Wood products are enjoying a renaissance in architecture. But when designers Yugen Kim and Tomomi Itakura, partners at Boston-based IKD, looked at the life cycle of timber, they found "inefficiencies in maximizing carbon sequestration, one of which was the unused waste from the milling process," Kim says. They wanted to reuse the C-shaped trim pieces of logs—which can comprise up to 38 percent of a felled tree—without down-cycling them into lower-grade products like particleboard, wood pulp, mulch, or fuel.

Their solution is remarkably simple: turn the pieces' flat, sawn faces out and create blocks that can stack in modular fashion. Kim, a former sculptor and furniture designer, and Itakura salvage the edges from local sawmills, cut them into manageable 8-inch lengths, and reassemble them four pieces at a time, with mitered corners. The resulting "Timber waste Modular Unit" ("TwMU") is a hollow, load-bearing block. Juror Doug Stockman contrasted the elegance of IKD's prototype, in which "literally the edges are ripped off and reassembled in a different way, without further manipulation," to other wood products that use reconstituted material.

For the first trial of the TwMU system, IKD built a five-course-tall circular bench around the base of a tulip tree at the Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, Mass. During its five-month tenure, the blocks began to crack, Kim says, due to the uneven release and absorption of moisture. IKD began developing new prototypes to improve TwMU's durability. They drilled notches to facilitate evaporation and contraction, and applied coatings of beeswax, pine tar, and char. They also tested hardwood versus softwood, and green versus kiln-dried wood. As of press time, these second-generation prototypes had endured nine months outdoors, with the notched and coated versions faring better than the initial prototypes. Kim plans to run the trial for two years. —G.S.
Jury

Mic Patterson is founding principal of Los Angeles–based Design Tectonics, a consultancy that focuses on innovative façade technology applications and research. He was formerly the vice president of strategic development at Enclos. Patterson is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Southern California School of Architecture with a focus on sustainable façade renovation practices.

Douglas Stockman, AIA, is a founding principal at El Dorado in Kansas City, Mo. He also serves on the Kansas State University College of Architecture, Planning, and Design Dean’s Advisory Council, and is chair of the Downtown Council of Kansas City. Stockman received a B.Arch. from Kansas State University.

Elizabeth Whittaker, AIA, is founder and principal of Merge Architects in Boston. In 2015, she was a recipient of the AIA Young Architects Award and the Emerging Voices award from the Architectural League of New York. Whittaker received an M.Arch. from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where she is an assistant professor in the practice of architecture.

Credits

Cricket Shelter: Modular Edible Insect Farm, page 112
Design Firm: Terreform ONE, Brooklyn, N.Y. - Mitchell Joachim, ASSOC. AIA, (co-founder and primary investigator); Jiachen Xu, Lissette Olivares, Cheto Castellano, Ivan Fuenzalida, Sung Moon, Kamila Varela, Yucel Guven, Chloe Byrne, Miguel Lantigua-Inoa, AIA, Alex Colard, Melanie Fessel, Maria Airola, ASSOC. AIA, Vivian Kuan (project management); Felipe Minola, Matthew Tarpey (research assistants) Consultant: Seek Food - Robyn Shapiro Fabricators: Shandro Hassan, Christian Hamrick Funding: Art Works for Change; Tereform ONE Photography: Mitchell Joachim, Matthew Tarpey Special Thanks: David Stewart, Christian Hubert, Heather Lord, Scott Pobiner, New Lab, Brooklyn Navy Yard, GMD Shipyards, New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study

BayArc: A Tidal Responsive Barrier, page 116
Design Firm: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, San Francisco - Craig Hartman, FAIA (concept and interdisciplinary leader); Mark Schwettmann, AIA, Alex Cruz, Ross Findly, David Kwon (project team) Project Adviser: Moffatt & Nichol Drawings: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Structural Engineer: Mark Sarkisian, Eric Long, David Shook, Geoffrey Brunn Marine Engineering Concept: Moffatt & Nichol - Dilip Trivedi, Richard Dornhelm

The Tower at PNC Plaza, page 118
Design Firm: Gensler, San Francisco - Doug Gensler, AIA (principal-in-charge); Hao Ko, AIA (principal and architectural design director); Benedict Trenal, AIA (principal and technical director); L. Addins, AIA (project manager); Anastasia Huggins, AIA, David Hall, Gunwook Nam, Alison Wilkinson, AIA, Daniel Nauman, AIA, Jorge Barrero, AIA, Ethel Macleod, Eugene Lee, Joe Chisholm, Brent Van Gunten, AIA, Len Sciarra, Philip Kaefer, AIA, Joel McCullough, AIA, Rich Peake, Mariana Vaida, Jessica Yin, Yooju No (project team) Rendering: Space Matrix; Tangram 3DS Construction Manager: P. J. Dick Lighting Designer: Fisher Marantz Stone Structural and MEP Engineer: Buro Happold Sustainability Consultant: Paladino & Co. Photography: Connie Zhou Photography

LELU Exit Sign, page 122

Tally, page 124

Pulled Plaster Panels, page 128
Design Firm: Young Projects, New York - Bryan Young, AIA (principal); Jon Cielo, AIA (project architect); Noah Marciniak, Samantha Eby, Nayoung Kim (project team) Lighting Designer: Architectural Lighting - Rick Shaver Structural Engineer: Silman - Nat Oppenheimer

Electrical Engineer: Engineering Solutions - John Ryan Consultants: Butter and Eggs - Judy Dunne (interiors); Tacon (general contractor); Engineering Solutions - John Ryan (M/E/P engineering) Drawings: Young Projects Fabricators: Kammel (stainless steel screen); Balmer Architectural Mouldings Photography: Young Projects and Jon Cielo

Chicago Horizon, page 130
Client: Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago Park District Design Firm: Ultramoderne, Providence, R.I. - Yasmin Vobis, Aaron Forrest, AIA, Emily Yen, ASSOC. AIA, Tida Osotsapa, Will Gant, Hua Gao, Ronak Hingash (project team) Design Structural Engineer: Guy Nordesth and Associates - Brett Schneider Structural Engineer of Record: Thornton Tomasetti Architect of Record: Animate Architecture - Joe Lambke Fabricator: Nordic Structures Funding: BP; Chicago Park District; Chicago Architecture Biennial; Rhode Island School of Design; ReThink Wood; Nordic Structures Photography: Naho Kubota Special Thanks: Laura Briggs

Spray-On House, page 132
Vegas Altas Congress Center and Auditorium, page 134
Client: Junta de Extremadura
Design Firm: Pancorbo + de Villar + Chacón + Martín Robles, Madrid - Luis Pancorbo, Jose de Villar, Carlos Chacón, Inés Martín Robles (project team)
Drawings and Lighting Designer: Luis Pancorbo, Jose de Villar, Carlos Chacón, Inés Martín Robles
Structural Engineer: Mecanismo - Juan Rey, Pablo Vegas, Jacinto Ruiz Carmona
Electrical and Facilities Engineering: Unculo Ingenieros - Rafael Unculo, Sergio Rodriguez
Acoustics: Arau Acústica - Higinio Arau
Models: Gilberto Ruiz
Construction: Placonsa - Eloy Montero; Julio Oreja (site manager)
Ropes Installation: Cotesa; Lastra & Zorrilla
Funding: Junta de Extremadura
Cost: €10,505,187 ($11.7 million, approx.)
Photography: Jesús Granada (building); Ignacio Bisbal Grandal (model)

Nanobiome Building Skin, page 136
Design Firm: Michael K Chen Architecture (MKCA), New York - Michael Chen, Justin Snides AIA, Alan Tansey, Natasha Harper, Elea Stein, Brendan Caldwell, AIA, Julian Anderson, AIA (project team)
Drawings: MKCA
Landscape Architect: Local Office Landscape Architecture - Walter Meyer, Jennifer Bolstad, AIA, Jenny Hindelang
Conservation Consultant: State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology
Danilo Fernando (associate professor and graduate program director)
Façade and Structural Engineer: Buro Happold
General Contractor: IA Construction Management
Manufacturer: Boston Valley Terra Cotta
Photography: MKCA

Infundibuliforms: Kinetic Tensile Surface Environments, page 138
Design Firms: Matter Design, Boston - RVTR, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Toronto - University of Michigan
Primary Investigators: Wes McGee, Geoffrey Thün, Kathy Velikov
Design Research Associate: Daniel Tish
Fabrication Assistants: Asa Peller, Dustin Brugman, Andrew Kromes, Andrew Waid, Iram Moreno Pinon
Wireless Sensing Adviser: Jerome Lynch
Technical Partners: Buckeye Polymers; Industrial Fabricating Systems; Beckhoff
Funding: Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning: 2016 Research Through Making Program; University of Michigan Office of Research: Small Projects Grant
Photography: Peter Smith

Timber Waste Modular Unit (“TwMU”), page 140
Design Firm and Fabricator: IKD, Boston - Yugon Kim, Tomomi Itakura (leaders); Yuki Kawae, Steven Hien, Brendan Cassimir, David Morgan, Erin Kim, James Fan, Miguel Lorenzo Gumila (student research assistants)
Drawings: IKD
Funding: Heritage Museums & Gardens; Rhode Island School of Design
Photography: IKD
Special Thanks: Windy Hill Farm Sawmill

Grove, page 141
Client: Design Biennial Boston, Boston Society of Architects (BSA)
Design Firm and Fabricator: GLD Architecture, Brookline, Mass. - Joel Lamere, Cynthia Gunadi, Sophia Chesrow, Grigori Enikolopov, Zain Karsan, Dohyun Lee, Elizabeth Galvez (project team)
Drawings: GLD
Funding: Design Biennial Boston; GLD
Photography: Jane Messinger
Special Thanks: Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, Boston Art Commission, Pinkcomma Gallery, BSA Space, Boston Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics, David Costanza, Sixto Cordero, Caitlin Mueller, Steven O. Anderson, John Skibo, Matt Wagers, Chris Dewart, Christopher Gunadi

Blooming Bamboo Home, page 142
Design Firm: H&P Architects, Hanoi, Vietnam - Doan Thanh Ha, Tran Ngoc Phuong, Chu Kim Thinh, Erimescu Patricia, Nguyen Van Manh, Nguyen Khanh Hoa, Nguyen Quynh Trang, Tran Quoc Thang, Pham Hong Son, Hoang Dinh Toan, Pham Quang Thang, Nguyen Hai Hue, Nguyen Khae Phuc (project team)
Fabricator: H&P Architects
Photography: Doan Thanh Ha
Cost: $2,500
Special Thanks: Nguyen Tri Thanh