

CHICAGO  
ARCHITECTURE  
CENTER

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**Media contact**

Jessica Tcholakov

[jessica.tcholakov@risestrategygroup.com](mailto:jessica.tcholakov@risestrategygroup.com)

224-436-1005

**CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTING  
BENEFITS OF WOOD IN CITIES' NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS**

*REFRAMED: The Future of Cities in Wood and ReCovered: Chicago's Urban Tree Canopy set  
to open at the Chicago Architecture Center on April 25*

**(CHICAGO) April XX, 2023** — On Tuesday, April 25, the [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) will open its newest exhibition *REFRAMED: The Future of Cities in Wood*, to the public. Presented by the Softwood Lumber Board (SLB) and developed in partnership with the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH), the exhibition will explore building with mass timber, an exploding trend in design and architecture with enormous benefits in sustainability and occupant wellness. The exhibition will feature architectural models of mass timber projects from around the world such as public spaces, office buildings, adaptive reuse and new construction.

*REFRAMED* will offer the hands-on opportunity to experience wood through a learning pavilion constructed from mass timber, as well as a striking visual demonstration of the superior ability of mass timber to withstand fire. The exhibition also reflects on biophilia, the human instinct to seek connections with nature and the documented positive impacts that natural materials have on humans' physical and mental well-being.

"*REFRAMED* tells the story of a reimagining of one of humanity's oldest construction materials into something that meets the urgent sustainability needs of our world and the construction needs of modern cities," said **Eleanor Gorski, AIA, President and CEO of the Chicago Architecture Center**. "Mass timber is much as a revolution as it is a return to the past, and the Chicago Architecture Center is excited to feature mass timber and its potential impacts on the present and future of people living in urban environments."

"We are proud to be the primary sponsor of *REFRAMED*, which demonstrates the bright future of sustainable wood products in the built environment," said **Ryan Flom, Chief Marketing Officer of the Softwood Lumber Board**. "The exhibition not only illustrates the innovative designs mass timber makes possible, it highlights the natural beauty, strength and versatility that the material brings to the human experience of architecture."

"Among timber's many benefits are its relatively light weight and great strength, which make it a competitive choice for building tall, reducing on-site assembly time, while offering the precision

that comes with prefabrication. REFRAMED thoughtfully examines all of these considerations and more,” explained **Javier Quintana de Una, CEO of Council on Tall Buildings Urban Habitat.**”

Encompassing the entry to *REFRAMED* is *ReCovered: Chicago’s Urban Tree Canopy*. In this exhibition, visitors will discover the magical role that trees play in our city. *ReCovered* explores the impact of trees—from quality of life to quality of air—on the urban dweller’s experience.

*ReCovered* features an immersive, abstract tree canopy installation that allows the dappled sunlight to filter through, creating a space redolent of a grove of trees on a warm day. Guests will learn about tree planting initiatives throughout Chicago as well as trees native to the local area—and have the opportunity to write down their own thoughts on the importance of trees in their memories and lives.

The *ReCovered* exhibition is curated by Ross Barney Architects, led by AIA Gold Medal recipient Carol Ross Barney, and co-curated by Ryan Gann.

“Trees are essential to our experience as city dwellers, bringing much-needed green spaces and shade to urban areas,” said **Carol Ross Barney**. “Ross Barney Architects is thrilled to partner with the Chicago Architecture Center to showcase the value of trees and recreate the feeling of being among the urban tree canopy for visitors.”

The CAC was founded in 1966 as the Chicago Architecture Foundation to save the historic Glessner House. Since that time, the CAC has grown to become one of the largest cultural organizations in Chicago and a national leader in the promotion of architecture and design. For more than 50 years, CAC educators, volunteer docents and guest services volunteers have shared the stories of Chicago’s architecture and history with millions of Chicagoans and visitors. The CAC serves more than 500,000 guests and audience members annually.

For more information, visit the [REFRAMED and ReCovered page](#).

### **About the Chicago Architecture Center**

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers tours, programs, exhibitions, and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space with views of a century of iconic skyscrapers.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 5,000 K-12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with

tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to serving under-represented communities in construction, engineering, and design professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking subjects related to the built environment.

Proceeds from programs, tours, and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships, and donations, support its educational mission. Visit [architecture.org](https://www.architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

### **About the Softwood Lumber Board**

The Softwood Lumber Board (SLB) is an industry-funded initiative established to promote the uses as well as the environmental and economic benefits of softwood lumber products. Programs and initiatives supported by the SLB, including American Wood Council, Think Wood and WoodWorks, focus on increasing the demand for lumber products in the United States. For more information, visit [softwoodlumberboard.org](https://softwoodlumberboard.org).

### **About the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat**

Founded in 1969, the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat is one of the world's leading nonprofit organization for all those interested in the future of cities. It explores how increased urban density and vertical growth can support more sustainable and healthy cities, especially in the face of mass urbanization and the increasing effects of climate change worldwide. The relationship between policy, buildings, people, urban density, urban space, interior space, materials and infrastructure is key. CTBUH is best-known as the arbiter of tall building height and the global authority that bestows titles such as "The World's Tallest Building".

### **About Ross Barney Architects**

Ross Barney Architects is a Chicago based architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture studio.

Led by Carol Ross Barney, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, the 2023 AIA Gold Medal recipient, the practice has developed a reputation for creating innovative, environmentally responsible, user focused architecture and civic space. This work has often centered on overlooked or forgotten buildings and places that form the backdrop to urban life: train stations, power plants, government buildings, higher education and schools, parks, and fast-food restaurants. The studio's portfolio is distinguished by harmonizing complex histories, tight budgets and bureaucracy into memorable and inspiring places and spaces.

Ross Barney Architects' ideas and projects have been recognized by organizations from around the world, receiving more than 200 major design awards including the Cooper Hewitt

Smithsonian Design Museum, National Design Award for Architecture, World's Most Innovative Companies from Fast Company and fourteen National Honor Awards for Architecture, Interior Architecture and Urban Design and Planning from the American Institute of Architects.

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