

2014 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

Environmental Performance

John Wall, PUBLIC: Architecture + Communication

Centennial Beach Boundary Bay Regional Park Pavilion, Delta, BC



“Timeless, elegant and lasting. Sits on the beach quietly – it’s a sustainable building that blends into the beach landscape.”

- jury comments

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

On the eastern shoreline of the Point Roberts peninsula, a new Centennial Beach Park Pavilion describes the line between two contrasting natural environments. To the north, the nature of bird watching, beach dunes and crab apples and to the south, family picnics, tennis courts and colourful playgrounds. The south is open, sunny and playful. The north is sheltered, quiet and secluded. A café on the east end of the boardwalk overlooks the beach, Boundary Bay and, on a clear day, Mount Baker.

Subtle innovation plays out across a simple material palette. The heavy timber roof is at once structure, finish ceiling and soffit, a performance that allows the building to maintain its streamlined proportions. Gang-nailed sections of 2x4s on end are slotted into back-to-back steel channels that sit on top of a steel column grid. Two wide-flange beams span the length of the building, running above the timber-filled channels and allowing the roof to cantilever at either end. The beams also contain the extent of the green roof system. Finally, a thin clerestory wraps around the building making the timber roof slab appear to float above the concrete walls.

Cantilevering over the patio, the exposed timber roof both complements and contains the view. Mirrored by boardwalk below, the two wood surfaces form the slim extents necessary to situate people and direct their gaze across the sprawling landscape.

Boundary Bay Regional Park is voted Delta’s best outdoor green space and is recognized as an important bird sanctuary on the Pacific Flyway. 1.5 million birds and 225 species use the park each year. The design team worked with a diverse group of stakeholders including Metro Vancouver, Corporation of Delta, and interest groups, to build a mutual vision for an environmentally sustainable facility.

The building is designed to LEED Silver standards where appropriate. Instead of creating a conventional envelope that needs to be mechanically heated, cooled and ventilated, the Pavilion takes a passive approach to systems that typically account for high-energy demand. This high-performing project works to achieve the client’s multiple environmental objectives including the green roof uses a dense covering of native species, replacing habitat that would otherwise be lost to construction.

The building separates play spaces from ecologically sensitive areas in the park. A new public information system includes interpretive messages that create dialogue between beach play and environment through topics like bird migration, biodiversity and the local food chain, building upon the intersection of nature, curiosity and culture found on the site.