

2017 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

Institutional Wood Design: Large

Patkau Architects, represented by: Patricia and John Patkau, Vancouver

Audain Art Museum, Whistler



"A masterpiece...a provincial treasure. Careful attention to the site and design created a subtle interplay between the hemlock used and sunlight for a warm and airy interior."

- jury comments

Photos – all Courtesy:
Wood Design Awards in BC

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

The form and character of the Audain Art Museum is deliberately restrained to provide a quiet, minimal backdrop to the art within and the surrounding natural landscape. The simple form of the exterior is clad in an envelope of dark metal which recedes into the shadows of the surrounding forest. Where this envelope is opened, to provide access in the entry porch or view from the glazed walkway to the galleries, the dark metal is overlaid by an inviting luminous wood casing. Public spaces in the interior, which are visible from the exterior, continue this warm luminous materiality.

Application of wood on the exterior is restricted to areas that are under cover and protected from direct exposure to weather. Extensive application of wood for interior wall and ceiling finishes and casework largely define the character and experience of these spaces.

The project used Pacific Coast hemlock sourced from sustainably managed forests and practices in Whistler and floated down the Fraser River to Vancouver to be sawn, grade-sorted and kiln-dried. The wood was precision milled in Maple Ridge, factory-finished in Squamish and then shipped back to Whistler to be meticulously assembled and installed.