

Ted's News

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[More on Galvanised or Stainless Fasteners](#)

I have finally had the chapter from my new book *Timber Joints* on whether to use stainless or Galvanised fasteners and connectors checked by experts in the field. As the matter is so important I am offering it to you for free. I look at the problem from a number of different viewpoints before coming to a conclusion. If it has helped you, consider how useful all my books would be. ([Readers should contact me direct for that free chapter](#)).

[Tamedia Building, Zurich](#)



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The Tamedia building in Zurich by architect Shigeru Ban graphically illustrates how inexhaustible the subject of timber joints is. I have included a case history of the building and more images in the joints book. ([Readers should contact me direct for that free chapter](#)).

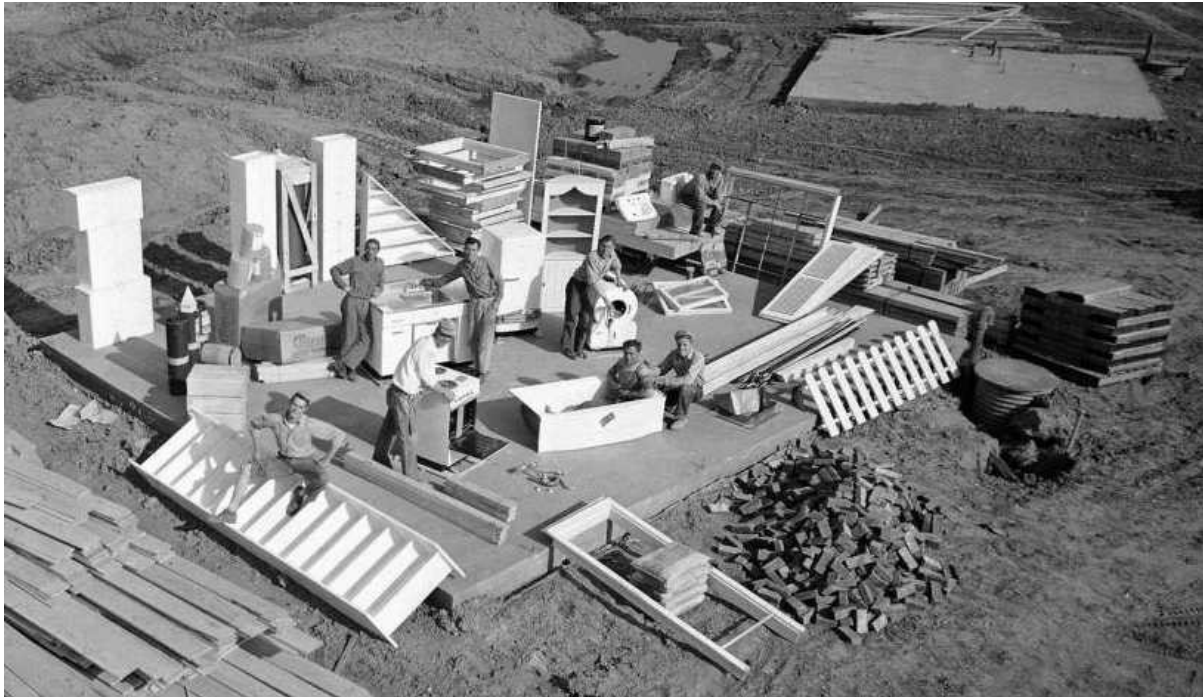
Revised Standard AS/NZS 1170.2 Released

The fourth amendment to AS/NZS 1170.2 Structural design actions - Wind actions has now been published - [Click Here to order](#). There are some very serious changes.

The Two Henry Fords of Housing

Part 1 of 2

Researching my new book on timber joints I came across two men, William Levitt and John Calvin Jureit who would both be likened to Henry Ford in the way they transformed housing from being crafted one at a time into an assembly line construction that we are familiar with now.



Housing growth declined in the US during the depression (1929 to the late 1930's) which was then followed by four years of war when again little housing was constructed as the war effort consumed all available resources. After the war, young couples with high birth rates had easy access to much needed low interest loans which drove an almost insatiable demand for low cost housing. William Levitt, a builder, along with his father Abraham and brother Alfred, purchased inexpensive land outside of town limits (the suburbs were invented) and from 1947 built highly planned communities of up to 17,000 new homes in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. William had learnt mass production strategies building military housing for the navy during the war.

The homes in his Levittown communities were built of precut but not preassembled components on concrete slabs instead of foundations with basements by teams that had one of twenty-six specialised task. Levitt's homes could be produced in under six weeks and though inexpensive (initially \$7990 which was three times the average annual wage) were well built and incorporated all mod cons including a TV and hi-fi. The down payment could be as little as one dollar and there was little risk to the builder as the mortgages were government guaranteed. At one stage he was finishing a house every sixteen minutes.

Levitt denied he was a builder but claimed instead to be a manufacturer. The efficiency of Levitt's construction methods quickly led to it becoming the industry standard in the US and later Australia. With the transformation of house construction from a cottage industry to a major manufacturing process the scene was set for a revolution in prefabricated trusses and frames.

Next month John Calvin Jureit

They Are Not Using Shipping Containers Are They?



The motel next to our home is progressing and the earthworks which are of monumental proportions are almost completed but I was not impressed when a number of old shipping containers were delivered to site. Everybody was saying, "They are just storing material in them." But I could see that they had windows and wet areas inside. Anyway, a wise man once told me never to judge a half finished job so I held my peace. You can see from the first image above that they start looking pretty average (and that is being gracious) but, by the time they are completed, the units will not look too different to a normal building.

The shipping container houses the entry door and a very well appointed kitchen and bathroom, all built in China. On to that there is built a dry area using a concrete slab and timber frame. A conventional roof is then pitched over both areas. The builder, Jason Coultas of Coultas Crosby Design and Construction said the dry area used to be a container also in earlier projects but it proved less expensive to build on site. Jason said that this method of building reduced the construction cost by about 30%.

Continuing Professional Development Sessions

You know you have to do CPD so why not avail yourself of an expert in the timber industry who has written several books and given many presentations on the subject? The full range of subjects I have available are:

Timber Preservation.

Hardwood Grading.

***Timber Decks – Designing for Durability,
Utilising Small Diameter Hardwood.***

The Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design.

Joints and

Architectural Timber Battens



These are informative seminars with serious learning outcomes and, if required for CPD points, I can provide a test and a certificate. Call me on 0414770261 to arrange a mutually convenient time for your personalised "Ted talk".

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I have over 40 years experience in the industry and can assist you with any of your timber needs.

Design - I can provide detailed technical drawings and advice.

Inspection – I can assess timber products on their performance, fitness for purpose or cause of failure. I also examine whether best practice was used in design and construction.

Reports - I have authored many books on timber and can prepare a report to meet your needs.

[Here is a link to my CV.](#)