

Curriculum Vitae - James C Coulson CEnv FIMMM FFB AIWSc

Qualifications & Awards:

BS 4978 - Certificate of Proficiency: Visual Strength Grading of Softwoods [1975]
Buckinghamshire College - Certificate in Timber Studies (Distinction) [1976]
Final Examination, Institute of Wood Science (AIWSc) [1978] – *Diploma: Timber Engineering*
BS 2482 – Certificate in Scaffold Board Grading [1985]
Fellow of the Faculty of Building [1986]
BS 5756 - Certificates of Proficiency: Grading of Temperate Hardwoods [1997]
Grading of Tropical Hardwoods [1998] [Updated 2017]
Fellow of the Institute of Wood Science [2004]
Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (update of FIWSc) [2014]
Chartered Environmentalist [2016] Awarded by The Society for the Environment

I studied at Buckinghamshire College (now Bucks New University) in High Wycombe, in the School of Art, Design, Furniture and Timber. There I achieved a Distinction in the Certificate in Timber Studies (Winning First Prize) and I gained a further two national Institute of Wood Science Prizes, whilst qualifying as an Associate of the Institute of Wood Science, in 1978. In 2004 I became a Fellow of the IWSc, having served as National President of the IWSc from 2002-2004.

I was a member of the Council of Management of the Institute of Wood Science for 30 years until its merger with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3). I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Building in 1986, in recognition of my experience regarding technical investigations into matters involving timber and wood-based products in construction. I joined the UK Wood Committee of ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) in 1992, and I was later elected to membership of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee (IIWC). I have been a member of the UK Timber Grading Committee since 1994, I am currently a Member of the Board of the Wood Technology Group (a Division of IOM3: the successor to the IWSc). In 2014 I was made a Fellow of the IOM3; and in 2016 I qualified as a Chartered Environmentalist. I am also a member of the International Research Group on Wood Protection (IRG), which reviews the latest research on wood preservatives, finishes and fire treatments.

Experience:

I spent 16 years as a Regional Officer (latterly becoming Manager of the Regional Technical Consultancy Network) with the then Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA – no longer in existence), before founding Technology For Timber (now trading as TFT Woodexperts Limited), in 1991. In over 45 years, I have investigated hundreds of technical problems with construction, shopfitting, furniture, fitted kitchens, joinery, flooring, decking, cladding and wood-based panels. I work very closely with the sawmilling, construction, trussed rafter and timber engineering industries, as well as with producers and installers of all types of wood-based panel products. I am experienced in the specification, shipping, manufacturing, installation and quality aspects of both solid timber and all wood-based products and their uses in construction, joinery, flooring, decking and timber packaging. I have therefore developed a very broad knowledge of the manufacturing processes and practical applications for all wood products in almost every aspect of the timber and wood-using industries. I work closely on Timber Engineering and joinery design projects; and I also give written technical advice to, and carry out investigations for, many Trade Bodies: the Timber Decking and Cladding Association, the Contract Flooring Association, Timcon (The Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation) and the BWF (British Woodworking Federation). My “hands on” experience covers timber construction in both new and historic buildings; forest practices (logging etc); primary sawmills and all other types of board-producing, joinery, flooring, kitchen, furniture and pallet/packaging factories; and I have first-hand experience of most types of manufacturing plants in the UK, Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Europe, USA, Canada, the Middle East, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

I have published three books: “Wood in Construction” (2012); “The Sustainable Use of Wood” (2014) and “A Handbook for the Sustainable Use of Wood in Construction” (2021).

(Updated December 2024)