

Whole-Tree Architecture:

CUTTING THE FOREST TO SAVE IT

by Denise Thornton



Gundersen does some "bio-facturing."

If all of the trees on Earth were divided equally among all of the planet's people, we would each have a piece of forest about the size of a football field. But your personal patch of trees is shrinking. Studies by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization show that each year the world loses 35,000 square miles of forest. That's enough to cover the state of Indiana.

Roald Gundersen, architect and

CEO of Whole Trees Architecture and Construction based in Stoddard, Wisconsin, thinks he has found a way to harvest trees that does not harm the forest. His preferred building material comes from what many people would call weed trees.

Clearcutting is the way most trees are harvested: All the trees in an area are cut at the same time, and those that are too small or scrubby are piled up and burned.

Rivers running through areas