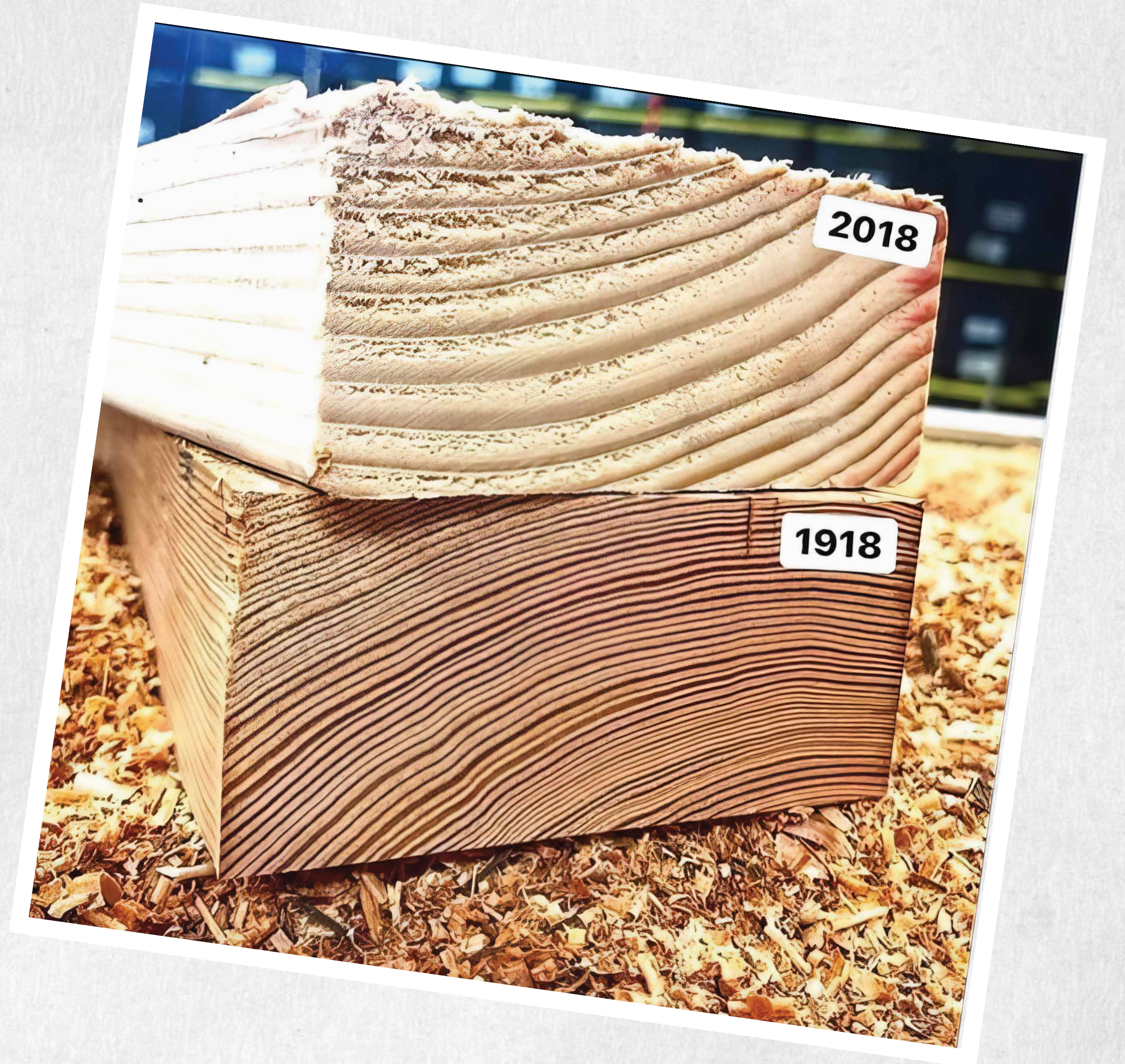


BENEFITS OF STRUCTURAL MATERIAL SALVAGE AND REUSE

Wide-scale benefits from salvaging and reusing materials will transform the built environment to develop more sustainably over time.

Each material in a residential structure has its own potential when salvaged.



For example, lumber salvaged from older homes has several properties that make it more attractive for reuse

- It is more dense, which means it is stronger.
- It has more heart wood than sap wood. Heart wood is more rot resistant. This is because the wood grows more slowly, over longer periods of time.
- As you can see in the image, wood that was harvested and milled into lumber in 1918 had 20-25 growth rings per inch and is all heart wood; that same piece of lumber 100 years later only had 7 growth rings per inch and is mostly sap wood. This current condition results from the use of faster-growing species that are harvested at younger ages.

In addition to preventing the harms of demolition, deconstruction also inspires community revitalization by producing revenue and creating market opportunities.

For deconstruction to be economically beneficial and competitive with demolition, the savings from not needing to pay for disposal and revenue from material resale must be more than the higher labor costs.

Despite its higher labor and overall initial costs, deconstruction can be cost-effective and generate revenues compared to demolition, thanks to the resale value of the salvaged materials.

