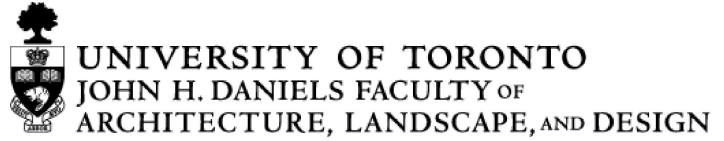


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News from MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Save the Date: “Why trees and Which trees? Perspectives from Two Tree People”

SEP.
24
2026

SAVE THE DATE
FREE ADMISSION

6:30 PM
1 SPADINA CRES.

WHY TREES AND WHICH TREES? PERSPECTIVES FROM TWO TREE PEOPLE.

GERAINT RICHARDS, KING CHARLES' FORESTER
JO BRADWELL, CLIMATE CHANGER

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DANIELS FACULTY
PUBLIC LECTURE



Join the Daniels Faculty on September 24th for the lecture “Why trees and Which trees? Perspectives from Two Tree People” with featured guests Geraint Richards and Jo Bradwell.

Geraint Richards is the Head Forester to His Majesty The King. For nearly 30 years he was responsible for the management of the trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy of Cornwall’s extensive landholding (when His Majesty was Duke of Cornwall) and now is involved with the Duchy of Lancaster and other estates associated with His Majesty The King.

Jo Bradwell DSc, FICFor (Hon) is owner and director of Norbury Park and Forestry Commission commissioner. He has been instrumental in setting up the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR), increasing woodland cover and transforming the farmland from crops to mob grazing with cattle. Jo is winner of the 2018 RFS Sylva trophy and the 2018 Peter Savill award.

Feature: Interview with Anne Koven on Inaugural Forestry Lecture

Written by: Sanjana Patel

Published August 19, 2026

Stories from foresters Geraint Richards and Prof. Jo Bradwell will take the spotlight in the upcoming public lecture at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. This month, I spoke with MTI Co-Founder Anne Koven about her experience organizing the inaugural forestry lecture in the series.

SP: We're lucky to have these distinguished guest lecturers visit. Is it their first time at the University of Toronto or are they frequent collaborators?

AK: This will be the first time they visit U of T to give a lecture. I met them both at the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF-IFC) tour of western England in 2024. Geraint Richards has visited Canada through his involvement in the CIF. When he organized the tour on the English side with the British Institute of Chartered Foresters, it became clear we had mutual interests that would be relevant to a broad audience.

SP: How was the theme of this lecture decided?

AK: Daniels has a fascinating annual public lectures series, bringing guests from all over the world to speak on architecture/design. Forestry merged with Daniels in 2019 and we think it is time to inaugurate an annual forestry lecture. My motivation in starting the Mass Timber Institute was to bring together the architects/designers who build with wood with the foresters who grow it, both professions are interested in sustainability and innovation.

The experiences of our two guests will stir the imagination of all who are interested in forests. Jo Bradwell is experimenting with his 600 hectares Norbury Park estate with sustainable woodlot management and planting trees to tackle climate change. It was important that he talk about his work to a Canadian audience – the people who own and manage forest lands. Similarly, Geraint Richards has decades experience managing the Prince of Wales and now King Charles' forests, which face challenges that resonate with foresters in Canada. The theme of the lecture was meant to be accessible to everyone who wants to learn about forests.

SP: What's the difference between the Crown lands - which make up most of the forest in Canada - and King Charles' forests?

AK: The name "Crown" lands is a legacy from when forests were owned by the British Crown. They became public lands managed by the Canadian provinces through the Constitution Act, 1867. Today, King Charles and the Prince of Wales forests refer to the extensive lands he owns in the Duchy of Cornwall, the Duchy of Lancaster and other estates, which total more than 70,000 hectares.



Red Deer at Windsor Castle, near forests owned by King Charles. Image Credit: Margaret Symon; The Woodlander Edition 122

SP: Although the guest lecturers practice forestry in Britain, the topics of the lecture, such as forestry for climate resilience, are applicable across the world. What sort of parallels do you anticipate they will draw between forestry in Britain and in Canada?

AK: Land management practices that are applied in Canada and Britain have a lot to learn from each other. Britain is much smaller (i.e., two per cent of Canada's land mass), it doesn't have Canada's large boreal forest but both share interest in managing urban forests, botanical gardens, and conservation areas, for example. Geraint Richards identified similarities between his forestry work in Britain and Canada in a recent article in the Ontario Woodlot Association's publication Woodlander. He describes forest management plans balancing issues such as

biodiversity recovery, increased demand for public access, and maintaining resilient forests in the face of climate change. Certainly, forestry and construction supply chains are of global concern as we come to understand we have to do something about climate change, and both sectors have a large role.

SP: Tree planting for carbon storage is being considered more broadly in response to climate change and in the life cycle analysis of buildings. What are the things foresters may consider in carbon storage associated with tree planting?

AK: There are interesting conclusions that come of Bradwell's work in managing his woodlands at Norbury Park Estate for carbon storage and to assist in the aim of becoming carbon neutral. Forest growth and resilience are associated with planting a complex mixture of tree species with different features. These plantations would also have the land area necessary to achieve the same amount of carbon storage. Planting non-native and nitrogen fixing tree species are also significant in forest robustness and rapid tree growth. He poses the question, can forests managed to maximize carbon necessarily yield the most lumber?

See also: Norbury Park: An estate tackling climate change, Jo Bradwell, 2nd edition, 2022.

Important scientific work is also being done at Norbury Park Estate by the University of Birmingham's Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR), which Prof. Bradwell helped establish. It is one of several FACE (i.e., Free Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment) experiments globally, including one site on Amazon to understand how trees will respond to projected higher carbon dioxide levels in the age of climate change. The associated issues of embodied carbon and biogenic are of great interest to architects/designers and land managers everywhere.



Equipment for the Free Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment Study. Image Credit: John Pineau; The Woodlander Edition 122

There is a quote in *Norbury Park* that summarizes the theme of this lecture by both speakers:

“It is about designing the types of woods of forests we might need in the future and identifying how best to manage them. That is the future of climate change”

Mass Timber Institute Website



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