

# Wood WORKS! BC



## 2012 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

### Architect

Sean Barrington Pearson, RUFproject (Rural Urban Fantasy Project)

Gulf Islands Residence & Boat House, Salt Spring Island  
and Football Training Centre, Soweto, South Africa



*The jury selected this architect, who has promoted the use of wood both at home and abroad. Two recent projects, though very different in nature, demonstrate this architect's ability to prove to his client that wood is a durable and viable building material.*

#### **Gulf Islands Residence & Boat House, Salt Spring Island**

The design of this Gulf Island's private residence responds to a desire for a modern log cabin on a precious 3.1 acre piece of ocean-front property. Through the use of a highly-expressive structure, expanses of glass and a simple and minimal material palette, the project took this challenge as its fundamental concept, striving to reconcile the rustic with the modern in its form, materiality and organization. There was a conscious decision to root the design of the house in the local tradition of First Nation's Long House construction and the West Coast style. The client did not want to use drywall, and as such a simple palette of oiled timber and natural stone was used throughout. By combining various species which were used in different ways, each room feels unique, while maintaining an overall consistency. Grain patterns and directions were carefully selected and arranged to create the overall impact of the interior. The natural beauty of the various wood grains and colours themselves becomes the decorative feature of the house, foregoing the need to use paint or wallpaper.

#### **Football Training Centre, Soweto**

Situated in the heart of Soweto, the Football Training Centre is the centre of football in South Africa, where 1200 teams and 20,000 footballers will play each year. In less than six months, the facility was transformed into a state of the art football training centre – the first of its kind in Africa – the facility encompasses two new full-sized artificial pitches, two junior turf pitches, new lighting, a clubhouse and player lounge, an education facility for the Grass Roots Soccer & Life Skillz program, a Training Gym, Physio & First Aid facility, a Product Trial, Catering, Administrative Offices, Viewing Deck and new change rooms. The concept was to create a clear but intricately woven relationship of spaces with transparency between functions, such that views between spaces to and from other areas of the building are established. The timber louvre structure was a critical component in the design of the training centre. Its role was multifaceted, acting to create a secure perimeter to the large expanses of glazing facing the field, minimizing passive solar gain to the east, north and west, and helping to achieve a monumentality to the architecture. It was critical that the building have soul and resist the typical concrete-block bunker that is often the case with sports facilities, but at the same time, deal with the functional realities of being a training centre.