



Jean-Luc Sandoz P.Eng, PhD, EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland), CEO of CBS-Lifteam group.

A recent European magazine article celebrated Jean-Luc Sandoz's 60th birthday with the headline "The Father of Modern Timber Construction".

As a young wood scientist in Switzerland, he could have built a whole academic career around his insight into using ultrasound waves to measure the strength properties of timber. Instead, he stepped back into jobsites with active design, build, and evaluation technology companies. A sort of 30 year anniversary this year offers our young industry a path to follow. Caribbean regional advocates will also appreciate a unique model whose technology elevates the capacity of local talent and materials.

Dr Sandoz started as a gifted young carpenter in a practical curriculum before making a rare move into timber engineering in Switzerland, and then becoming a protégé of the legendary Dr Julius Natterer at EPFL. Together they moved into active studio design in the early 90's, and by 1999 he'd begun operations in both France and Switzerland with companies that are the origin of the CBS-Lifteam group.

A case study of his innovative work with local timber in French Guiana, for a university project, will be a focus point in his presentation, but highlights of European delivered work will reinforce the potential of wood science to be applied and delivered into new structural systems in a remarkably rapid fashion.

This story of continuous practical synthesis is clearly not over and a Caribbean chapter may be part of it. We expect to end symposium #1 with a hopeful "To Be Continued"...