

## The Future of Timber

RUSS VAAGEN, BA Business Administration

FOUNDER AND CEO, VAAGEN TIMBERS

JOSHUA SCHULTZ, PH.D. Civil Engineering, M.Sc. Structural Engineering

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, VAAGEN TIMBERS



### ABOUT RUSS VAAGEN

Russ Vaagen, founder and CEO of Vaagen Timbers, has been involved in the timber industry for his entire professional life. In 2020, Russ and Vaagen Timbers were named the Association of Washington Business Entrepreneur of the Year. He's excited to share how to be eco-friendly and openminded when engaging with others about timber products and timber management.



### ABOUT JOSHUA SCHULTZ

Joshua Schultz, PhD, PE, LEED AP is Technical Director at Vaagen Timbers and an associate professor at Gonzaga University. As a licensed professional engineer he supervises research, product development, quality and engineering services at Vaagen Timbers. Joshua leads Vaagen's engineering team to provide technical and project support for Mass Timber projects.

### BACKGROUND

In 2017, Russ founded Vaagen Timbers to produce state of the art Mass Timber products for the buildings of the future. After a groundbreaking in May of 2018, Vaagen Timbers was open and certified in July of 2019. The company has delivered projects all over the US and even projects in Europe. Russ has spent countless hours working on forest collaboration to thin and restore overstocked forest stands and believes strongly that mass timber provides the best value and exposure to how we can restore our forests and build low carbon footprint buildings in the future.

*"Using an eco-friendly and integrated approach, Vaagen Timbers aims to develop and deliver beautiful, strong and versatile wood products that customers can be proud of. Their vision is to change the way people think about the places they live, work, and play, and to deliver the best product while connecting forests and communities together." -Vaagen Timbers website*

### WHERE TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about what was discussed in this episode of the Building HEROes Podcast, please use these additional resources.

- [LinkedIn - Vaagen Timbers](#)
- [LinkedIn - Russ Vaagen](#)
- [LinkedIn - Joshua Schultz](#)
- [Youtube - Vaagen Timbers](#)
- [TED Talk - Creating abundance through collaboration](#)
- [Research Report - Timber Tower, SOM](#)

### IMPORTANT TIMESTAMPS

**1m20s:** Introductions from Russ and Joshua, and the background of Vaagen Timbers.

**7m15s:** Heavy Timber 101 -- what it is, its purpose, and construction characteristics.

**14m10s:** The process of getting the wood from the forest through the factory.

**17m46s:** Russ discusses forestry practices and the nature of wildfires.

**23m05s:** What can CLT and heavy timber provide for the construction world that steel can't?

**34m26s:** Workforce and construction needs to make mass timber more available and welcoming.

**51m00s:** Closing comments and how to get in touch with Vaagen.

