

## 2014 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

### Wood Champion

Peter Busby

Perkins + Will, Vancouver, BC



The Nicola Valley  
Institute of Technology  
Nicola, BC

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

“I personally know of no other architect in BC that has done as much to promote the use of wood and successfully implement it in projects as Peter has.” – comment on nominator’s submission

Peter Busby has championed and pioneered the cause of wood in many public buildings including:

- Brentwood and Gilmore Skytrain Stations - first use of wood in station design in many years
- City of Vancouver Asphalt Test Facility - first extensive use of recycled wood
- Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability - First four storey institutional building on the UBC campus using all timber solution
- Earth Sciences Building - outstanding exemplar of composite wood-concrete panels to create timber structure on UBC campus
- Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge - Hybrid timber steel bridge with striking architectural expression, use of wood seldom seen in large scale pedestrian bridges
- Brighthouse Elementary School - great example of use of wood to create striking architecture in an educational facility
- VanDusen Botanical Garden - rarely has such a complex, organically shaped form been constructed with wood

Peter was the driving force behind the implementation of wood in all these projects.

The Perkins+Will Vancouver office was established by Peter Busby in 1984. With the experience, knowledge, and skill shared by Peter, the leadership group, and staff, the firm quickly became recognized as a leader in the fields of sustainable practices and design excellence. The firm possesses a diverse range of expertise - from industrial design to architecture to large-scale master-planning - enabling us to take on a large variety of project types.

Leading the firm from 1984 to 2012, Peter Busby ensured the Vancouver office strived to improve the built environment and acknowledge the impact the profession can have on the natural environment.

“Through our firm’s dedication to the research, development and practice of sustainability, we have sought to raise expectations within our industry and beyond. We consistently employ a variety of design techniques to reclaim and recycle materials, conserve energy, reduce consumption, and minimize negative global impacts through the use of innovative, sustainable material such as wood. Peter has been instrumental in advancing the use of wood in British Columbia, ensuring that our firm’s award-winning projects feature wood prominently. Peter has been actively involved in several of the office’s wood-based projects, including Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, VanDusen Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre, Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge and the Earth Sciences Building,” read one submission. “Peter has pushed the envelope in wood solutions by ensuring wood is integrated as a major component in the design of each building.”

#### Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

The Nicola Valley Institute of Technology is designed to reflect the cultural characteristics of aboriginal students and provide state-of-the-art learning spaces that foster student success. As an important and precious material to the First Nations, wood was used sparingly to emphasize its character. The faceted wood columns supported delicately by efficiently designed steel castings line the building perimeter and the interior street. The forest of columns increases in density around the fire place where poles up to 36 feet in length project through the building to support the ventilation atrium. Yellow cedar acoustic panels are suspended from the ceiling in the main entry and the library.

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Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, Vancouver BC



Earth Sciences Building, UBC, Vancouver BC



VanDusen Botanical Garden, Visitor Centre, Vancouver BC



Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge, Burnaby, BC

#### Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability

Located at the University of British Columbia, the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) is designed to be the most sustainable building in North America. CIRS is the first large, multi-story institutional building at UBC to be constructed of wood since the passing of British Columbia's "Wood First Act". The expressed wood structure uses FSC-certified and pine-beetle-killed wood. The simple structure includes a combination of pre-fabricated glulam members, dimensional lumber, plywood and a minimal amount of concrete. The moment-frame structure creates an open, column-free floor plate for flexibility of use and interior arrangements, as well as to allow for large openings in the walls, contributing to the project goal of 100% natural daylight and ventilation for all inhabitants.

#### Earth Sciences Building (ESB)

Awarded at the 2013 Wood WORKS! BC Wood Design Awards, the ESB project set a new standard of structural performance and innovation in heavy timber construction and demonstrates how modern engineered timber can be used efficiently and competitively in the most demanding of institutional projects. The wood structure provides a welcoming environment for the inhabitants of the building. As an added environmental benefit, the 1,317 cubic meters of wood in the structure has been calculated to store 1,094 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub> eq). The embodied carbon footprint of the heavy timber structure is almost 50 per cent less than the concrete structure and is less than the average UBC laboratory building.

#### In Transit Design

Peter Busby's legacy can be seen across a number of transit designs for a wide range of signature systems in British Columbia. The firm consistently integrate a variety of strategies to reclaim and recycle materials, specify healthy products that are proven to be safe for occupants and the environment, reduce consumption of energy and water, minimize GHG emissions and mitigate global environmental impacts. The integration of wood on the Perkins+Will designed Canada Line Stations and the Millennium Line's Brentwood station has seen the office receive recognition across the world and has served as a highly visible advocacy tool for this uniquely sustainable building.

#### VanDusen Botanical Garden's new Visitor Centre

Peter was also the lead designer behind one of the greenest buildings in North America, the VanDusen Botanical Garden's new Visitor Centre. It is designed to create a harmonious balance between architecture and landscape, from a visual and ecological perspective. Comprised entirely of FSC-certified Douglas fir, the panelized roof structure is composed of more than 71 different pre-fabricated roof panels, each made of over 100 unique curved glulam beams that were pre-installed with thermal insulation, sprinkler pipes, lighting conduits, acoustic liner, and wood ceiling slats. As the primary building material, the wood also provides an added environmental benefit: it sequesters enough carbon for the new Visitor Centre to achieve carbon neutrality.

#### Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge

The Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge is a landmark structure connecting Metrotown with the growing commercial and residential areas to the north of Kingsway in Burnaby, British Columbia. At the outset of this project the architectural team resolved to incorporate a large wood component in the final product. This resulted in a striking double-curved glulam wood form which hovers lightly above the footbridge that crosses Kingsway at McMurray Avenue, blending an elegant design solution with an inviting passage across a busy intersection.

"By utilizing wood as a prominent architectural feature on many of our projects over the years, Peter has positioned the material in a highly visible manner in British Columbia - emphasizing the value of this amazing, renewable resource. Peter's enthusiasm to incorporate the use of wood provides an inherent natural beauty and warmth to our projects that is particularly impressive when contrasted with the surrounding urban environment," added one submission. "The successful use of wood on our award-winning projects promotes the use of the material, encourages local employment and appropriately represents British Columbia's historical connection with the wood industry and its local cultural significance."