

2014 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

Architect

Mike Mammone, Ratio Architecture - Interior Design – Planning, Vancouver, BC
Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union – Uptown Branch, Salmon Arm, BC



High resolution images available. Please e-mail mmclaughlin@wood-works.ca

The project's predominant use of wood and wood building systems was primarily devised as a means of offsetting the carbon footprint of the project and allowed the project to utilize a very local labor pool of carpenters, trades and skill that contributed directly to the local manufacturing, supply chains and economy.

The design concept and material selection sought to connect the building and its function to the greater community through subtle references to the natural and man-made context of Salmon Arm. The large sweeping atrium space and angular roof, composed primarily of wood systems, are direct references to the famous pier in Salmon Arm, and surrounding topography and provides a unifying design element across the north elevation.

The use of wood was instrumental in this project. The main atrium is a 220 sq.m. nail-laminated timber roof made of pine beetle reclaimed wood, supported by a system of Parallel Strand Lumber (PSL) columns. The entire second floor and roof structural framing utilizes innovative wood structural systems of glulam columns and beams and TJI joists systems. All interior framing of walls, partitions, soffits, parapets were composed of 100 per cent wood framing.

Challenges arose through the complex geometries of the main atrium roof and innovative structural requirements it presented. It was also necessary to establish close collaboration with local authorities to ensure all seismic and fire code challenges were met as well as integration with other building systems.

Availability of quality materials, leading to short lead times on deliverables, cost effectiveness, wood's inherent structural and natural beauty as a finished material further spoke to its desirability as a design solution. Wood as a sustainable resource and contribution in offsetting

the carbon footprint of this project was a key design strategy focused on the life cycle of the building and part of a broader design strategy to maximize energy efficiency achieved through the integration of building systems including passive earth tubes and a 220 sq.m. green roof.

As part an integrated design solution focused on sustainable principles as set out in this project these ideals are transferable to projects of varying scale and typology.

The architect met challenges to permit the use of wood by utilizing a strong collaborative relationship with all project stakeholders; and sharing a common vision to maximize the use of traditional and contemporary wood systems to fulfill project goals. The physical building design is based on three pillars - People, Place and Planet.

The wood ties together this ambition by engaging the local supply chain and skilled labor force, referencing the local landscape and man-made context as well as projecting sensible and realistic sustainable design goals.

Identifying the use of wood as a means to not only speak to the natural characteristics of British Columbia and introduce sensible and realistic sustainable design goals and targets, contemporary wood products enabled the design team to utilize the material to produce an expressive, structurally complex building form as a cost effective design solution.

An inherent connection to the material and longstanding relationship to its use as a building material further enhance its suitability as a building material in British Columbia. Its outright use as both a structural and finish material expressed vividly in the most public component of the building relate publicly how traditional materials can exist within contemporary architectural expression.