



STRENGTH MEETS SUSTAINABILITY: University of Florida Solar Decathlon Team Uses Accoya® Wood in Energy-Efficient Design

Architect
University of Florida
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Principal
University of Florida

Distributor
Universal Forest Products

Project Location
Madrid, Spain / Gainesville, Florida

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The scenario:

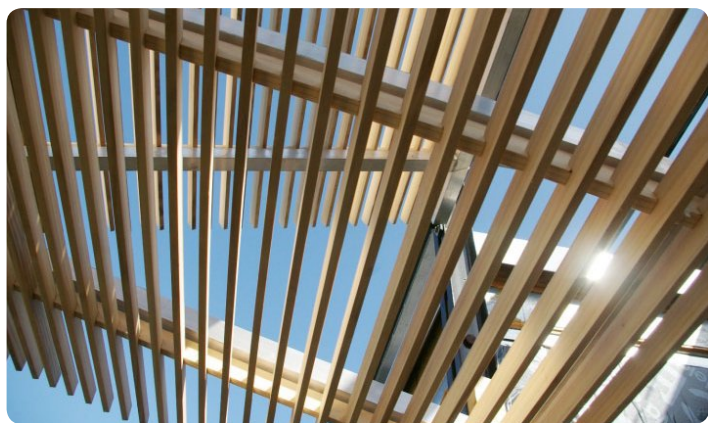
Competing in the Solar Decathlon, an international competition that challenges universities to design and build a self-sustaining, energy-efficient solar house, the University of Florida's team, Project RE:FOCUS, sought sustainable, high-performing materials for its innovative design.

The solution:

The team merged elements of traditional "Florida Cracker Houses" with newer design strategies to design and build a dwelling that could withstand a range of climactic conditions while lowering energy consumption and providing optimal livability.

Accoya® wood was chosen for the five adjustable exterior shading devices that surround the home, creating a highly adaptable facade. These screens can be fully opened to flood the house with sunlight, or conversely closed to control sunlight and reduce solar gain during the summer months. They also act as a rain screen, a wind blocker and a privacy control. The use of Accoya wood contributes to the house's ability to withstand a variety of weather conditions; with resistance to UV degradation, outstanding dimensional stability and superior thermal properties, the Accoya wood screens can endure extreme conditions without compromising its strength or durability.

Dereck Winning, project lead for the University of Florida's house, says, "We chose Accoya wood due to its environmentally friendly process and because it performs similar to hardwood."





The result:

The Project RE:FOCUS team created a house that upholds strict energy conservation standards without cutting corners when it comes to aesthetic impact or longevity. Accoya wood aligned with the team's goals for sustainable sourcing, and the product offered a durable, cost-efficient solution with minimal need for maintenance. The wood's natural appearance is retained longer than standard woods, plus it's weatherproof, durable against rot and decay.

With their award-winning effort, the University of Florida team designed not only a home using Accoya wood, but also a model for the future.

The new centers were successfully constructed to provide an enduring, adaptable space that brings people in the community together. All in all, the Resource and Community Centers both contribute to Jubilee Park's mission "to be a catalyst for community renewal and enrichment."

To learn more about Accoya® wood, visit
www.accoya.com



“ ” “Accoya wood really fell in line with our sustainable goals for the house.”

Paige Mainor, Project RE:FOCUS design contributor



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