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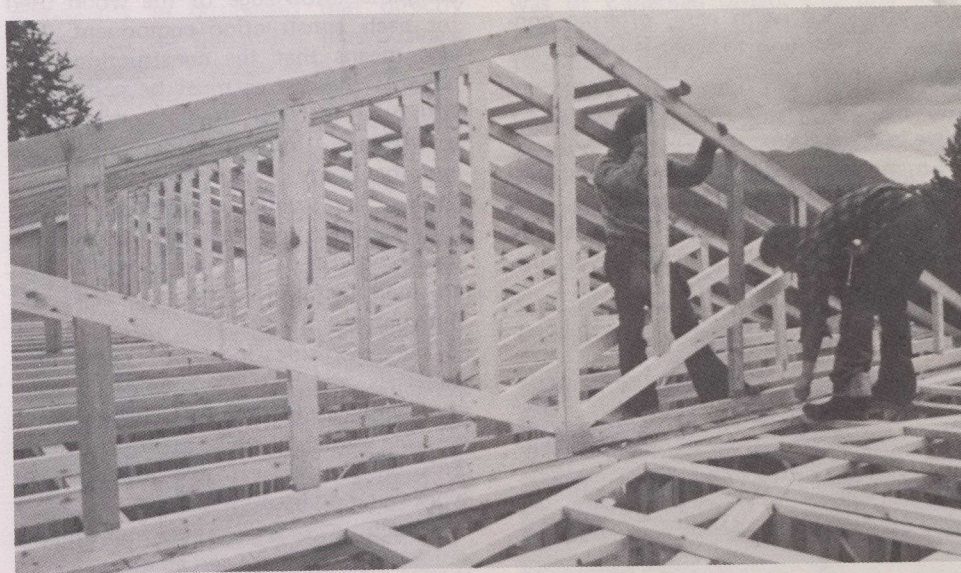
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Batimat 83: Canada builds top reputation in wood construction



Canada will demonstrate its knowledge of "wood through-and-through" at the International Construction Exhibit — Batimat 83 — being held at the Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, Paris, November 11 to 20. A display of top quality products will illustrate the technology and know-how that have earned Canada its international reputation in wood construction.

Visitors at the Canadian exhibit can explore the numerous advantages of timber-frame, a proven construction method that meets the challenges of controlling construction costs and conserving energy.

In response to the energy crisis of the mid-Seventies, many West European countries have adopted new regulations that advocate a major reduction in the energy consumed by heating private homes. In France, the reduction is hoped to reach 60 per cent by 1984. Stringent standards require a re-evaluation of the art of building and European countries are slowly rediscovering methods they first brought to America 400 years ago.

The wood industry is one of the cornerstones of the Canadian economy. With one-tenth of the world's forest resources, Canada has become one of

the leading international suppliers of wood products.

Canada's abundant resources have also given rise to a manufactured wood products industry that is constantly perfecting both its techniques and its products, including doors and windows, flooring, wall panelling and cabinets. Today, this industry comprises about 20 sub-sectors and includes close to 2 000 firms which employ 45 000 Canadians. In 1982, sector shipments totalled \$1.1 billion with about 15 per cent of the exported products directed to the European market.

Skills brought from Europe

Half-timbering techniques actually originated in Europe. Carpenters relocating to New France and other parts of North America brought their skills in timber-frame construction with them. Since then, these skills have become so widespread that today, 98 per cent of all Canadian houses (3.5 floors or less) are built with timber-frame construction methods.

Timber-frame holds no secrets for Canada — nor any surprises. With the exception of post-Second World War breakthroughs in compatible components



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