

CONCLUSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Based on interviews conducted with the timber houses design, manufacture and construction companies, it was possible to recognize some important aspects of the national market and of the design process. Based on the information collected, the framework for a proposed method targeting the optimization of timber house design in Portugal was outlined. The information that had greatest impact on the proposal were: the existence and the importance of a typological catalogue, the relevant criteria for the choice of structural type (suitability for the architectural solution, cost limits and time limits), and the difficulties evidenced by architects in relation to wood construction. This last situation requires some actions to improve the knowledge about wood considering the solutions' durability. The details of this proposal are in development within a Doctoral Thesis, with several Portuguese companies supporting case studies aimed at testing the characteristics and constraints of each construction system.

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