

A revolution that does not produce a new space has not realized its full potential

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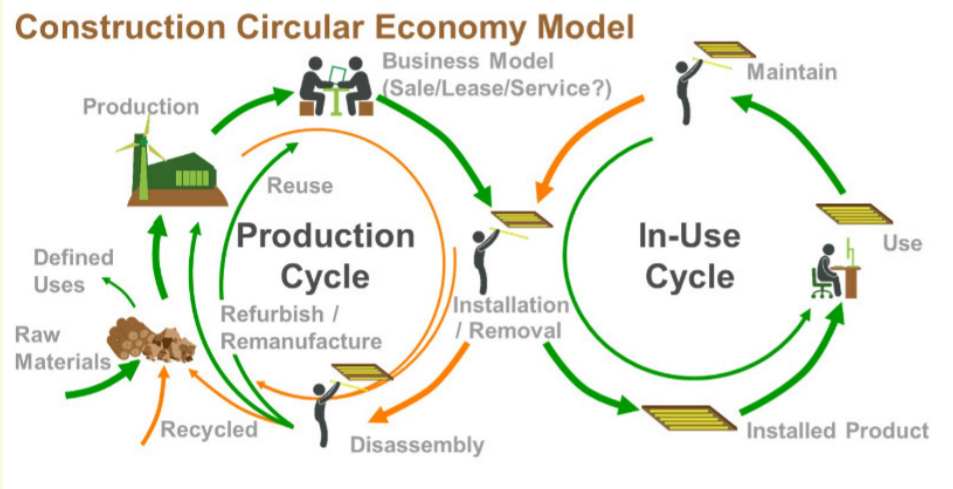
URBAN TIMBER BEACONS

Prominent and engaging city centre "fun-palaces" to support and showcase the two primary cycles (production & in-use) that must intertwine to generate and drive more timber circularity in construction

ALLFORD HALL MONAGHAN MORRIS

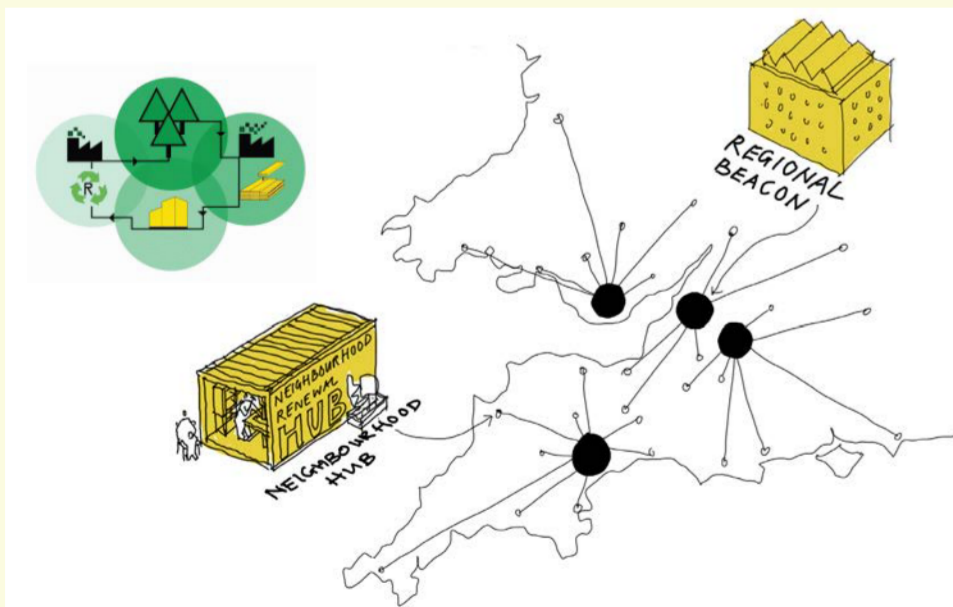
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Introduction French sociologist Henri Lefebvre argued every society in history shapes a *distinctive social space* to meet its social and economic requirements. Is this what cities should offer?



This figure of eight circularity is arguably dependent on the 2 cycles feeding into each other with sufficient pace and commitment to remain connected and in motion. To amplify this relationship, and thereby driving more timber usage in construction, can we encourage the GW4 cities to physically showcase:

- the production cycle more visibly. Numerous innovative timber UK enterprises already exist, arguably *out of sight and out of mind* in depths of internet searches. Could they benefit from somewhere to gain *outreach* and/or grow demand?
- the in-use cycle more equitably. Choice is often the preserve of only the privileged. Could we re-empower urban citizens with skills, knowledge and freedom to *do it ourselves*? To *trust wood* again?



Could these urban *fun-palaces* inspire more appetite for all things timber, all things regenerative? Places that merge education with entertainment / commerce with creativity / alliance with action. *Temples* to share knowledge, garner interest, generate investment, balance supply & demand; a model replicable across the South West region, the UK and beyond?

Let's champion supply chains that exist - bring them centre-stage - incentivise re-locations / expansions, alongside cultivating new enterprises. All in response to increasing demand generated from our re-kindled love of wood in urban environments.

Imagine ...if some underused but much loved Bristol Bond Warehouses became the 1st Timber Beacons of the South West; primarily located, so acutely visible and accessible to all by foot, road, waterway.

Each warehouse becomes an open-source ecosystem activating and energising the city's commitment to Net Zero through putting knowledge, skills and action into the hands of its citizens.

The central diagram is a detailed sketch of an urban timber beacon. It features several circular callouts: **INSTALLATION** (showing a building with 'RETI' and 'LOAN STATION'), **USE** (showing a building with 'SELF' and 'PAPER MILL'), and **REMOVAL / RE-USE** (showing a building with 'GROW' and 'REZONING'). The main sketch includes a 'RETROFIT ACADEMY' building, a 'RE-GENERATE CREATE' area, and a 'RE-USE OUR WATERWAYS' section. Handwritten notes include: 'TACKLE AGING HOUSING STOCK', 'CONNECT PLAY TO HARBOUR ACTIVITIES', 'FOSTER POLICY SUPPORT...?', 'MAKE LINKS WITH BOAT YARD', 'START A MAKERS QUARTER', 'MAKE LINKS WITH GARDEN CENTRE', 'RE-USE OUR WATERWAYS', 'CONNECT WITH EXISTING ASSETS COMMUNITIES', 'BIOMASS AS A LAST RESORT', and 'A WRATED PLAYGROUND'. Logos for 'MIKE WYE THE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & DECORATING SPECIALISTS', 'SKYROOM', 'BACKTOEARTH', 'BLOQS', 'WikiHouse', 'fountain timber', 'BRISTOL WOOD RECYCLING PROJECT', 'Forest of Avon Products', and 'Agroforestry research trust' are included. A circular diagram shows a biomass cycle: 1 RECYCLE, 2 BIODIGESTION, 3 BIOCHAR, 4 BIOMASS.

Time is ticking ...the beacons have a limited lifespan; their redundancy marking their success. Make everyday matter, curate by season, adapt till the end. Curation might include:

- MAKERS MONDAYS**
Local craftspeople connect generations, run workshops for young + old alike. Share tools, pool resources, inspire creativity over consumerism. From paper making to wood turning, passing on legacy now to equip future generations.
- TRADE TUESDAYS**
Connect tradespeople with customers in old school "analogue" fashion...face to face. Drive-in, drive-by, even boot sale your ideas, your skills, your products. The Wood Wide Web exists and is ripe for expansion.
- WISE-UP WEDNESDAYS**
Train, re-train or up-skill; retro-fit technicians are in demand. Get help, get together, get empowered and get insulating. Don't wait for legislate; make it happen for you, your career, your home our future.
- THROW-BACK THURSDAYS**
Bring in your wood; to exchange, repair or up-cycle. Make the effort, collect together, share the load; know you are feeding the regenerative cycle. Enjoy that fuzzy feeling and spread it.
- FESTIVAL FRIDAYS**
Wood is wonderful, engage with its breadth, remember its link to food. Eat nuts, know your mycorrhizal mushrooms, make jam and enjoy that cider. Get wassailing.
- SELL-OUT SATURDAYS**
Saturdays re-invented; kids climb trees, teenagers axe-throw, Dads caber toss, self-builders design SIPS, DIY'ers hack their homes, gardeners pick up biochar, home workers order sheds
- SILENT SUNDAYS**
A return to rest, a walk in nature. Appreciate its beauty and simplicity; from the wild / natural, to the more urban greening orchards and tiny forests. Become a Forestry 4.0'er of the future.

Note: logos represent a small snapshot of companies (regional and beyond) that could collaborate and participate in this timber fun-palace of the future...none have been approached for this submission