



Foto | Janez Koželj

Popotnica | knjigi | Provisions for this Volume

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Vendar, od govorjenja politikov do uresničitve ciljev je še dolga pot. In prav na tej poti je pričujoče delo pomembna popotnica. Po-kaže, da je tudi z rabo naravnega in obnovljivega vira – lesa – mo-žno razviti visok družbeni standard in dobro živeti, a tako, da bomo lahko naravo našim potomcem zapustili vsaj v takem stanju kot je sedaj. Poraba lesa za gradnjo bivalnih in drugih objektov se v za-dnjem času povečuje, saj je les relativno lahek material visoke no-silnosti, z odličnimi trdnostnimi in toplotno izolativnimi lastnostmi. Omogoča hitro in željam uporabnikov prilagodljivo gradnjo naj-različnejših konstrukcijskih tipov. A najbolj pomembno je, da z lesno gradnjo prispevamo k zmanjševanju rabe energije ter nižamo izpu-ste toplogrednega plina ogljikovega dioksida v ozračje. Že pri pri-pravi lesa za gradnjo je poraba energije nizka, leseni objekti pa so izredno energetsko učinkoviti. Les skladišči ogljikov dioksid in stro-kovnjaki ocenjujejo, da bi 10 % povečanje deleža lesenih hiš v Evro-pi povzročilo dovolj prihranka CO₂, za doseganje 25 % zmanjšanja iz-pustov, predvidenega s kjotskim protokolom.

Naj sklenem, da pričujoče delo dr. Manje Kitek dokazuje, da smo se na področju gradnje z lesom premaknili v pravo smer. Knjiga je kom-pas, ki nam bo pomagal, da to smer tudi obdržimo. Srečno pot!

The Standard Slovenian Dictionary defines *popotnica* (*provisions*) as food for a journey and, somewhat archaically, money as well. Meta-phorically speaking, the word can be understood as the strength and energy required to successfully perform given tasks and to attain our goals as imagined at the outset of the journey. Is the author of this volume, *Wood in Contemporary Slovenian Architecture 2000–2010*, in need of such provisions? In view of the great success of her mono-graph *Wood Construction: A Challenge and Opportunity for Slovenia* (2008) and in light of the resulting breakthrough in the field of wood as a construction material that I believe the monograph brought about, I believe she is not. I am certain that this volume will receive a similar-ly robust and favorable response.

Taking the play on words a step further, one may say that *Wood in Con-temporary Slovenian Architecture 2000–2010* is what provisions are to a traveler. But provisions for whom, one might ask. And which goals does the work help attain? I believe this book first and foremost offers excellent provisions for Slovenia and everybody living and creating in this beauti-ful corner of the world. Slovenia abounds in forests, but wood is not being used as much as it should, even though we have the necessary know-how. We read about it in newspapers, we hear about it on radio and tel-evision, we discuss it at various conferences, and, finally, the issue is dis-cussed by our politicians in the National Council, the National Assembly, and in the government. The fact that this topic has made its way into poli-tics is a great joy and honor for all of us that have a special bond with this beautiful and precious material and have been struggling to get it on the political agenda for a number of years. As the vice dean for wood technology, it gives me pleasure to see that the most outstanding individ-uals, including the author herself, well-deserved groups, and institutions have in one way or another made connections with the central institution, the Department of Wood Technology at the Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Ljubljana.

Nevertheless, the journey from politicians' words to the realization of our goals is long. This work can be seen as an important part of the provi-sions for the journey. It demonstrates that through the use of this natu-ral and renewable resource a high social standard can be developed and the quality of life improved; however, the environment has to be pre-served for our descendants at least in its present state. The use of wood for the construction of residential and other structures has been experi-encing an increase because wood is a relatively light material with a high load capacity, excellent strength, and thermal insulation charac-teristics. It enables fast construction of various construction types adapted to the client's wishes. Most importantly, wood construction contributes to a reduction in energy use as well as a decrease in carbon-dioxide emis-sions. In the early stage, during the preparation of wood for construction, the use of energy is already low, and wooden constructions themselves are highly energy-efficient. Wood sequesters carbon dioxide – experts estimate that a 10% increase in the share of wooden buildings in Europe would help hold enough carbon dioxide to achieve the 25% reduction of emissions envisaged by the Kyoto Protocol.

By way of conclusion, I would like to say that this work by Manja Kitek proves that we have taken the right direction in wood construction. This book is a compass that will also help us stay on course in the fu-ture. Bon voyage!