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## Preface

The *Wood Reference Handbook* fills a need in the North American market for current information on the manufacturing, specification, and use of wood building products. The 1997 edition includes minor editorial changes.

The book is especially relevant to designers in Canada and the United States. While some information is based on Canadian products, the vast majority of the book explains North American products, construction techniques, fire safety principles, and other topics which are applicable in either country.

The *Wood Reference Handbook* complements the *Wood Design Manual*, *Fire Safety Design in Buildings* and other publications which, together, provide a comprehensive family of reference material for today's specifier\*. Engineering design is further facilitated by the *WoodWorks*<sup>®</sup> family of software for designing with wood, available in both Canadian and American versions.

The *Wood Reference Handbook* is produced by the Canadian Wood Council, the national association of forest products associations. CWC's business is the development and communication of technical information to assist designers in using wood products in a manner that is structurally sound, fire safe, and respectful of our environment.

The *Wood Reference Handbook* is a result of the efforts of many individuals including CWC's professional staff, consultants, and architects from Canada and the United States who devoted many hours to ensure the suitability of the book for designers.

The Board of Directors, members, and staff of the Canadian Wood Council trust this book will assist you in designing with wood - *the renewable resource*.





Kelly R. McCloskey  
President

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\*For more information on CWC design tools, visit [www.cwc.ca](http://www.cwc.ca)

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