

## Occupant outcomes in timber-rich environments: Quick fact sheet

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**Process:** We conducted a review of existing high-quality research around how occupants are affected by design choices about timber use in indoor environments. We focused on research that was seeking to understand the effects of exposure to timber materials on people's well-being or productivity in indoor environments.

**Findings:** In general, we found that research *in situ*, that is, in a full three-dimensional space, is quite rare, with most studies relying on renderings, images, material swatches, or screens to understand the effects of timber on people. We also found that research into occupant outcomes for timber indoor environments often conflates the *idea* of timber, the *emulation* of timber, and the *material presence* of timber.

We found seven studies conducted *in situ* that yielded interesting results. The main findings from these studies were:

- According to surveys, people in rooms with timber surfaces have more positive feelings and reactions than in plain white rooms. [1] [2] [3] [4]
- In a comparative study in which a group of people had two meetings in two different rooms of similar layout, staff reported being more physically comfortable in a room that had timber finishes than a room finished with white-painted plasterboard. [5]
- According to surveys, students appreciate timber elements when they study in a library with a mix of interior materials. [6]
- Residents in multi-story timber-framed apartment buildings respond positively to surveys about the presence of timber. The surveys highlighted the sustainable aspects of timber framing. [7]

**Next Steps:** Next, we want to do more research that teases that nuance apart in real places.

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