber and wood for domestic utensils and artefacts. When they were lacking nearby, or were not accessible due to regulations, or could not provide the required timber product, timber was sought further afield. The exploitation of woodlands by humans shaped landscapes and biodiversity in ways that we are only beginning to comprehend.

This keynote delves into the intricate realm of wood culture, from the selection of trees for construction in Early-Neolithic pile-dwelling sites, to the stories encapsulated in wooden artefacts, the luxury commodities reflecting social status or the fashion of the time, the timber trade, and the ancient forestry practices that have shaped current landscapes. Historic forests, wooden artefacts, structures and timbers not only represent tangible heritage of specific historical contexts, but also embody intangible cultural practices that have been passed on through generations. The intricate stories embedded within them can only be uncovered through interdisciplinary studies. Our research unveils the biographies of forests, objects, and peoples, and is an essential step for heritage preservation and sustainable resource management, but it also contributes to a deeper appreciation of the cultural significance of wood in our collective history, enhancing its relevance for our future.

10:30 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Session 1

Torbjörg Bjelland, Bettina Ebert

What's in a hole? Medieval wooden scaffolding remains provide new insights into cathedral construction

Mari-Sohvi Miettinen

"Yesterday I came here to live". Finnish wilderness cottages in the continuum of living off the grid in post-human era

Pascal Fraiture, Christophe Maggi, Vincent Labbas

The Chapel of the Lords of Boussu (BE) and its Altarpiece of the Virgin: insights into the provenance of the wood (Quercus spp.)

Francesco Augelli

The "Cassarini-Cavazza" mansion timber floors consolidation. An example of minimal conservation intervention

Martijn Remmen

A case study on technical and ethical aspects of colonial Art Nouveau

Piotr Mańkowski, Wojciech Połec, Joanna Wyleżalek, Iwona Błaszczak

Traditional woodworking in craft workshops in Poland

12:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 Session 2

Martin Bridge

Dendrochronology and the Stratfire Project

Sjoerd van Daalen

Southern Yellow Pine in the Low Countries

Aoife Daly, Søren Sindbæk, Claus Fèveile

Oak use in 7th and 8th Century Ribe – local and exotic wood in Denmark's earliest town

Alessia D'Auria, Lucia Vanacore, Gaetano Di Pasquale

Materia and Lignum (timber and wood) at Herculaneum (southern Italy): the relationship between man, wood and forest 2000 years ago

Karl-Magnus Melin

A diverse use of wood species in Medieval Swedish and Danish church buildings

Tomas Tomaszek

Wooden heritage in the borderlands of Poland and Ukraine – current conditions and issues of conservation

15:00 Coffee break

15:30–16:45 Session 3

Satu Koivisto, Daniel Groß

Wattling for fish – Fishing with fixed wooden structures in the southern Baltic during the Mesolithic and Neolithic

Michael Grabner, Veronika Kotradyová, Kerstin Kowarik, Daniel Brandner, Hans Reschreiter
Overgrown stumps. Prehistoric knowledge – alive in Slovakia

Oliver Nelle

Prehistoric woodlands and timber exploitation for house building: lake dwellings in the northern alpine foreland in SW-Germany

Elisa Ahverdov, Tuomas Aakala, Mikael Holmström, Mikko Huhtamies, Kari Hyttinen, Yann Irissou, Minna Koivikko, Pekka Niemelä ja Juha Siitonen

Exploring the Hahtiperä Shipwreck: A Multi-Method Study from Historical Records to Insect Marking

Minna Koivikko

Wrecks in Peace, the Underwater Cultural Heritage of Suomenlinna

17:00–18:30 Poster dating with sparkling

18:30–19:30 Guided tour in Suomenlinna

Thursday 30th May

Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, Tenaille von Fersen

8:30– Registration

9:00–10:30 Session 4

Neil J. Loader, Elina Sahlstedt, Darren Davies, Katja T. Rinne, Danny McCarroll, Giles Young
Stable isotope dendrochronology using laser-ablation mass spectrometry

Kristof Haneca, Neil J. Loader, Darren Davies, Danny McCarroll, Vincent Debonne
Oxygen isotopes crossing the North Sea. Teleconnections, a roof and a painting

David Brown
Dendrochronological Dating of Baltic Timbers found in Ireland

Bernhard Muigg
Silvicultural Heritage: Detecting historical coppice-with-standards forest management from dendroarchaeological sources

Alar Läänelaid
Provenance of oaks in some painting panels in Estonia and Finland

Sofie Diericx, Siska Genbrugge, Hans Beeckman, Wannes Hubau, Jan Van den Bulcke
Wood species identification using X-ray μ CT scanning: a multi-resolution comparative study

10:30 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Session 5

Christiane Hemker
What wood can tell us about medieval silver mining

Grit Neubauer
The Underground Forest

Marja Ahola, Tiina Äikäs
Making special pine trees: A site biographical approach to Yliskylä sacred pine (southern Finland) and the hanging tree of Taavetti Lukkarinen (Northern Finland)

Lars Östlund
Sacred trees in Sami forests of northernmost Sweden

R. Mohanapriya, E. Prema, P.Velraj
Wood Diplomacy: Unveiling the Cultural Legacy between India and Myanmar (Burma)

Anthony Hōete, Dean Sully, Guy Mannes-Abbott, Merry Chow
The Indigenous Urban Forest

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 Session 6

Coralie Mills
Revealing the cultural histories of Scottish wooded landscapes

Nuria Romero Vidal
From cabinets to the tropical forests. Tracing human-tree interactions in the Isthmo-Colombian area through woodcarvings multidisciplinary research

Luigi Hermanin
Foundational criteria to create “Historical Reserve Forest Area”: a study of the Casentino fir and the ancient wooden load-bearing structures in the area of Florence

Julia Weidemüller
Let's talk archives

Gretel Boswijk
Loaded up and sailed away: where did the kauri go?

Virpi Kaukio
Museum as a mediator of the living cultural heritage of the forest relationship

15:00 Coffee break

15:30–16:45 Session 7

Géraldine Brun
Learning from traditional Wood Claddings in France and Sweden

Nasim Shiasi
Reviving Wooden Heritage: Challenges, Methods, and Critique of Safavid Palaces' Restoration

Crystal Hollis
Deliberate Damage: A Look at Burn Marks in Churches

Mauro Bernabei, Ilaria Stefani, Samuele Caciagli, Francesca Mannucci, Nicola Macchioni
Historic timber structures: identification, provenance and dating of the roof of a Renaissance masterpiece, the Florence cathedral

Jay Thakkar
The Indigenous Kath-Khuni Construction System of the Himalayas

19:00 Conference dinner at restaurant Korjaamo

Friday 31st May

Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, Tenaille von Fersen

8:30– Registration

9:00–10:30 Session 8

Iida Kalakoski, Riina Sirén

The Status of Wood in the Finnish Architectural Heritage

Reetta Karhunkorva, Tuulikki Halla, Jaana Laine

The Heritage(s) of Human-Forest Relationships

Mats Almlöf

Quality wood and how to secure access quality wood in the future

Toms Kokins

Sweden's Timber Empire. Architectural perspectives on transnational timber industry's impact on the landscapes of ecology, economy and culture. Case of Swedish forests in Latvia

10:30 Coffee break

11:00–12:30 Session 9

Anne Crone, Coralie Mills

Home and away; the dendrochronology of pine in Scottish buildings

Māris Zunde

Dendrochronological dating of historical timber structures in Latvia

Brita Lorentzen

Tree-Rings and 'Holistic' Heritage Science: Intersecting Byzantine-Medieval Art, Architectural, and Environmental Histories from Cyprus

Gabriel Pereira

Fuelling the mo(nu)ment: wood supply during the Renaissance reformation of the Convent of Christ (Portugal)

Sogbesan Oluwatoyin & Kenneth E. Aidelojie

Wooden element in the Yoruba cultural heritage: Documecase of Alaafins palace of Oyo town

Kirsten Weterings, Sven Dupré, Marta Domínguez-Delmás

From Panel Maker to Painter's Workshop: Signed and Dated Panels from the Same Tree in the Seventeenth-Century Low Countries

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–15:15 Session 10

Vincent Debonne & Kristof Haneca

Tree-ring based chronologies of brick architecture and historical building materials in Flanders, Belgium

Katri Vuola

Form Follows the Material? Reflections on the Wood Use in the Ecclesiastical Sculptures in the 14th and 15th Centuries in Finland

Rafał Boguszewski, Małgorzata Herudzińska

The Economics of Tradition: Valuing Traditional Woodworking Skills in the Modern Market

Tuomas Aakala, Niko Kulha, Timo Kuuluvainen

Human impact on forests of early twentieth century Finland

Philip Chambers

Forest meaning-making through geocache creation

Elisabeth Wächter, Sebastian Nemestothy, Michael Grabner

Was fir wood favoured as construction timber?

Liisa Kunnas, Heidi Henriikka Mäkelä

From the forest's cover: Ancientness and otherness in forests from archaeological and folkloristic viewpoints

15:15 Coffee break

15:45– 17:00 Session 11

Laura Berger, Kristo Vesikansa, Philip Tidwell

Individualized mass production — Standardized houses of Puutalo Oy

Rasa Bertašiūtė

Traditional Carpentry: Craft or Art?

Mattias Hallgren

Swehish hollow post windmills. An endangered type of windmill

17:00 Closing and farewell

Saturday 1st June

Post-conference excursion to Verla old paper mill (UNESCO World Heritage Site), 9–18

Post-conference guided tour to Pikku-Finlandia 11–12