

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented the award for Estonia's Best Wooden Building 2008 at a conference on wooden architecture held at Kumu yesterday.

The award was merited by a private home designed by architect Raul Vaiksoo in the Village of Loobu in West-Viru County.

President Ilves said that more timber should be used in Estonia for construction.

"Why is wooden architecture greatly appreciated and very innovative in other timber-rich countries?" the Head of State asked. "Why do we undervalue wood and continue to use concrete, steel and glass?"

Representatives of the Estonian Forest Industries Association and the Wood Information Project, as well as architects, discussed the use of wood in various fields of activity, and especially in construction.

President Ilves considered it important to broadly promote the possibilities of wooden architecture in Estonia.

"We have excellent architects as well as a country rich in timber, let's utilise this for modern architectural solutions," the Head of State said.

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