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## Slow Wood

### Greener Building from Local Forests

**Brian Donahue**

**A radical proposal for healing the relationship between humans and forests through responsible, sustainable use of local wood in home building**



American homes are typically made of lumber and plywood delivered by a global system of ruthless extraction, or of concrete and steel, which are even worse for the planet. Wood is often the most sustainable material with which to build, but just as we desperately need houses, so do we need to protect and promote diverse forests.

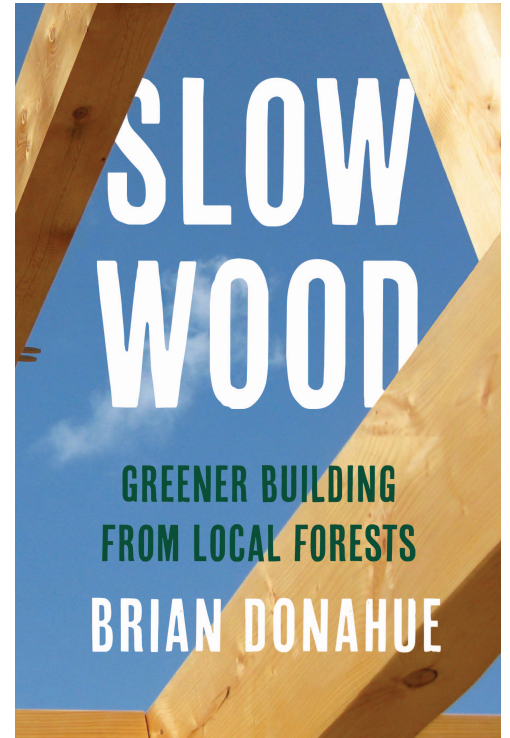
Brian Donahue addresses this modern conundrum by documenting his experiences building a timber frame home from the woods of his family farm, practicing “worst first” forestry. Through the stories of the trees he used (sugar maple, black cherry, black birch, and hemlock), and some he didn’t (white pine and red oak), the book also explores the history of Americans’ relationship to their forests.

Donahue provides a new interpretation of the bond between American houses and local forests. He delves into how this bond was broken by the rise of a market economy of industrial resource extraction and addresses the difficult challenge of restoring a more enduring relationship. Ultimately, this book provides a blueprint and a stewardship plan for how to live more responsibly with the woods, offering a sustainable approach to both forestry and building centered on tightly connected ecological and social values.

"A passionate case for working forests as a place to ground a sustainable future."--Nancy Langston, Michigan Technical University

"Beautiful, insightful, built from years of experience...will sit on the shelf next to the classic works of back-to-the-land, and it's better than all of them."--Steven Stoll, Fordham University

"A richly imagined, beautifully written work."--Mark Fiege, Montana State University



**Brian Donahue** is Professor Emeritus of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University. He is a farmer, historian, and conservationist, and author of prize-winning books about the past and future of New England farms and forests. He lives in Massachusetts.

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