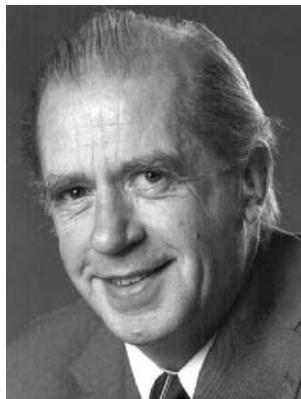


Borg Madsen[†]

Lauge Fuglsang Nielsen

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Sometimes a generation's research on the behavior of building materials is based on the curiosity and efforts of a few persons to describe such behavior. Dischinger and Powers are examples of such persons with respect to concrete. In the area of wood and timber materials, Borg Madsen, who died in December 2007, was such a unique person. Borg Madsen introduced a shift of paradigm in exploring the behavior of wood and timber materials: He told us that structural *timber* and clear wood are just as different

as concrete and cement paste – and that wood standards consequently must be based on experimental research on *structural timber* and *clear wood* separately. Borg Madsen verified his ideas by thousands of very clever and original experiments, the results of which are today the very basis of wood codes and standards in numerous countries throughout the world.

Borg was an accomplished civil engineer in developing and designing Glulam beams and finger joints. As a Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of British Columbia, he devoted much of his life to his research in wood strengths, rewriting the CSA standards. He was well traveled and spent a number of years on sabbaticals in South Africa, where he established national timber standards. Borg received many awards for his work, including an honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Denmark. In his retirement he wrote and published two books, "Structural Behavior of Timber" and "Behavior of Timber Connections".

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