



April 2010 Newsletter

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Kitashi Moura Seafront Boardwalk, Nr. Yokohama Japan supplied by OSA

Designing Timber Structures for Durability

Have you heard the saying “you only get what ask for”? I often hear the unnecessary cry now “we can’t buy good timber any longer” but my frustration is that I can seldom get a good specification. During a visit to our timber industry organisation, the conversation turned to the outcome of an inspection to confirm timber grading of a particular order. The comment was “I wish for once some would ask us to see if it is produced to an appropriate grade.” You would have thought F ratings would solve this problem? Far from it. An industry magazine at the time that F rated timber was being introduced said something like “we should not fear the changes as now you will be able to sell timber that was never considered saleable beforehand”.

So do you know what you are specifying when you use the “engineered timber” with its different F ratings? The F grade is nothing more than the maximum long term permissible bending strength in Mega Pascals - and it only relates to the day of milling. In our experience when you are using timber externally, the questions you need to ask are:-

Durability: *is this piece of timber going to be structurally sound after 25 years in the elements?*

Stability: *as this piece of timber weathers will it remain stable?*

Shrinkage: *will it shrink 6% or 13% and even “collapse” as it shrinks?*

Appearance: *will it look like a piece of second or third grade timber whose natural features will rapidly deteriorate in the weather?*

Not one of these is addressed if timber is simply ordered by an F rating!

At OSA we have developed Deckwood and Joistwood to guide you through the maze of the “dark art” of external timber specification because it is not just a matter of numbers. Alternatively, give us a call the next time you need to specify timber.

Timber Links

More images of Kitashi Moura Seafront Boardwalk:

<http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/gallery.php?gid=21&SID=6>

Grading and Properties of Timber:

<http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/grading.php>

More information on Spotted Gum:

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/spotted_gum_hardwood.php

Bollard, Traffic Control and Fencing guide - refer to section 8:

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/bollard_guide_09_10.pdf

Retractable Bollards

Did you download the new page for our bollard guide with a new page for retractable bollards? We have added very useful tools to our designers tools page such as CAD blocks to help you use these items.

Do you have the bollards guide? If not see the links below to download either the page or the whole document. Need a hard copy - contact us. Retractable bollard links

Retractable bollard links

New pages for guide

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/addenda_09_09.pdf

Line drawing of the two models stocked

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_pdf/rhino_telescopic_bollards.pdf

Autocad block

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_bollard.php#rhino

NOTE: The block must be saved before it will work. If your Web Browser attempts to open the file without giving the option to save, return to this page and 'Right Click' on the download link, then select "Save Target As..." from the options.

Pages from previous update

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/addenda_03_09.pdf

NOTE: Set your printer to double sided printing

Download a complete traffic barrier guide

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/bollard_guide_09_10.pdf

NOTE: Set your printer to double sided printing



New Shelter Brochures

OOSA has been working at developing a new range of shelters, both traditional and contemporary. While we offer steel legs most clients have been asking for our 192x192 Pioneer Posts as these give a very different look to a normal shelter.

We now have brochures on these products. Follow the link below to download a copy, otherwise contact us for hard copies.

Shelter Shed Brochures links

Brochures on shelters

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/timber_brochures.php

(see the 'park shelters' box on the right)



Pioneer Post Brochure

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/pioneer_post.pdf

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