



## Wood

Building and living (1)

14:30 minutes

**01:00** A construction site in Köniz, Canton Berne. Here a crane transports structural wood elements for terraced houses through the air. Thanks to these prefabricated wall elements, wood construction today is as simple as assembling Lego bricks.

**01:20** Architect Christian Zimmermann has followed the changes in wood construction in recent years. Traditionally, whole logs would be used. Today they have been replaced by prefabricated wood elements. Assembly schedules show carpenters which parts go where. This makes for quick and cheap building.

**03:05** Typical examples for wooden block houses are the chalet and the half-timbered house.

### Wood – characteristics

**04:50** Wood is not just wood – there are over 50'000 types of trees worldwide. Around 500 are used as building material.

**05:30** Professor Ernst Zürcher knows all about trees and the properties of wood. He explains its three principal functions.

**06:45** A third of Switzerland is covered by forest. Most of it is made up of beech – a deciduous tree – or spruce – a conifer.

### Wood – professions

**08:05** A forester takes care of the forest. This includes planting and felling trees, and sawing them up. Later a joiner works on the sawn and dried wood. While most of his work is done manually, carpenters also use so-called CNC systems. These do all the sawing, nailing, gluing and screwing for them.

### Wood – advantages and drawbacks

**10:20** Wood is back in fashion. Prestigious buildings, detached houses and viewing towers, for example, are made of wood.

**10:35** But wood also has its disadvantages - it burns easily. For example, in 1993 the ancient Kapellbrücke in Lucerne burnt down almost completely.

**11:00** Today fire prevention in new wood buildings is no longer a problem. However, it is important to protect wood from damp. No moisture should get into it. If it does, the wood might be vulnerable to insects or fungus.

**12:15** The main advantages of building with wood: It is a very fast and economical way of building. Moreover, wood makes for well-insulated rooms which are very comfortable to live in. And thirdly, wood is a renewable building material which grows locally.