INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING WITH WOOD

Initiative and official manifesto · Proposed date: 7 November



The International Day of Living with Wood is an initiative dedicated to the culture of living with wood as an important part of a high-quality, healthy, harmonious, sustainable and responsible living environment.

It is conceived as a day that transcends national borders and brings together individuals, professionals, institutions, businesses, creators and communities who recognise the thoughtful use of wood as a path towards a better quality of living, more responsible spatial design and a more respectful relationship with nature.

It is dedicated to people, their wellbeing, the spaces in which they live, work, create and meet others, and the conscious choice of materials, objects and solutions that shape our daily lives and our future.

It is a day that places space at the heart of the lived experience.

It is a day for reflecting on the built environment, architecture, design, furniture, everyday objects and the relationship that we, as a society, cultivate with nature, communities and the planet.

Internationally, this day seeks to encourage dialogue on how living with wood - in architecture, interiors, furniture, public spaces and everyday products - can contribute to greater wellbeing, better spatial design, more responsible use of natural resources and a more sustainable future.

We believe:

1. Wood is one of the noblest natural materials for living environments.

For centuries, wood has accompanied humanity as a material for homes, creative work, culture and everyday life. It combines natural beauty, functional ingenuity, warmth, sustainability and a tangible presence. When used thoughtfully, it soothes people, enriches spaces and connects them with the essential values of living.

2. Space has a significant influence on our inner state.

The spaces we build, design and furnish, and the objects we place within them, significantly influence our wellbeing, peace of mind, concentration, relationships, creativity and quality of everyday life.

The Day of Living with Wood therefore invites reflection on the psychology of space, the importance of thoughtful design, the quality of the furnishings and objects around us, and the role of materials in shaping a culture of living.

3. Living with wood expresses a conscious choice.

It means choosing materials with provenance, character and value, spaces designed around people, and a culture of living grounded in responsibility, sustainability and sensitivity to people and nature.

Such choices foster a culture of living that moves beyond short-term thinking, consumerism and superficiality, reflecting a mature relationship with spaces, objects, resources, craftsmanship and the future.

4. The sustainable use of wood connects quality of living with responsibility for the future.

Through its structural, thermal, hygroscopic and aesthetic properties, wood supports healthy, pleasant and energy-efficient environments. Its value is expressed in residential, public and commercial spaces, in architecture, interiors and furniture, and in the objects we live with every day.

A sustainable culture of living with wood means choosing and using wood thoughtfully: in architecture, furnishing, spatial design, furniture and everyday products. It means respecting its origin, traceability and quality; ensuring a long service life for buildings, spaces, furnishings and products; enabling restoration and reuse; and integrating wood into circular models of construction, furnishing and design.

When wood comes from legal, traceable and sustainably managed sources and is used with sensitivity to space, people and long-term value, it supports the transition towards more responsible, low-carbon, high-quality living environments.

The sustainable use of wood is therefore important not only as a local or national priority, but as a shared international responsibility for creating healthier, more climate-responsible and more human-centred living, working and public environments.

5. Wood encourages a deeper relationship with spaces, products and the culture of living.

The presence of wood strengthens respect for materials, craftsmanship, time and sustainability.

When used thoughtfully in architecture, furnishing and design, wood helps create spaces and products that go beyond mere utility and significantly influence wellbeing, our relationship with nature, the quality of everyday life and the quality of our culture of living.

In doing so, it reinforces the values of quality, longevity, timeless design, responsible use of resources and respect for the material itself.

6. Wood holds cultural, emotional and civilisational value.

Wood is a material of heritage, knowledge, craftsmanship, identity and creative vitality. It has accompanied people throughout the history of dwelling, carrying memories of home, the touch of hands, the experience of generations and cultures that knew how to build, furnish and create in closer harmony with nature.

It brings together tradition, skill, a sense of belonging and a vision for the future. Wood therefore shapes not only spaces, but also our relationship with home, community, nature and ourselves.

7. The International Day of Living with Wood represents a vision of the future.

A future in which we build more responsibly, furnish more thoughtfully, design and furnish with greater sensitivity, choose more consciously and live more connected lives - with ourselves, others, space and nature.

WE THEREFORE DECLARE:

Let the International Day of Living with Wood become a day of awareness, inspiration, cooperation and shared commitment.

A day that strengthens the understanding of living with wood as a choice for high-quality, healthy, beautiful, sustainable and human-centred living environments.

A day that highlights the importance of using wood thoughtfully in the spaces, objects and products around us that influence our wellbeing, habits, relationships and culture of living.

A day that encourages the responsible design of homes, workplaces, public settings, furniture and everyday objects, where wood is not only a material but a source of warmth, sustainability, connection with nature and long-term value.

A day that makes room for sensitive architecture, thoughtful furnishing, quality design and the use of wood in ways that respect people, space, nature and future generations.

A day that brings together countries, professions, creators, businesses, institutions and people in the shared understanding that quality of living, responsible spatial design, thoughtful use of natural materials and the future of the planet are not separate issues, but a common task of our time.

A day that connects people, space, nature and the future in a shared culture of living.

**Living with wood means living closer to nature,
more connected to the spaces we inhabit and closer to ourselves.**

Initiator of the International Day of Living with Wood:
SLOWOODLIFE, d. o. o.

The initiative was presented on 12 May 2026 at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia in Ljubljana, as part of a Living with Wood exhibition event.