

**Attestation of employment and reference letter for  
Dr. Petras VESTARTAS**

Lausanne, June 30, 2023

**To whom it may concern**

It is my pleasure to write an attestation of employment and reference letter for Dr. Petras Vestartas and express my profound support and recommendation for his further endeavors. I am the director of the Laboratory for Timber Construction (IBOIS) at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), where Dr. Petras Vestartas successfully completed his doctorate studies from 01.07.2017 to 30.09.2021 and was a postdoctoral researcher from 01.10.2021 until 30.06.2023. During his engagement, he has undertaken and successfully delivered different tasks under my direction which are detailed below.

Petras covered a broad spectrum of experimental, analytical, and numerical studies. As the most outstanding and game-changing part, he brought a rich knowledge of advanced design modelling into the digital-driven architecture of timber structures and successfully implemented new models in computational design, which demonstrates his significant contribution to the concurrent worldwide adaption of innovation in building design. His research was published in one book chapter and five high-impact journal papers. His name being first-authored attests to his hard work and outstanding writing skills. Dr. Petras Vestartas' focus as a postdoctoral researcher was set on employing state-of-the-art methods in Computer-Aided Design to apply computational models to actual engineering structures. As a developer, he contributed to software development which supports the continuously advancing aspects of sustainable timber structures using open-source computational platforms. This was one of the significant achievements of his research which was very well acknowledged and advertised by EPFL social media platforms.

Dr. Petras Vestartas was one of the instructors of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "Advanced Timber Plate Structural Design: A trans-disciplinary approach in structural design and digital architecture". He was also a key member in the preparation of the application proposal of the MOOC and teaching content, and communication with the EPFL Center for Digital Education. Also, he has been one of the assistants in two courses taught by myself: Introduction to Computational Architecture (AR-337), Design Studio Weinand (AR-401) and Land of Thousand Dance (Semaine ENAC, IBOIS+ALICE). Petras proved himself to be a capable teacher and one of the most helpful instructors who always wanted to pitch in and help with the teaching modules, and make courses an example of interactive teaching. Furthermore, Petras has excellent mentoring skills as he supervised four graduate students at IBOIS. His leadership and ability to transmit his knowledge to junior graduate students are indeed remarkable.

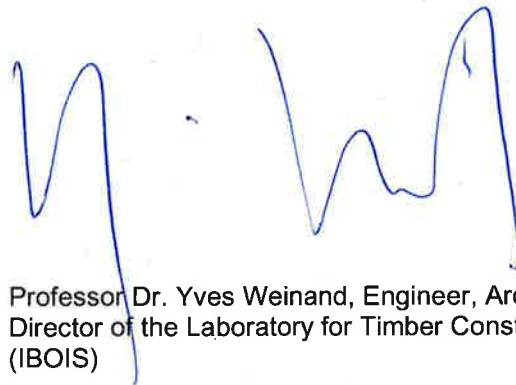
I believe Petras is very skilled both in independent work and trans-disciplinary collaboration, allowing him to perform admirably in the fields of advanced digital fabrication, and sustainable construction. By publishing his work in high-impact journals, he fundamentally contributed to the impact, transparency, and reproducibility of research. Also, he actively contributed to the preparation of several research funding proposals of which I am the principal investigator, such as the NCCR Digital Fabrication and other programs at the Swiss National Science Foundation. He became experienced in funding and organizational regulations and gained an admirable ability to outline the problem, objective, and expected outcome. He contributed to the purchase coordination of the industrial robot arm ABB 6700 with the IRBT track motion and software integration. He was also responsible for the 5-Axis CNC Maka software development. Furthermore, Dr. Petras Vestartas was involved in research-industry collaboration within the knowledge and technology transfer (KTT) program at IBOIS. The most recent one is a large-scale free-form arch made from timber plates and wood-wood connections of which I am the architect and principal engineer<sup>1</sup>. Petras has been one of the KTT members

who worked on different aspects of the design of this project. Moreover, he has been involved in the technical meetings with our industry partner, in which we sought to find optimal solutions for the challenges we had during the construction.

Dr. Petras Vestartas is very well skilled in communicational activities. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to his teammates and contribute during technical and scientific sessions. He also had an exceptional talent in making straightforward and attractive presentations and formulating his research in a digestible way for his audience with well-designed slides and perfect timing. Thus, he attracted more than 200 professionals from academia and industry to his doctoral public defense in 2021. He also represented IBOIS in several national and international conferences and in front of a large audience. Petras also showed a strong desire to integrate himself into activities with a common interest.

I firmly believe that Dr. Petras Vestartas' performance was a solid benefit to our professional community, and I give my highest recommendation and strongest support to him as an outstanding scholar and architect with exceptional research and remarkable teaching skills, and impressive competence in interdisciplinary collaboration.

Sincerely,



Professor Dr. Yves Weinand, Engineer, Architect  
Director of the Laboratory for Timber Construction  
(IBOIS)