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Biophilic Design & The Use Of Timber



1. What is meant by the term 'biophilic design'?

Biophilic Design can be defined as the practice of taking cues from the natural world and allowing them to not just guide the design process but to help foster relationships between it, the built environment, and people.

2. Name three of the six principles of Biophilic Design developed by Stephen Kellert, a former professor of social ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Design.

Answers include any three of the following:

- Environmental Features
- Natural Shapes and Forms
- Natural Patterns and Processes
- Light and Space
- Place-Based Relationships
- Evolved Human-Nature Relationship

3. What are the benefits of using timber in construction?

If appropriately sourced, it is sustainable. It is also cost-effective, easy to work with, and provides design flexibility.

4. What are the challenges associated with using timber in contemporary buildings?

Depending on the project in question, potential challenges include structural integrity, moisture management, pest control, fire safety, and availability of appropriate timber materials.

5. Why does reclaimed or recycled timber have a role to play in biophilic design?

It minimizes waste; eliminates the need to manufacture new material; delivers a natural, weathered aesthetic; and helps establish connections to nature and history.