



News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Feature: Welcome Research Students!

The Mass Timber Institute welcomed several research interns and Ph.D. students and onto our team for the summer! A short introduction and a look at what some of them will be investigating can be found below:



My name is Lucero de Fátima Tovar Medrano and I am in my last year of Architecture at the University of Celaya. I was born and raised in Guanajuato, Mexico. I had my first contact with research and trees in a class on "City and Sustainable Landscape" at Universidad Mayor de Chile, then I took a course in "Urban Climate: Keeping Cities Alive with Climate Research" at Arizona State University. Now, I have the honor of being part of Mitacs Globalink Research Internships to work on the mass timber production project in Mexico with the guidance and support of MTI and the University of Toronto.

My name is Rui He, and I am currently pursuing my undergraduate degree at McGill University, majoring in Civil Engineering and minoring in Sociology. I always enjoyed a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving, and working at MTI has allowed me to realize further and reinforce this perspective. Currently, I am on a project with Professor Yousefpour, focusing on building codes and regulations, value chain analysis, and finding innovation opportunities in panelized, prefabricated, modular construction to assess the gaps in existing Ontario regulation. It is making a case for mass timber development in Ontario.



My name is Niloofar Mehdipour Dastjerdi, and I am a master's graduate student in environmental planning from Isfahan University of Technology in Iran. I am thrilled to share that I have been accepted into the PhD program in Forestry at the University of Toronto, starting this September. Currently, I am working as a researcher at U of T, focusing on the 3PG (Physiological Principles in Predicting Growth) forest growth model. This research allows me to delve into quantifying forest growth, production, and vulnerability under climate change.

The 3-PG model is instrumental in calculating the radiant energy absorbed by forest canopies and converting it into biomass

production. It is both an honor and a privilege for me to collaborate with MTI by supervising an internship student who will be running this model. Through this partnership, I aim to emphasize the significance of wood, not only for its ability to sequester carbon and produce oxygen but also as a renewable resource that can be sustainably managed.

My name is Anukaran Singh. I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Bhopal, India. I am a senior majoring in economics and minoring in Data science. I have professional experience conducting research in the areas of banking and efficiency evaluation. The MITACS Globalink research apprenticeship programme enabled my current internship at the mass timber institute. I work along with Professor Rasoul Yousefpour, Department of Forestry, are working on a project titled Adaptive Forest Management. As a result of joining MTI and working on this initiative, I've realised how interdisciplinary the work in this field is and how crucial it is to a sustainable future. It is an honour to work for MTI, and I am eager to contribute and learn more about Ontario's forests and mass timber.





After completing her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, Oloun spent 6 years working for the Regional Municipality of York in their Environmental Services Department. She concurrently completed her Master's in Environmental Applied Science from Toronto Metropolitan University. She will begin her PhD in September under the supervision of Dr. Rasoul Yousefpour, where her main research project will be on urban forest waste and biochar. In her spare time, Oloun enjoys being in nature and being with her family, friends and companion parrots.

My name is Priyanshu Sunhare, and I am a third-year undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Production Engineering at the National Institute of Technology Trichy. With a keen interest in understanding the dynamics of supply chain management, I am excited to explore this field further and contribute to its development.

Currently, I am working with Professor Rasoul Yousefpour on a Project called "Mass Timber Market Analysis and Forest Supply Chain. I am honored to be a part of MTI and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to contribute and expand my knowledge of the timber supply chain in Ontario.





Hi! I'm Alexander Wang, an undergraduate applied math specialist with a minor in computer science at UofT. I'm interested in complex systems and novel ways of studying emergent properties of real-life networks, such as forest ecology, or supply chains. At MTI, I'm working on creating a firm level database of Ontario's forest product manufacturers, suppliers, and the transport links between them, so that increasingly granular, network flow analysis is possible.

Mass Timber Today Podcast



FRANCO PIVA

Episode 3



Tune in to a new episode of the Mass Timber Today Podcast! In this episode, our host, Craig Applegath speaks with Franco Piva. Franco is an Engineer and Founder of Ergodomus in Italy. Franco is well known as the Italian Timber engineer founding Ergodomus in 2007. He works on sustainable timber projects around the world. Craig and Franco discuss the sustainability of mass timber as well as key challenges currently preventing the adoption of mass timber. We also cover mass timber innovations Franco is seeing in his work, and the role that architects and engineers play in design for manufacture and assembly..

Highlights from this episode:

"I combined together my two big passions: to be an engineer and to use new technologies"

"We need to pay attention to one thing: we need to source the material from sustainable forests"

[Listen to Episode 3 | Franco Piva: A European Perspective on Mass Timber](#), out now on Spotify, Apple, and Google Podcasts

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