

# Wood Construction in New England: A Firsthand Look



Presented by Marc Rivard, PE, SE  
Regional Director  
MA, CT, ME, NH, RI, VT

WoodWorks  
September 22, 2022

The Canyons, Kaiser+Path, photo Jeremy Bittermann

# Resources

## New WOOD SOLUTION PAPER

**CLT Diaphragm Design for  
Wind and Seismic Resistance**  
Using SDPWS 2021 and ASCE 7-22



## New CASE STUDIES

**Adidas East Village Expansion**  
Innovative mass timber designs meet  
ambitious construction timeline



### Thomas Logan

Wood-frame urban podium project fills  
need for affordable downtown housing

Visit [woodworks.org/publications-media](https://woodworks.org/publications-media)

# Upcoming Events

**Mass Timber and the Future of Urban  
Multi-Family Development | October 12**  
1.0 AIA/CES HSW LUs, 1.0 PDH credit, 0.10  
ICC credit

**Fire and Structural Analysis for Mass  
Timber Buildings | November 9**  
1.5 AIA/CES HSW LUs, 1.5 PDH credits, 0.15  
ICC credits



Visit [woodworks.org/events](https://woodworks.org/events)



# Mass Timber Business Case Studies

Real financial information on real deals

- Prepared by WoodWorks and Conrad Investment Management
- Include qualitative influences + quantitative data to examine investment success

## PROPERTY SUB-TYPES:

For-Rent Institutional Housing • Institutional Offices •  
Industrial Buildings • Redevelopment/Additions •  
Purpose-Built Owner/Occupied (Student Housing)



« Scan the code to download the current package.





# New for GCs and installers: U.S. Mass Timber Construction Manual



PHOTO: MARCUS KAUFFMAN

U.S.  
Mass Timber  
Construction  
Manual



Download free at  
[woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)





# Nominations Open

| Visit [woodworks.org/nominate](https://woodworks.org/nominate)

## 2023 Wood Design Awards

| DEADLINE: OCT. 14, 2022



The Lighthouse | Gensler  
Photo Jason O'Rear

# Design Professionals: One-on-One Support & Assistance

## PROJECT SUPPORT FIELD DIVISION

Senior Director  
Field Division West



Janelle Leafblad, PE

OPEN POSITION

COMING SOON



David Hanley

OPEN POSITION



Anthony Harvey, PE



Marc Rivard, PE, SE

Senior Director  
Field Division East



Jason Reynolds, MBA, DBIA



Chelsea Drenick, SE



Mike Romanowski, SE



Momo Sun, PE, PEng



John O'Donald II, PE



Mark Bartlett, PE



Jason Bahr, PE



Laura Cullen, EIT



Jessica Scarlett



Jeff Peters, PE, CGC

Find the Regional  
Director for your  
location:





# Meet the Help Desk



Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE



Ashley Cagle, PE, SE



Karen Gesa, PE



Bruce Lindsey



Melissa Kroskey, AIA, SE



Terry Malone, PE, SE



Ricky McLain, PE, SE

Need technical assistance on a project?

Email: [help@woodworks.org](mailto:help@woodworks.org)

# NOW HIRING

REGIONAL DIRECTOR – CHICAGO, IL OR  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN METRO AREA

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR – REMOTE, US

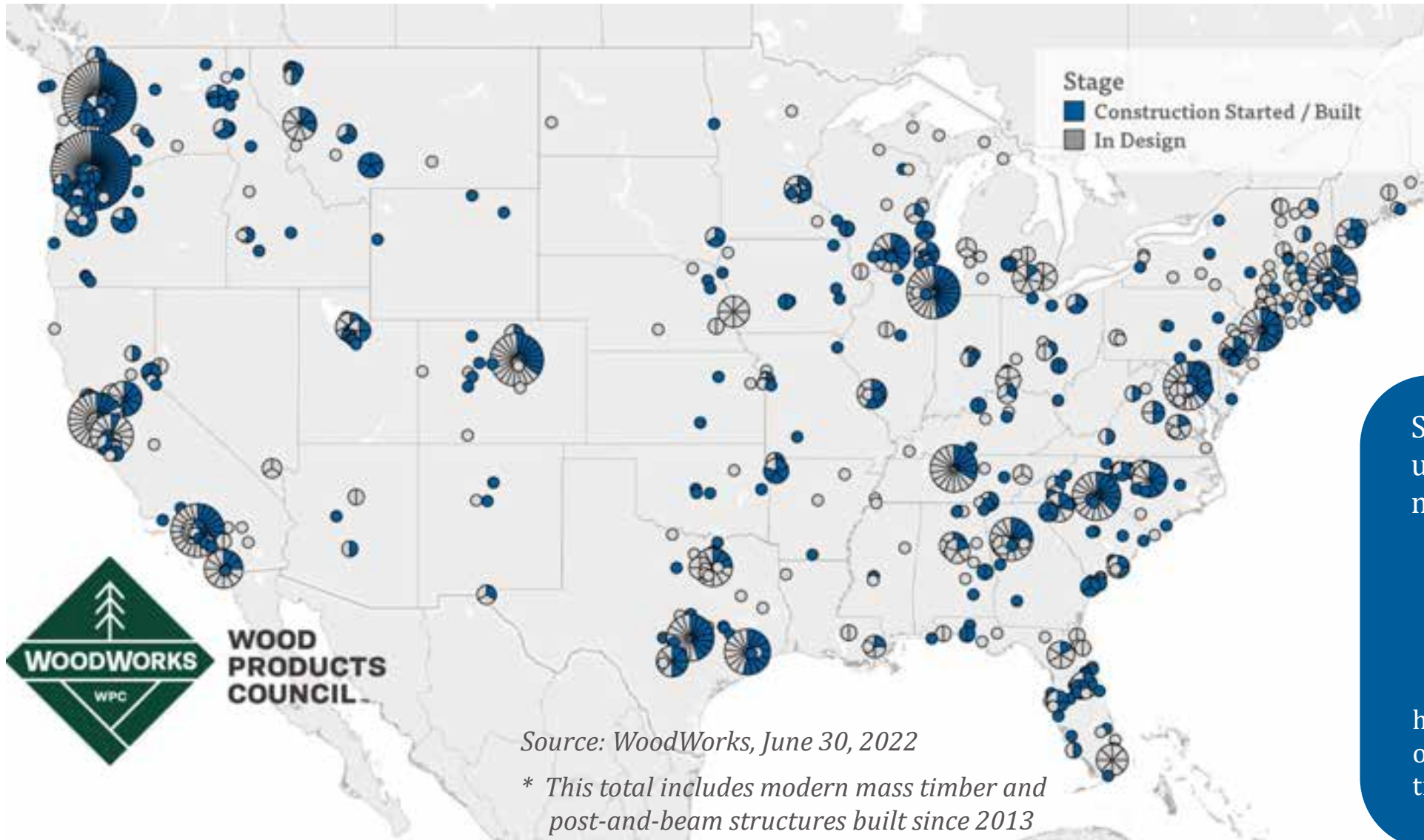
REGIONAL DIRECTOR – SEATTLE, WA  
METRO AREA





# Current State of Mass Timber Projects

As of June 2022, in the US, **1,502** multi-family, commercial, or institutional projects have been constructed with, or are in design with, mass timber.



Source: WoodWorks, June 30, 2022

\* This total includes modern mass timber and post-and-beam structures built since 2013

Scan this code or use the url to find the map and more details online.



<https://www.woodworks.org/resources/u-s-mass-timber-projects/>



# Continuing Education Credits

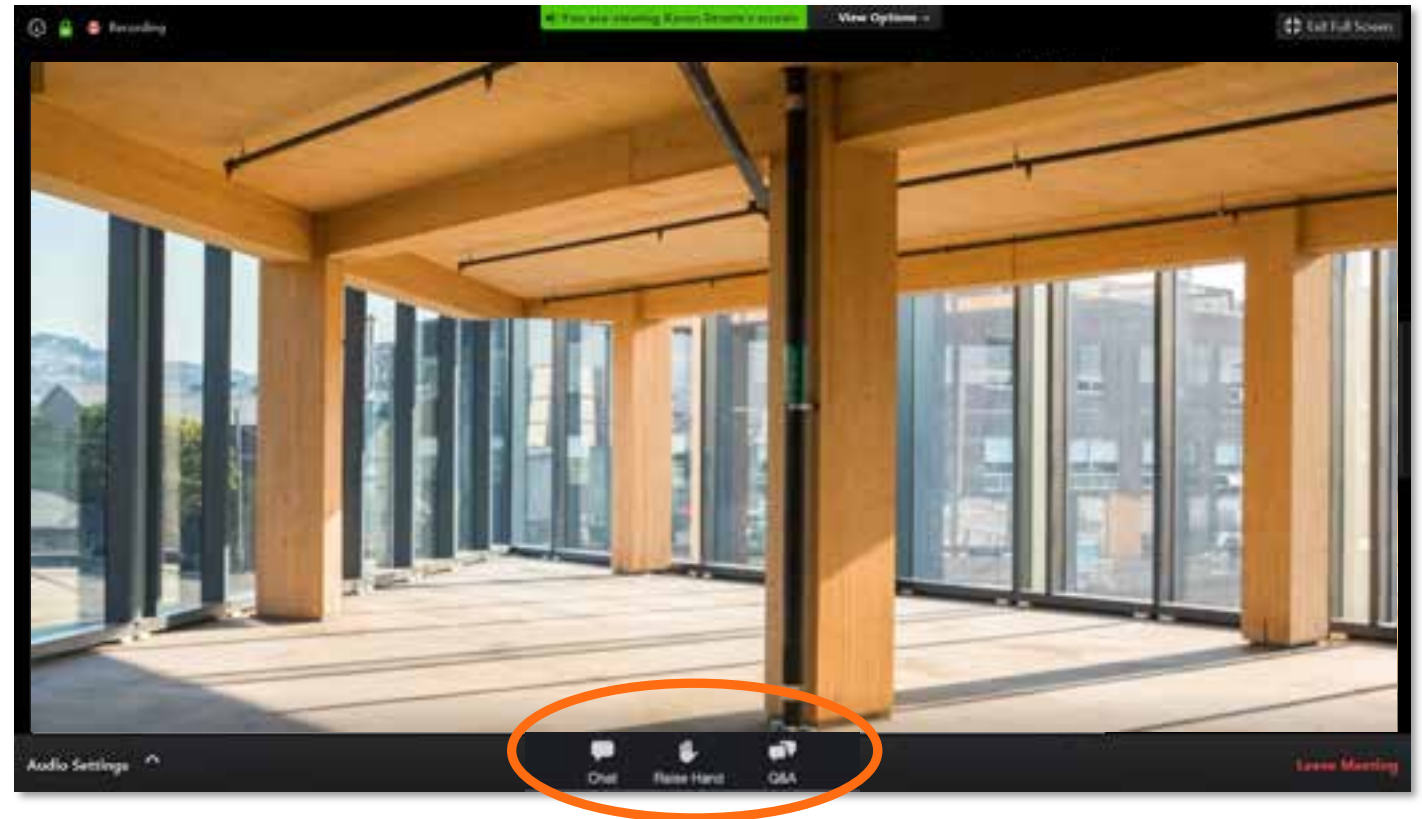
- Participants will receive a certificate of completion via email
  - AIA credits will be processed by WoodWorks
- 
- To receive credit and a certificate, attendees must stay on for the duration of the seminar.



# Ask Questions through the Q&A Box



- » Submit questions in the **Q&A** box at the bottom of your screen as they come up in the presentations. We will get to as many questions as possible.



# AIA CES Course



“The Wood Products Council” is a Registered Provider with The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems (AIA/CES), Provider #G516.

Credit(s) earned on completion of this course will be reported to **AIA CES** for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for both AIA members and non-AIA members are available upon request.

This course is registered with **AIA CES** for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product.

Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.



# Learning Objectives

1. Review carbon basics and how material choice is related to sustainability.
2. Learn how wood products can be beneficial for the environment.
3. Identify mass timber products available in North America and consider how they can be used under current building codes and standards.
4. Discuss benefits of using mass timber products, including structural versatility, prefabrication, lighter carbon footprint, and reduced labor costs.

# Climate Change Background

CLIMATE



# Rising Temperatures and Melting Glaciers



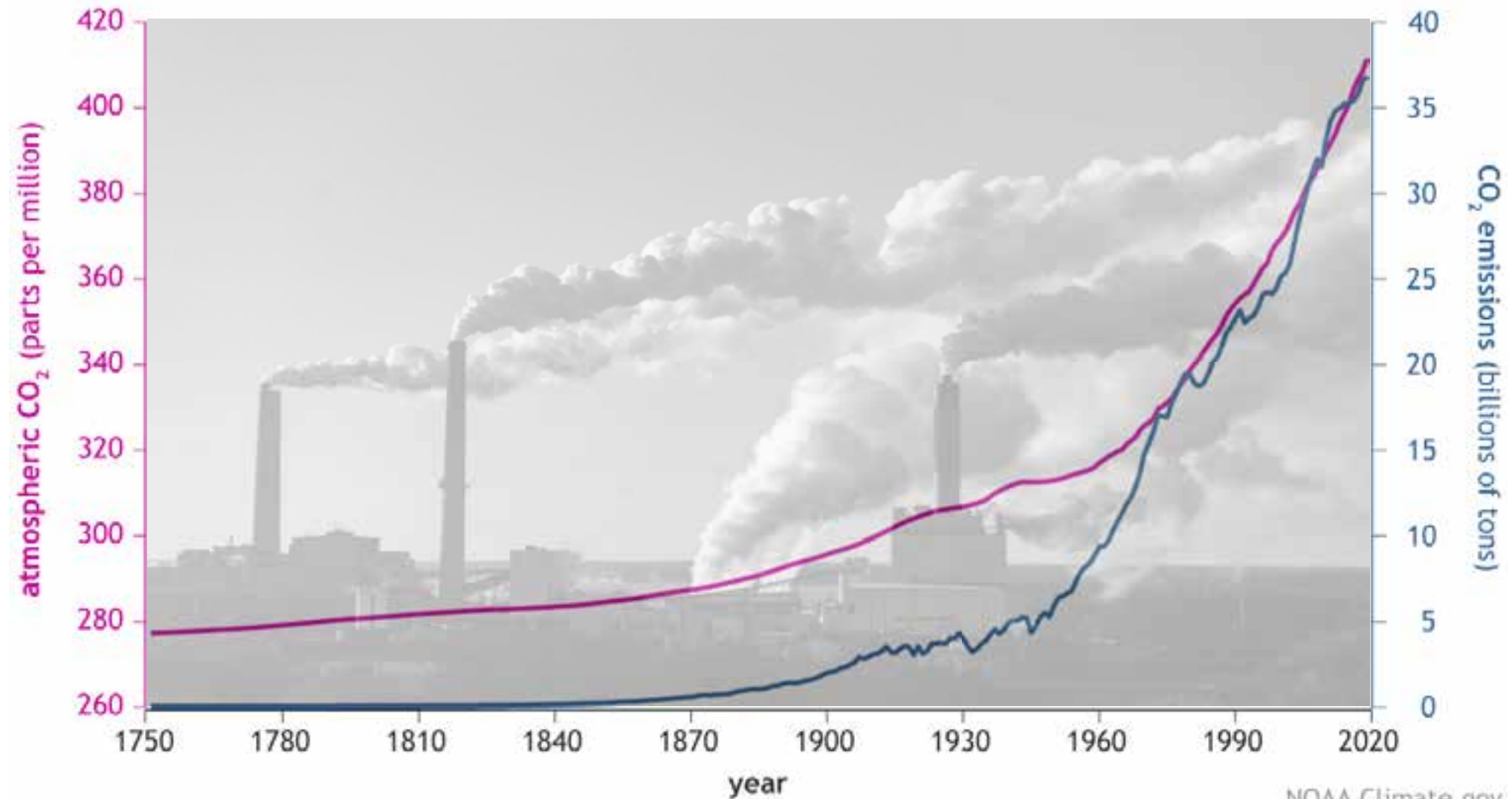
# From Rising Waters to Catastrophic Wildfires





# Carbon & Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and annual emissions (1750-2019)



NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: NOAA, ETHZ, Our World in Data

# Global Population Increase

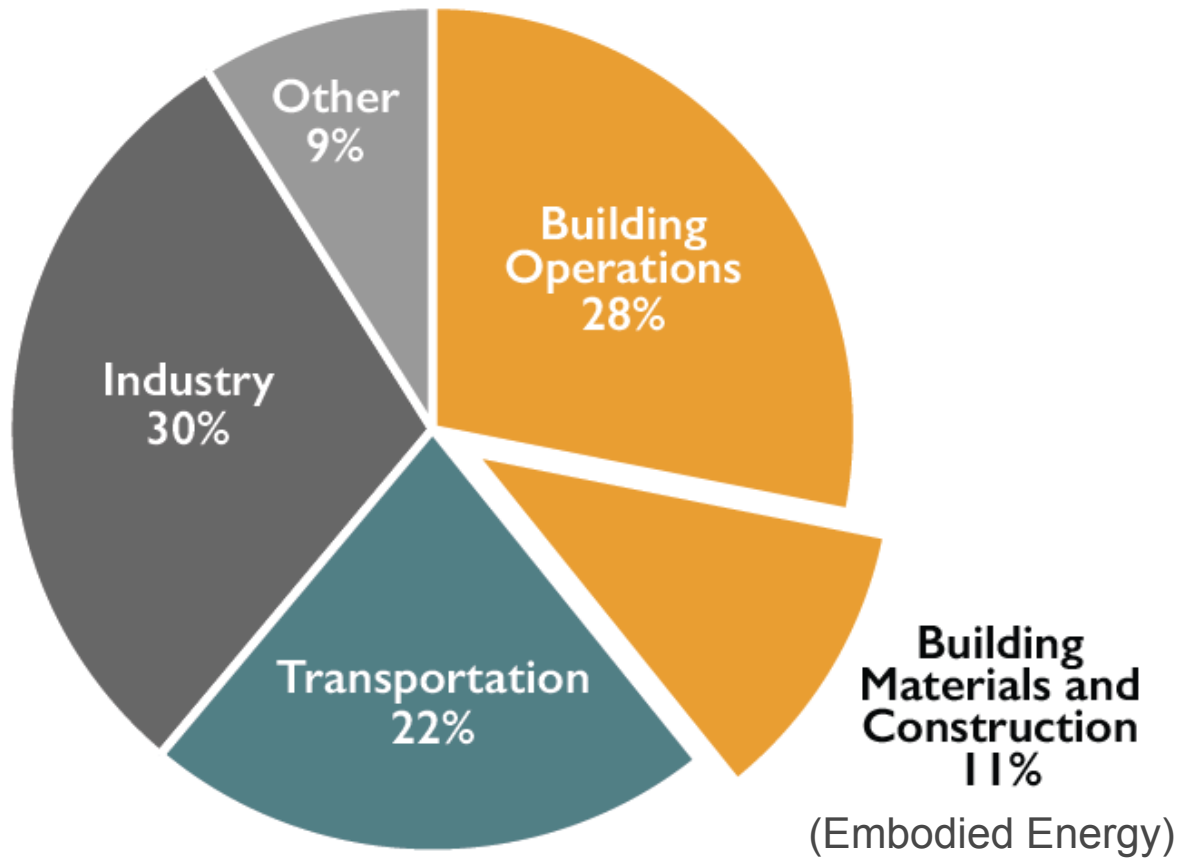
2020 = 7.8  
billion people



2050 = 9.9  
billion people

# New Buildings & Greenhouse Gases

Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by Sector



Buildings generate nearly **40%** of annual global greenhouse gas emissions (*building operations + embodied energy*)

Embodied energy: **11%**  
Concrete, iron, steel **~9%**

Source: © 2018 2030, Inc. / Architecture 2030. All Rights Reserved. Data Sources: UN Environment Global Status Report 2017; EIA International Energy Outlook 2017



# US Climate Policy

In the absence of strong Federal Policy, states and municipalities have adopted their own regulations

- CA: Buy Clean California – first US law to address embodied carbon in construction materials
  - GWP must not exceed set limits
  - Currently targets structural steel, steel rebar, glass, and mineral wool

Federal Policy is advancing under the Biden Administration:

- Rejoining the Paris Agreement
- Several first-week executive actions aimed at advancing zero-carbon technologies, increasing reforestation and carbon sequestration

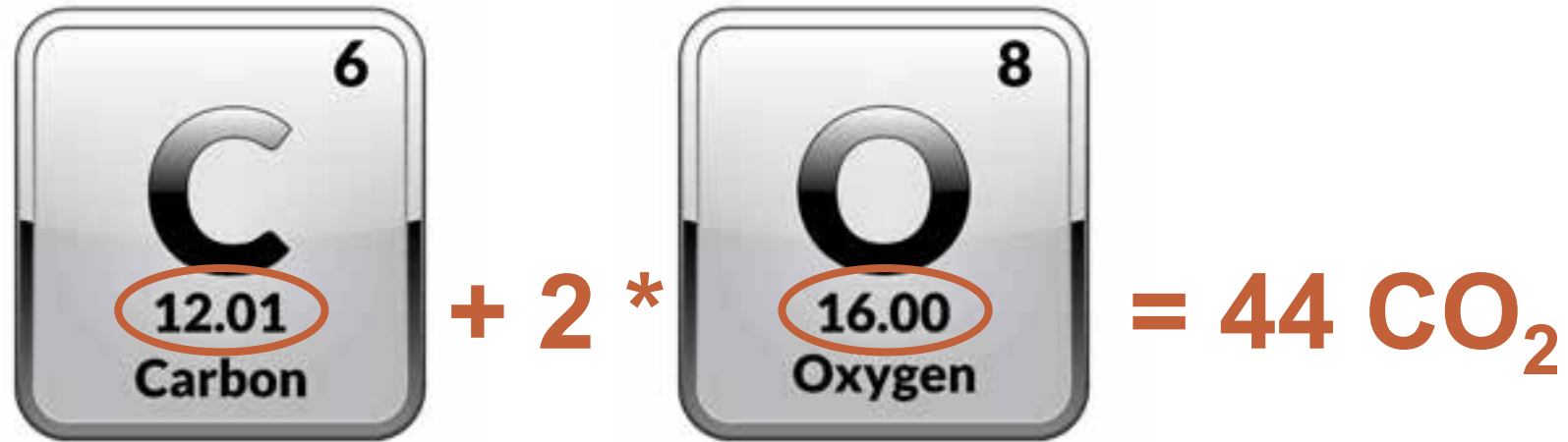
# Measuring Greenhouse Gases

**Global Warming Potential (GWP)** was developed to allow comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gases. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The time period usually used for GWP's is 100 years. (EPA)

	GWP
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1
Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	28-36
Nitrous Oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	265-298
Fluorinated Gases	Thousands to Tens of Thousands

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO<sub>2eq</sub>)** = International standard practice is to express greenhouse gases in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents

# Carbon vs CO<sub>2</sub>



1 ton Carbon  $\neq$  1 ton CO<sub>2</sub>

1 ton Carbon = (44/12=) 3.67 tons CO<sub>2</sub>



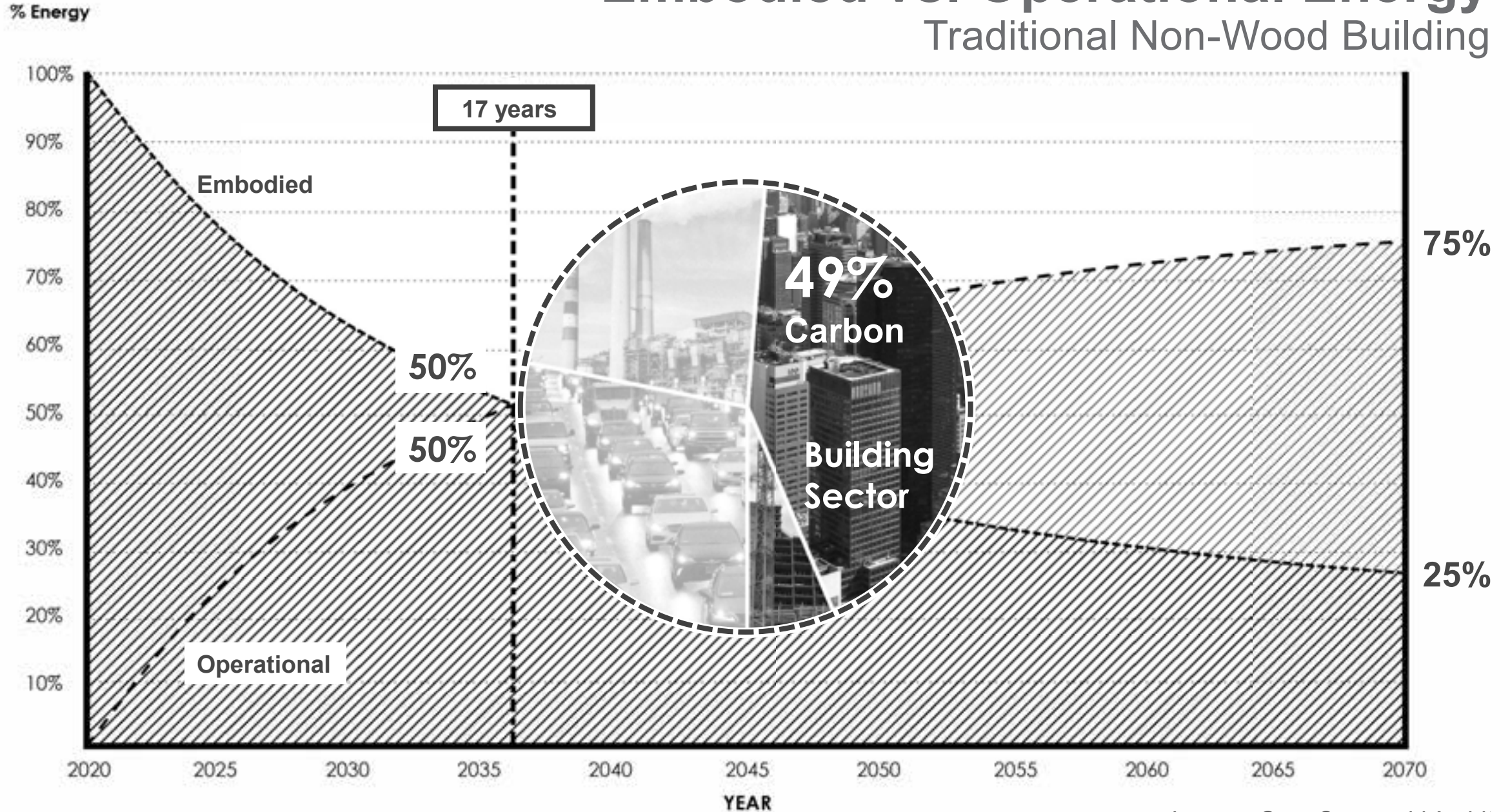
# Carbon Terms

- **Embodied Carbon:** Carbon emissions associated with the entire life cycle of the building including harvesting, mining, manufacturing, transporting, installing, maintaining, decommissioning, and disposing/reuse of a material or product
- **Operational Carbon:** Carbon emissions associated with operating a building including power, heat, and cooling



# Embodied vs. Operational Energy

## Traditional Non-Wood Building





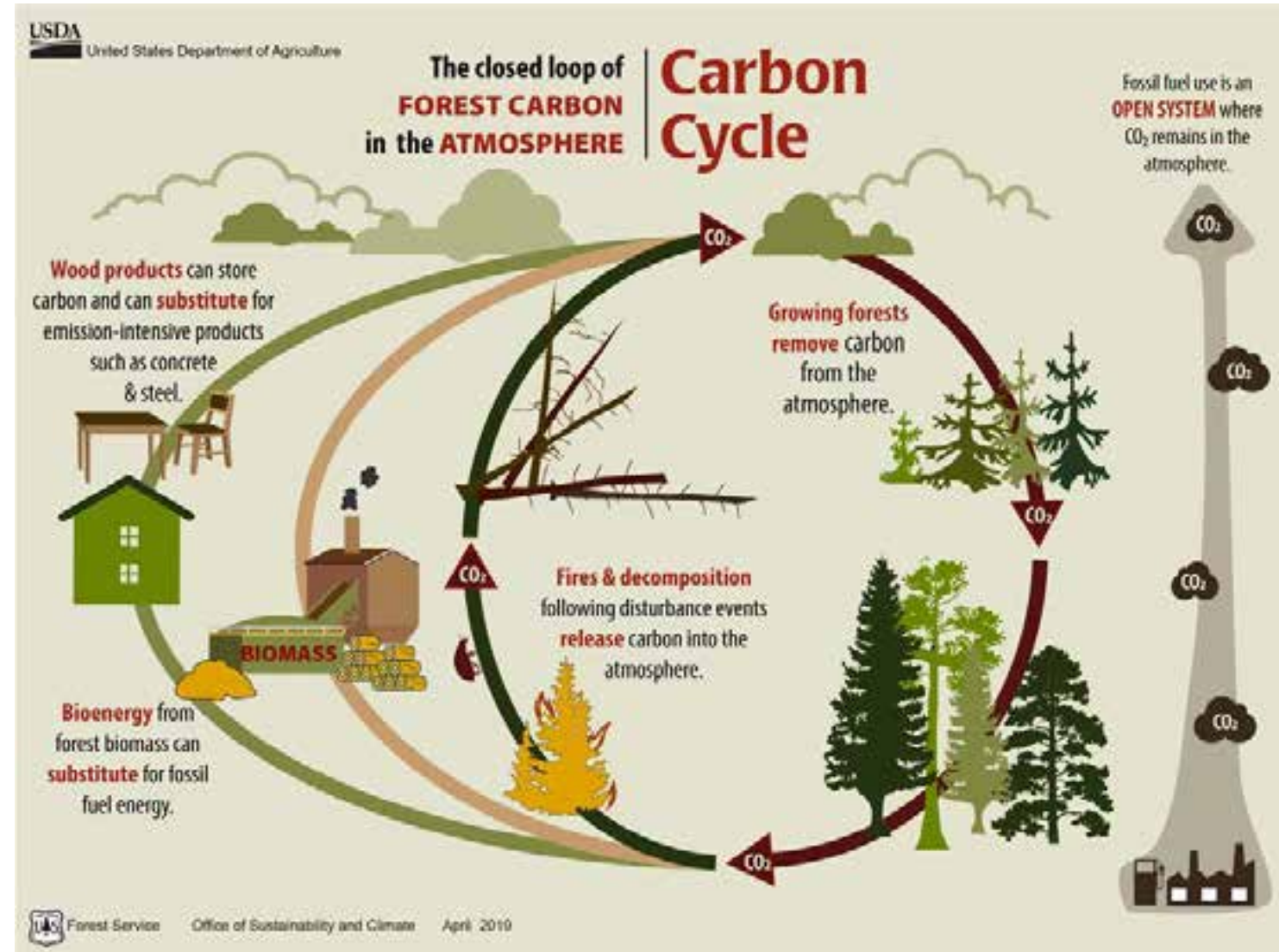
**How Does Wood Fit in?**

**C L I M A T E**



# Carbon Benefits of Wood

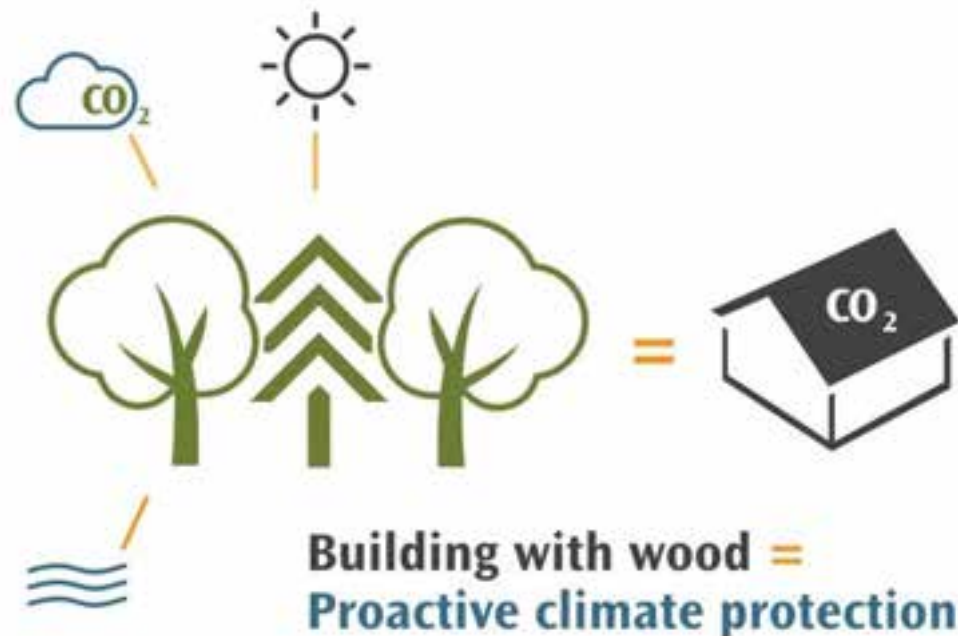
- **Less energy intensive** to manufacture than steel or concrete
- **Less fossil fuel consumed** during manufacture
- **Avoid process emissions**
- Carbon **storage** in forests and **promote forest health**
- Extended carbon **storage** in **products**



# More Carbon Terms

**Carbon Sequestration:** The process by which CO<sub>2</sub> is **removed** from the atmosphere and deposited in solid or liquid form in oceans, living organisms, or land.

**Carbon Storage:** Carbon is **stored as a solid** in the form of plant material: roots, trunks, branches, stems, and leaves. It can continue to be stored in **wood building materials**.



# Carbon Storage

Wood  $\approx$  50% Carbon (dry weight)



Image: Kaiser + Path

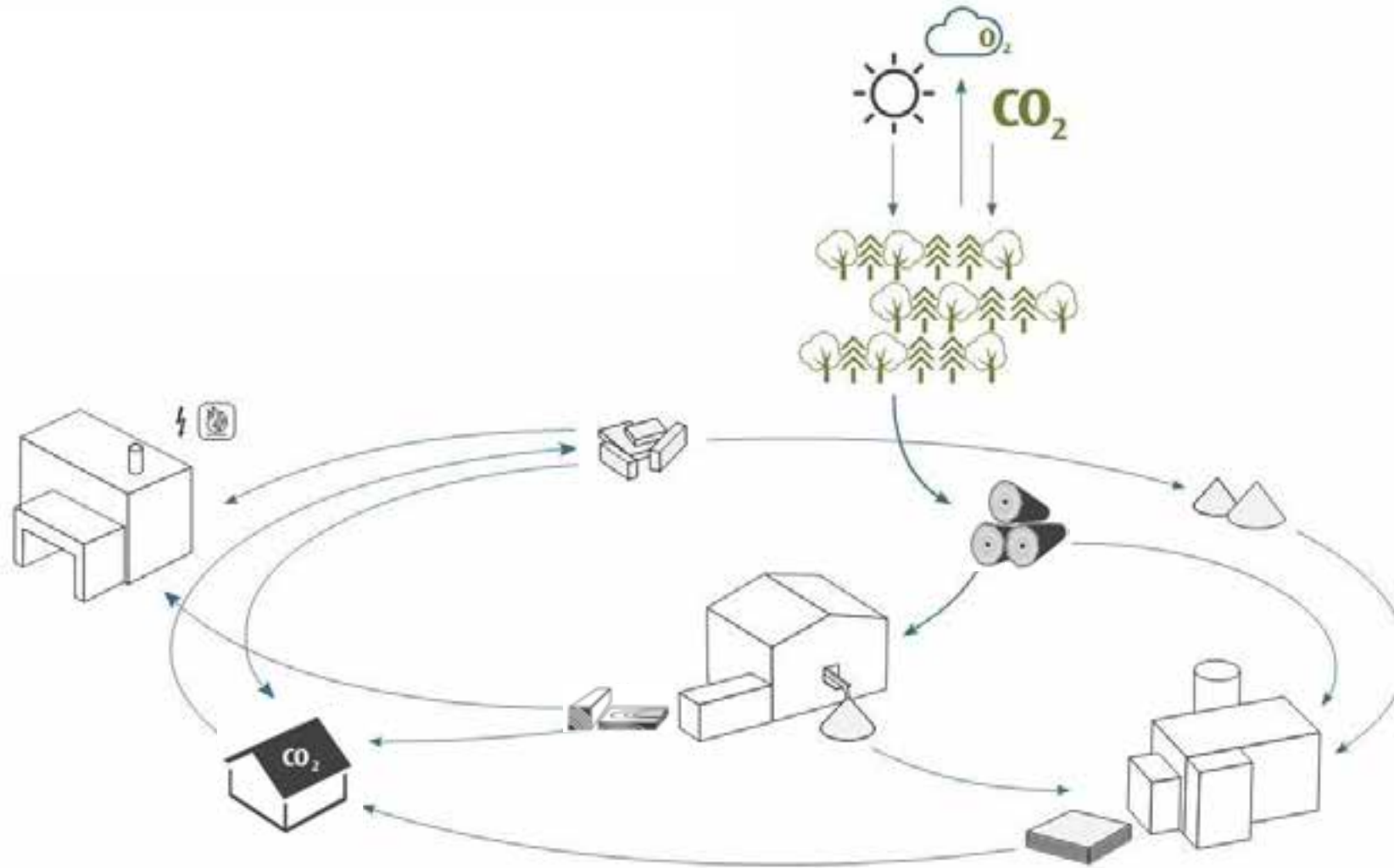


Image: Lever Architecture

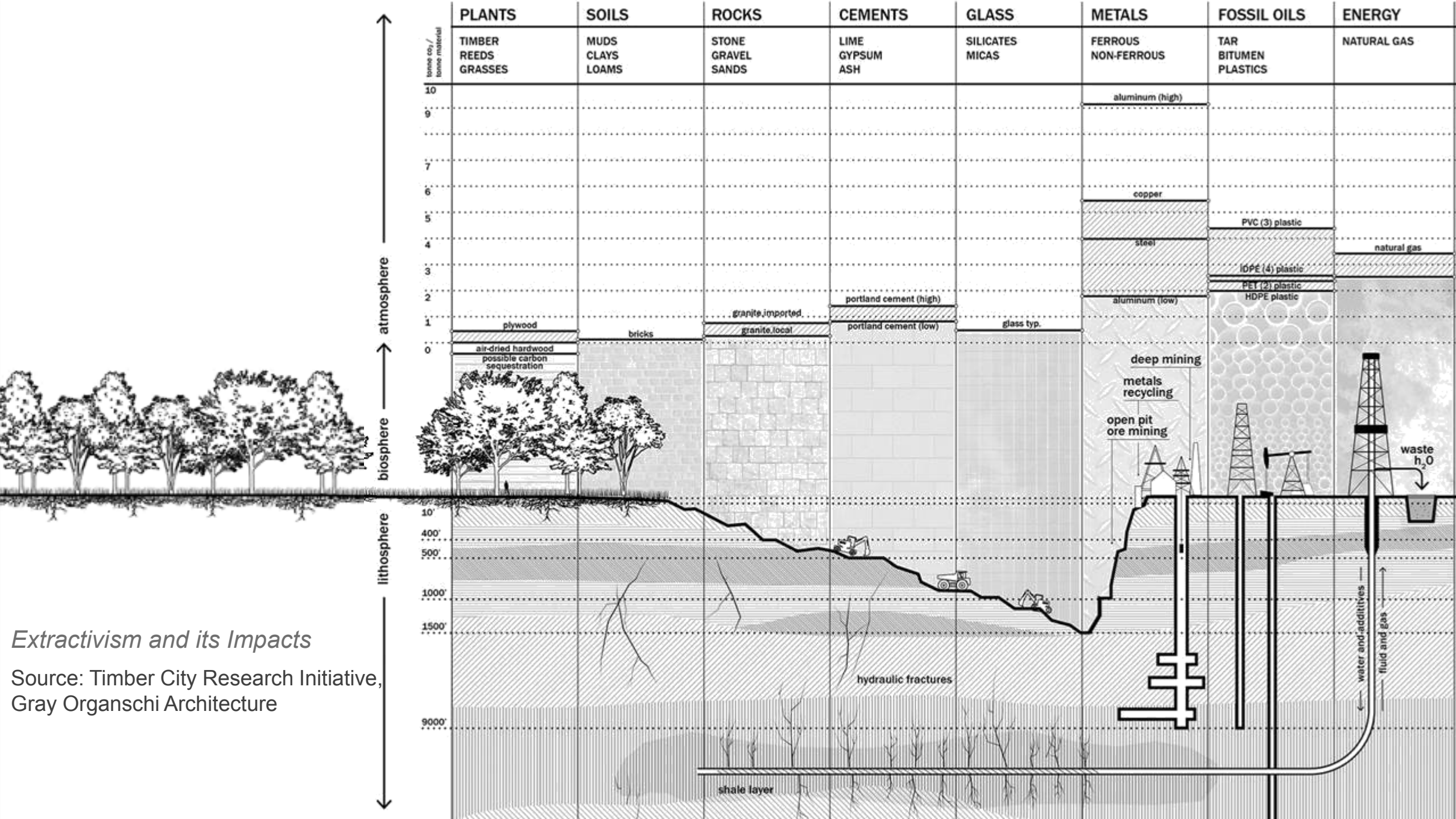


# Carbon Cycle

## Renewable Resource | Carbon Sequestration



Source: Building with Wood – Proactive Climate Protection, Dovetail Partners, Inc.



# Specifics of Carbon Storage

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# Where is Carbon Stored?

## Harvested Wood Pools

- Harvested Wood Products
- Solid Waste Disposal Sites

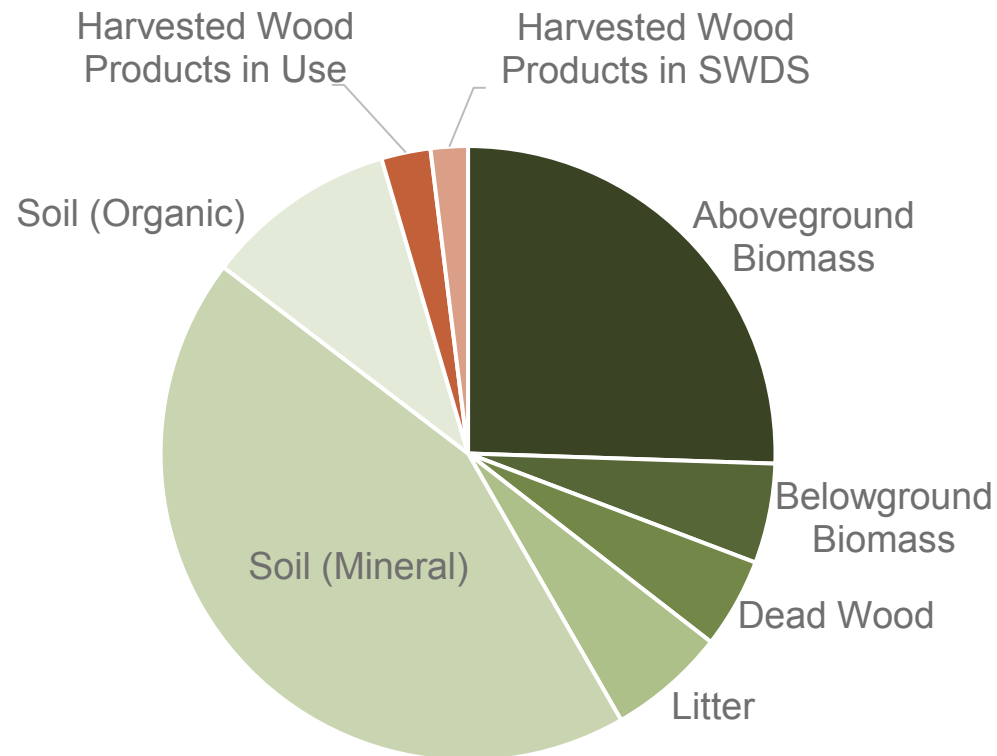
## Forest Pools

- Aboveground Biomass
- Belowground Biomass
- Dead Wood
- Litter or Forest Floor
- Soil Organic Carbon

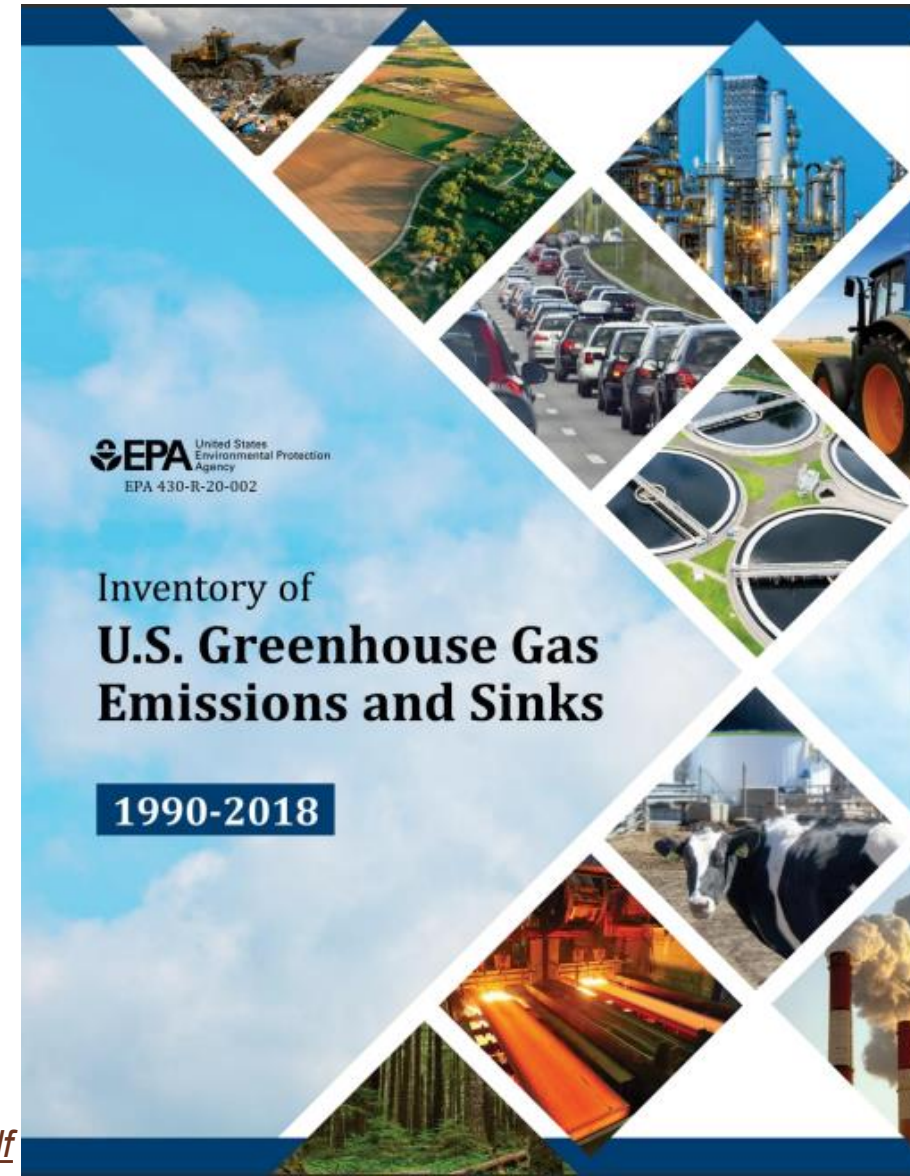


# Carbon Storage in Harvested Wood Products

As of 2019, the carbon stock for Harvested **Wood Products in Use** in the conterminous 48 states is estimated at **1,521 Million Metric Tons**.



Carbon Stocks in Forest Land and Harvested Wood Pools, 2019





**Table 6-12: Forest Area (1,000 ha) and C Stocks in *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land* and Harvested Wood Pools (MMT C)**

	1990		2005		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<i>Forest Area (1,000 ha)</i>	<i>279,748</i>		<i>279,749</i>		<i>280,041</i>	<i>280,041</i>	<i>279,893</i>	<i>279,787</i>	<i>279,682</i>
<b>Carbon Pools (MMT C)</b>									
<b>Forest Ecosystem</b>	<b>51,527</b>		<b>53,886</b>		<b>55,431</b>	<b>55,592</b>	<b>55,746</b>	<b>55,897</b>	<b>56,051</b>
Aboveground Biomass	11,833		13,484		14,561	14,672	14,780	14,884	14,989
Belowground Biomass	2,350		2,734		2,982	3,008	3,033	3,056	3,081
Dead Wood	2,120		2,454		2,683	2,707	2,731	2,753	2,777
Litter	3,662		3,647		3,638	3,639	3,639	3,640	3,641
Soil (Mineral)	25,636		25,639		25,640	25,640	25,637	25,637	25,638
Soil (Organic)	5,927		5,929		5,927	5,927	5,926	5,926	5,926
<b>Harvested Wood</b>	<b>1,895</b>		<b>2,353</b>		<b>2,567</b>	<b>2,591</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>2,669</b>
Products in Use	1,249		1,447		1,490	1,497	1,505	1,513	1,521
SWDS	646		906		1,076	1,094	1,112	1,129	1,148
<b>Total C Stock</b>	<b>53,423</b>		<b>56,239</b>		<b>57,998</b>	<b>58,183</b>	<b>58,362</b>	<b>58,539</b>	<b>58,720</b>

Notes: Forest area and C stock estimates include all *Forest Land Remaining Forest Land* in the conterminous 48 states



# Harvested Wood Products

- **Solid sawn** wood products have the lowest level of embodied energy.
- Wood products requiring more processing steps (for example, plywood, engineered wood products, flake-based products) require more energy to produce but still require **significantly less energy** than their non-wood counterparts.

*Source: USFPL Wood Handbook; Wood as a Sustainable Building Material*



Image: Weyerhaeuser



Image: LP Building Solutions



Image: Structurecraft



Image: Georgia-Pacific

# Tools to Evaluate Carbon Impact

CLIMATE

# Whole Building Life Cycle Analysis (WBLCA)

“Evaluation of the inputs, outputs, and potential environmental impacts... throughout its life cycle”

- WBLCA covers all stages in the life cycle of a building and its components
- Several tools available; various methodologies
- <https://www.thinkwood.com/education/calculate-wood-carbon-footprint>
- <https://www.thinkwood.com/blog/understanding-the-role-of-embodied-carbon-in-climate-smart-buildings>





# WoodWorks Carbon Calculator

- Available at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)
- Estimates total wood mass in a building
- Relays **estimated** carbon impacts:
  - Amount of **carbon stored** in wood
  - Amount of **greenhouse gas emissions avoided** by choosing wood over a non-wood material



# Case Studies

CLIMATE

# Bullitt Center

Seattle, WA



Photo: John Stamets

Architect: The Miller Hull Partnership  
Structural Engineer: DCI Engineers

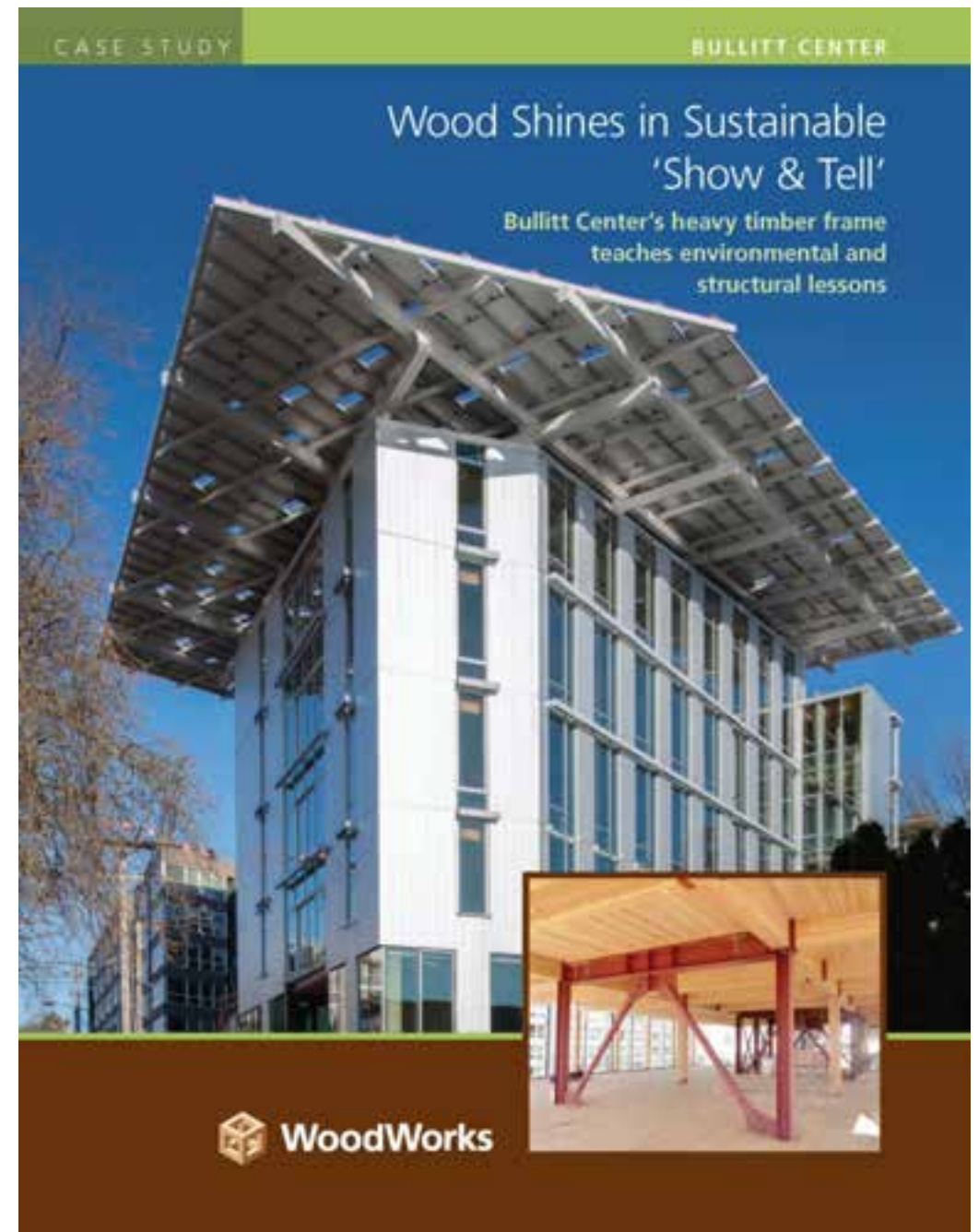
## IV (HT)

- Designed for a **250-year** life span
- Met criteria for **Living Building Challenge 2.0**
- Rooftop photovoltaic cells generate electricity for the building; building recycles its own water
- 6 over 2 design; 52,000 sf
- Heavy timber frame: glulam and NLT panels



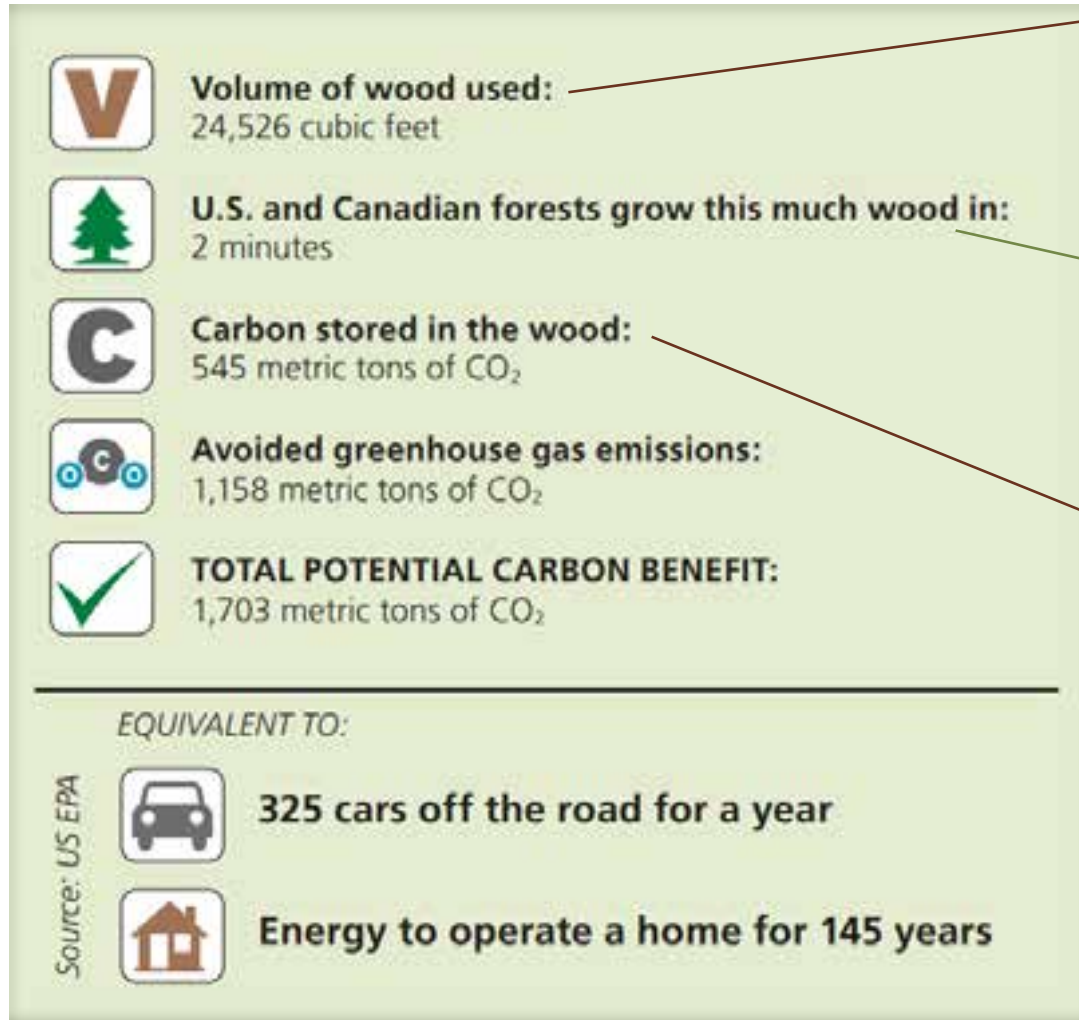
# Bullitt Center

## Seattle, WA



# Bullitt Center

## Seattle, WA



Volume of wood:  
Based on user inputs

Volume of Wood → Volume of Logs →  
Volume of Trees → Tree Growth Rate

Volume of Wood → Mass of Wood →  
Mass of Carbon (50% of wood) →  
Mass of CO<sub>2</sub> (3.67 x mass of Carbon)

# Candlewood Suites

## Redstone Arsenal, AL



Photo: IHG Army Hotels, Lendlease

Architect: Lendlease

Project Engineer: Schaefer Structural Engineers

### IIIB

- 4 stories; 62,688 sf
- **First CLT hotel** in USA
- **37% faster** overall construction
- 40% fewer construction workers
- Trained unemployed veterans



# Candlewood Suites

## Redstone Arsenal, AL



Photo: IHG Army Hotels, Lendlease

### Carbon Benefits

Wood lowers a building's carbon footprint in two ways. It continues to store carbon absorbed by the tree while growing, keeping it out of the atmosphere for the lifetime of the building—longer if the wood is reclaimed and reused or manufactured into other products. When used in place of fossil fuel-intensive materials such as steel and concrete, it also results in 'avoided' greenhouse gas emissions.



#### Volume of wood products used:

935,696 board feet (equivalent)



#### U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in:

5 minutes



#### Carbon stored in the wood:

1,276 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



#### Avoided greenhouse gas emissions:

494 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



#### TOTAL POTENTIAL CARBON BENEFIT:

1,770 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

#### EQUIVALENT TO:

Source: US EPA



**374 cars off the road for a year**



**Energy to operate 187 homes for a year**

*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, based on research by Sarthre, R. and J. O'Connor, 2010, A Synthesis of Research on Wood Products and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, FPInnovations. Note: CO<sub>2</sub> on this chart refers to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.*

# Candlewood Suites

## Redstone Arsenal, AL

Emissions avoided by choosing wood  
over alternative building material  
based on building type

Total Potential Carbon Benefit =  
Carbon Stored + Emissions Avoided

Convert Total Potential Carbon Benefit  
to laymen's terms like emissions from  
operating a car or a home

### Carbon Benefits

Wood lowers a building's carbon footprint in two ways. It continues to store carbon absorbed by the tree while growing, keeping it out of the atmosphere for the lifetime of the building—longer if the wood is reclaimed and reused or manufactured into other products. When used in place of fossil fuel-intensive materials such as steel and concrete, it also results in 'avoided' greenhouse gas emissions.



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# Crescent Terminus

Atlanta, GA



Photo: Richard Lubrant

## IIIA

- 5 stories wood over 3 stories of concrete parking (Type IA podium)
- Savings by using wood could be spent on **luxury amenities**
- Dedication to **sustainable investments**
- Flexibility in design
- **Rooftop gardens** supported by wood trusses

Project Architect: Lord Aeck Sargent  
Structural Engineer: SCA Consulting Engineers



# Crescent Terminus

## Atlanta, GA



Photo: Crescent Communities

Project Architect: Lord Aeck Sargent  
Structural Engineer: SCA Consulting Engineers



*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, based on research by Sarthre, R. and J. O'Connor, 2010, A Synthesis of Research on Wood Products and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, FPInnovations. Note: CO<sub>2</sub> on this chart refers to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.*



# El Dorado High School

El Dorado, AR



Photo: Dennis Ivy

## IIIA

- 322,500 square feet
- **\$2.7 million savings** by switching from steel and masonry to wood
- **Exposed wood** to acknowledge Arkansas landscape and provide enriching educational space
- Barrel-vaulted roof with exposed **glulam bowstring trusses** in the arena

Architect: CADM Architecture, Inc.  
Structural Engineer: Engineering Consultants, Inc.



# El Dorado High School

## El Dorado, AR



Photo: W.I. Bell

Architect: CADM Architecture, Inc.  
Structural Engineer: Engineering Consultants, Inc.

### Carbon Benefits

For more information on the calculations below, visit [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org).

Wood lowers a building's carbon footprint in two ways. It continues to store carbon absorbed during the tree's growing cycle, keeping it out of the atmosphere for the lifetime of the building—longer if the wood is reclaimed and used elsewhere. When used in place of fossil fuel-intensive materials such as steel and concrete, it also results in 'avoided' greenhouse gas emissions.



#### Volume of wood used:

4,340 cubic meters / 153,140 cubic feet of lumber, panels and engineered wood



#### U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in:

13 minutes



#### Carbon stored in the wood:

3,660 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



#### Avoided greenhouse gas emissions:

7,780 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



#### TOTAL POTENTIAL CARBON BENEFIT:

11,440 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

#### EQUIVALENT TO:

Source: US EPA



2,100 cars off the road for a year



Energy to operate a home for 970 years

*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, based on research by Sarthre, R. and J. O'Connor, 2010, A Synthesis of Research on Wood Products and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, FPInnovations. Note: CO<sub>2</sub> on this chart refers to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent*



# 1430 Q

Sacramento, CA



Photo: Gary Folkins

## IIIA

- **6 stories of wood + mezzanine** over 2-story concrete podium (IIIA over IA)
- 63,000 square feet
- **First** of its kind in USA
- Needed 6 floors of residential units to make the project viable
- Concrete and steel were too expensive

Architect: HRGA, The HR Group Architects  
Structural Engineer: Buehler



# 1430 Q

## Sacramento, CA



Photo: Gary Folkins

### 1430 Q



**Volume of wood products used:**  
1,708 cubic meters (60,334 cubic feet)



**U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in:**  
5 minutes



**Carbon stored in the wood:**  
1,426 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



**Avoided greenhouse gas emissions:**  
3,031 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>



**TOTAL POTENTIAL CARBON BENEFIT:**  
4,457 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

EQUIVALENT TO:

Source: US EPA



**942 cars off the road for a year**



**Energy to operate 471 homes for a year**

*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, based on research by Sarthre, R. and J. O'Connor, 2010, A Synthesis of Research on Wood Products and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, FPInnovations. Note: CO<sub>2</sub> on this chart refers to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.*

# Tallhouse, Boston



Source: Generate Architecture



# Tallhouse Boston



## GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL & MATERIAL MASS (PER BUILDING ASSEMBLY)

Source: Generate Architecture

The total global warming potential (GWP) of each option is shown with a breakdown by building assembly. The Concrete With Steel Frame and Concrete Flat Slab options have the highest GWP, with the bulk of the impact embedded in the floor slabs. The Timber Use 1 (Floor Slabs; Steel Frame) option offers a slight reduction in GWP, with the most of the savings also embedded in the floor slabs. The Timber Use 2 (Post, Beam, and Plate) option offers a relatively typical approach to building with timber, showing savings in floor slabs, beams and columns. Since Timber Use 3 and 4 are cellular approaches with load-bearing walls, these options included steel podiums to accommodate the ground floor program. Timber Use 3 shows how a hybrid approach with light gauge metal yields GWP savings in structural walls and exterior walls, despite the addition of the podium. Lastly, Timber Use 4 emphasizes how a completely cellular CLT

# Forest to Cities

## A Systemic Solution in Action







# WoodWorks Online Event



Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design, The Miller Hull Partnership with Lord Aeck Sargent, photo Jonathan Hillier



1430 Q, The HR Group Architects, Buehler Engineering, Greg Folkins Photography



T3 Minneapolis, MGA, DLR Group, Magnusson Klemencic Associates, StructureCraft, photo Ema Peter



# Key Early Design Decisions

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**What is the Single Most Important Early Design Decision on a Mass Timber Project? Is it:**

**Construction Type  
Fire-Resistance Ratings  
Member Sizes  
Grids & Spans  
Exposed Timber (where & how much)**

**MEP Layout  
Acoustics  
Concealed Spaces  
Connections  
Penetrations**

**The Answer is...They All Need to Be Weighed (Plus Others)**

# Key Early Design Decisions

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## Early = Efficient

Realize Efficiency in:

- Cost reduction
- Material use (optimize fiber use, minimize waste)
- Construction speed
- Trade coordination
- Minimize RFIs

Commit to a mass timber design from the start



# Key Early Design Decisions

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One *potential* design route:

1. Building size & occupancy informs construction type & grid
2. Construction type informs fire resistance ratings
3. Grid & fire resistance ratings inform timber member sizes & MEP layout

But that's not all...



Architects: The Miller Hull Partnership with  
Eng  
Con  
Ph



# Key Early Design Decisions

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Other impactful decisions:

- **Acoustics** informs member sizes (and vice versa)
- Fire-resistance ratings inform **connections & penetrations**
- **MEP layout** informs use of concealed spaces



# Key Early Design Decisions

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## Other impactful decisions:

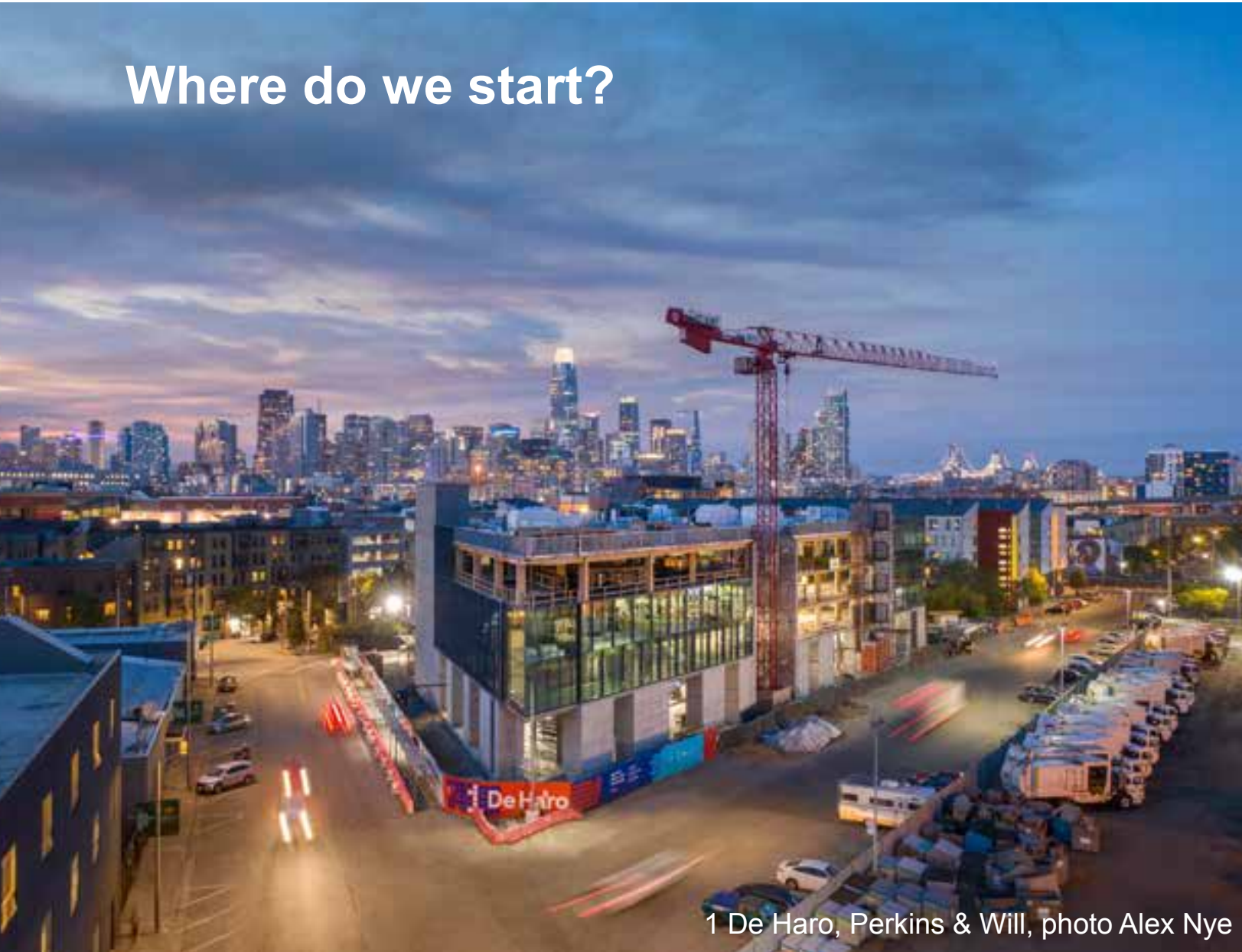
- **Grid** informs efficient spans, MEP layout
- **Manufacturer capabilities** inform member sizes, grids & connections
- **Lateral system** informs connections, construction sequencing

And more...



# Key Early Design Decisions

Where do we start?



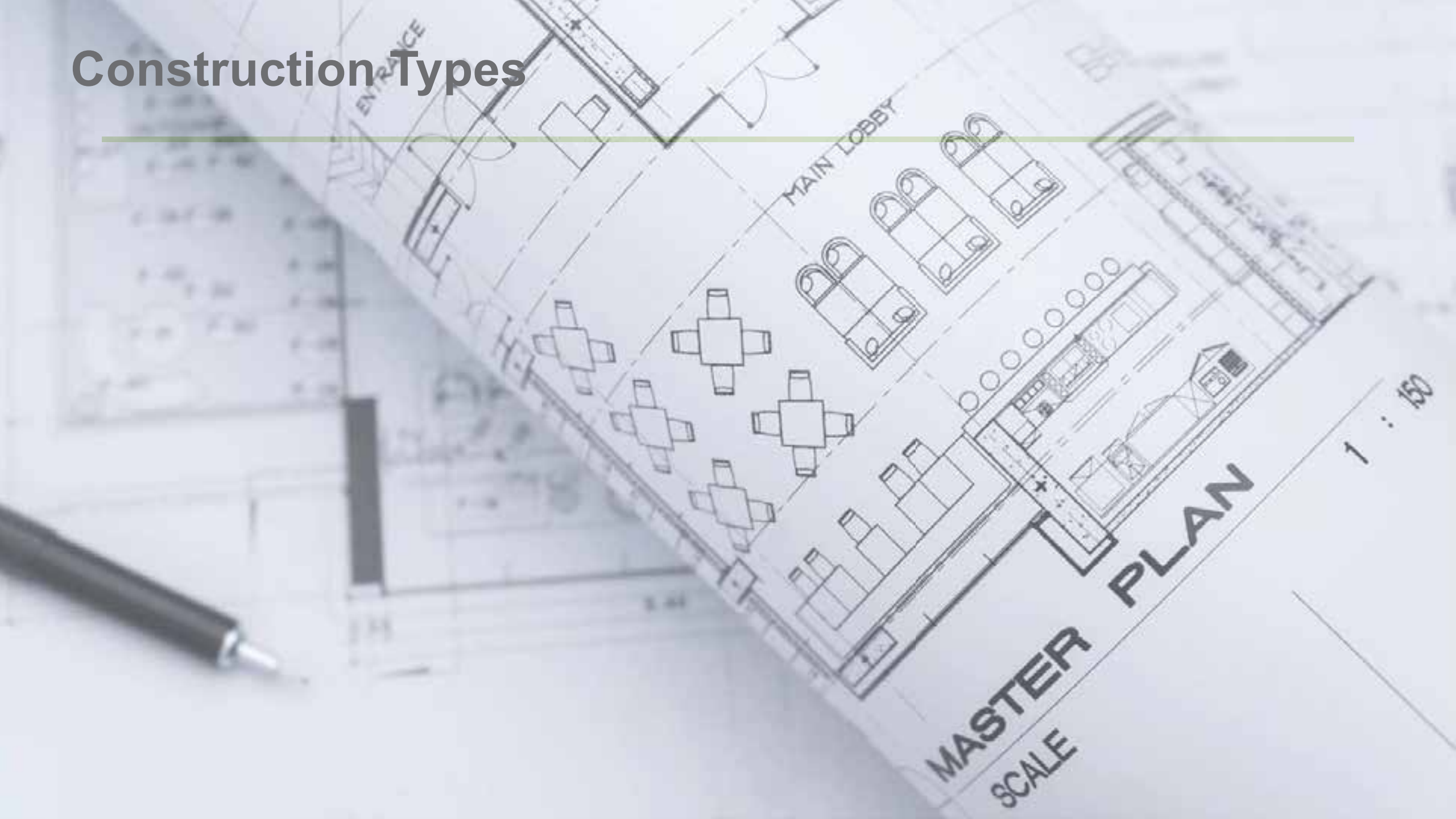
1 De Haro, Perkins & Will, photo Alex Nye





# Construction Types

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# Construction Types

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IBC defines 5 construction types: I, II, III, IV, V  
A building must be classified as one of these

Construction Types I & II:  
All elements required to be non-combustible materials

However, there are exceptions including several for mass timber



# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type IB & II: Roof Decking



Photo Credit: DeStafano & Chamberlain, Inc, Robert Benson Photography



Image: StructureCraft Builders



# Construction Types

All wood framed building options:

## Type III

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW)

Interior elements any allowed by code, including mass timber

## Type V

All building elements are any allowed by code, including mass timber

Types III and V are subdivided to A (protected) and B (unprotected)

## Type IV (Heavy Timber)

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW OR CLT)

Interior elements qualify as Heavy Timber (min. sizes, no concealed spaces except in 2021 IBC)

# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type III: Interior elements (floors, roofs, partitions/shafts) and exterior walls if FRT



ICE Block I, RMW Architecture & Interiors, Buehler Engineering, Bernard André Photography

# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type IV: Any exposed interior elements & roofs, must meet min. sizes; exterior walls if CLT or FRT. Concealed space limitations (varies by code version)





# Construction Types

**Type IV construction permits exposed heavy/mass timber elements of min. sizes.**

Framing		Solid Sawn (nominal)	Glulam (actual)	SCL (actual)
Floor	Columns	8 x 8	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 x 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	Beams	6 x 10	5 x 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Roof	Columns	6 x 8	5 x 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	Beams*	4 x 6	3 X 6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> X 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

**Minimum Width by Depth in Inches**  
**See IBC 2018 2304.11 or IBC 2015 602.4 for Details**

\*3” nominal width allowed where sprinklered



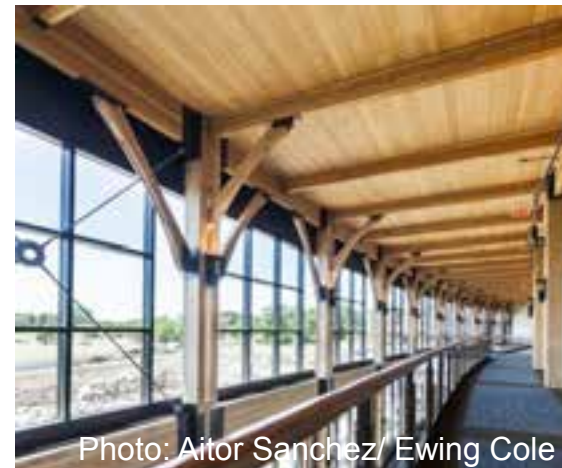
Photo: WoodWorks

# Construction Types

## Type IV min. sizes:

### Floor Panels/Decking:

- 4" thick CLT (actual thickness)
- 4" NLT/DLT/GLT (nominal thickness)
- 3" thick (nominal) decking covered with: 1" decking or 15/32" WSP or 1/2" particleboard





# Construction Types

## Type IV min. sizes:

### Interior Walls:

- Laminated construction 4" thick
- Solid wood construction min. 2 layers of 1" matched boards
- Wood stud wall (1 hr min)
- Non-combustible (1 hr min)

Verify other code requirements for FRR (eg. interior bearing wall; occupancy separation)

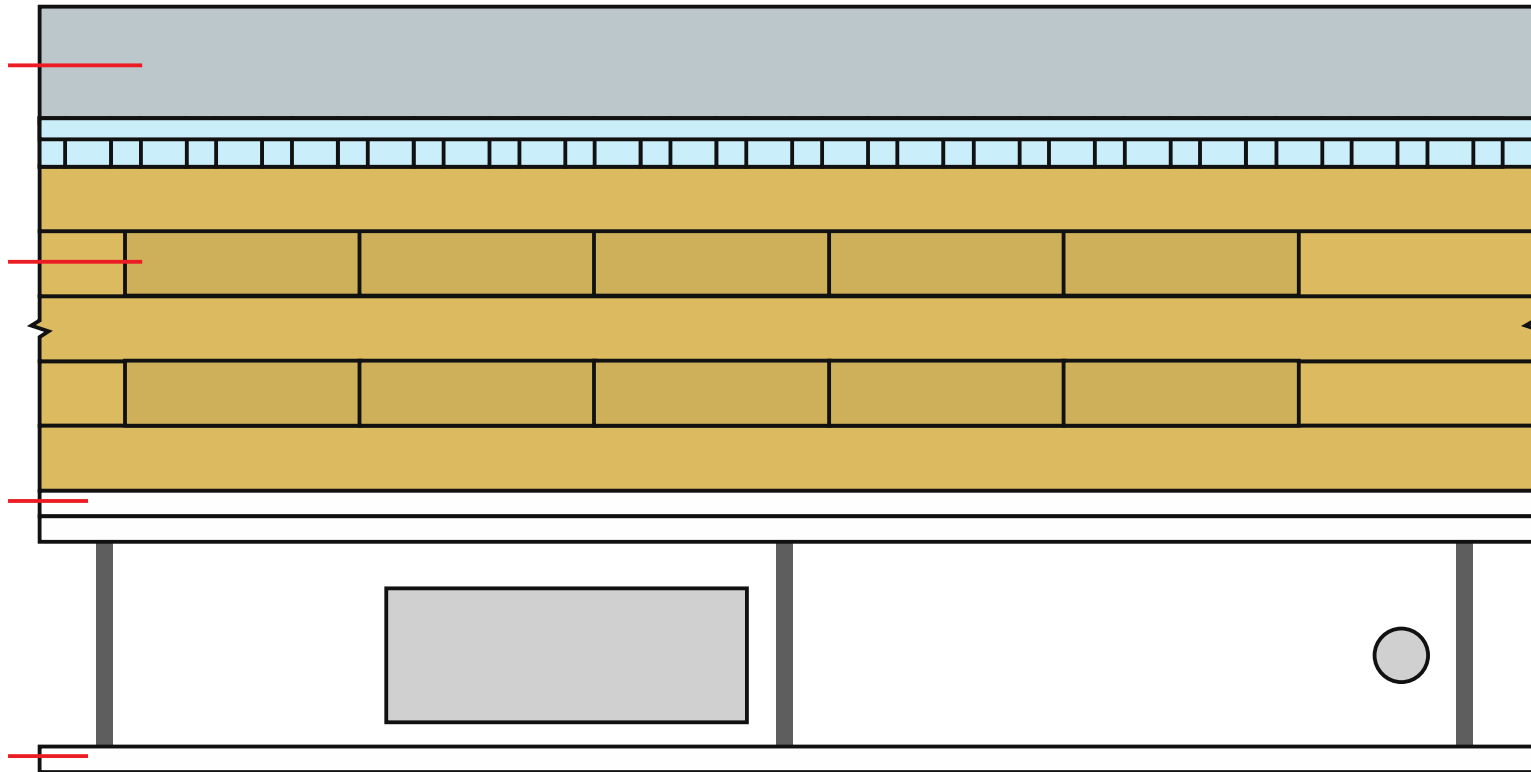




# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed spaces

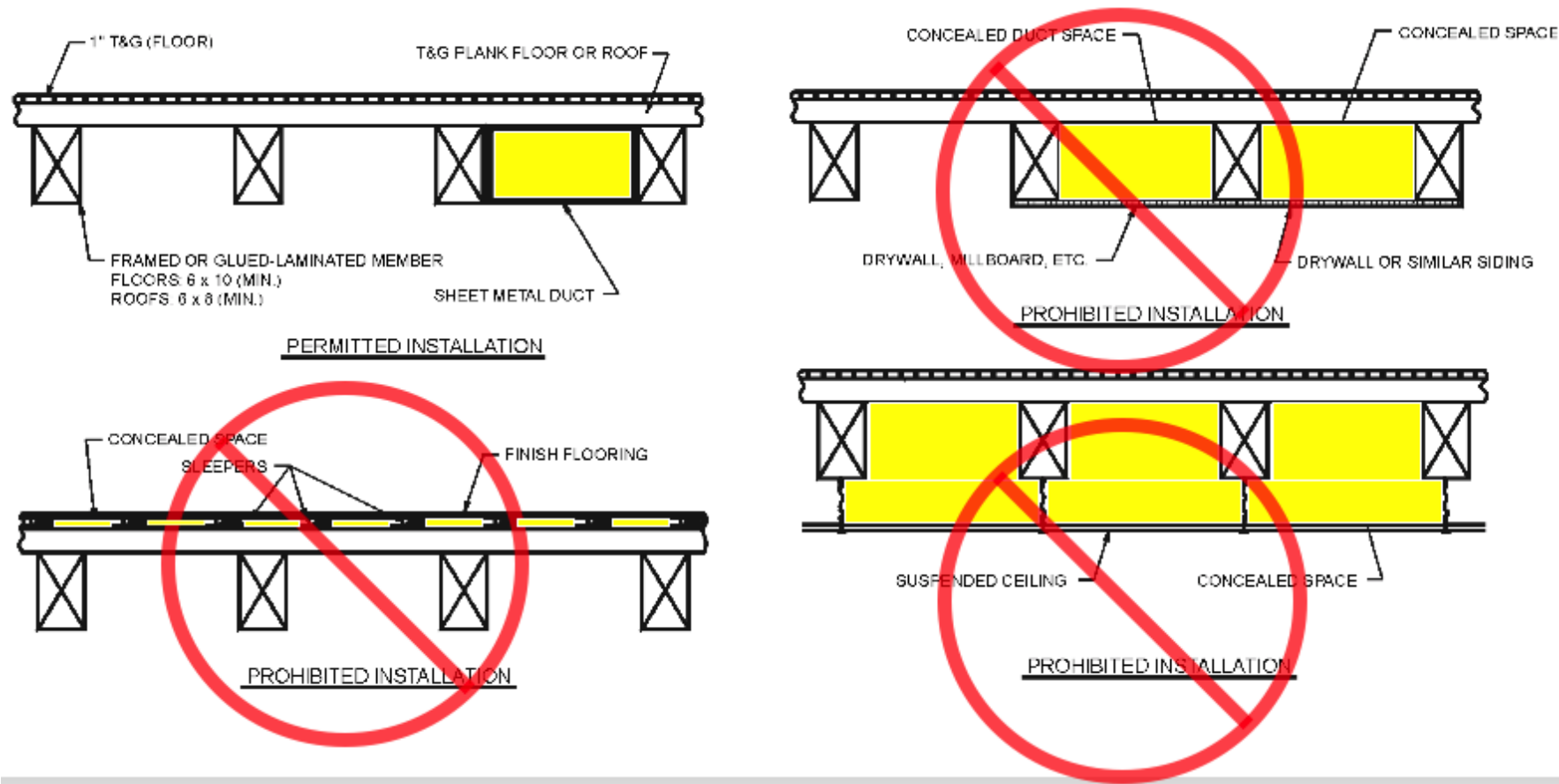
Can I have a dropped ceiling? Raised access floor?



# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed spaces

Until 2021 IBC, Type IV-HT provisions prohibited concealed spaces



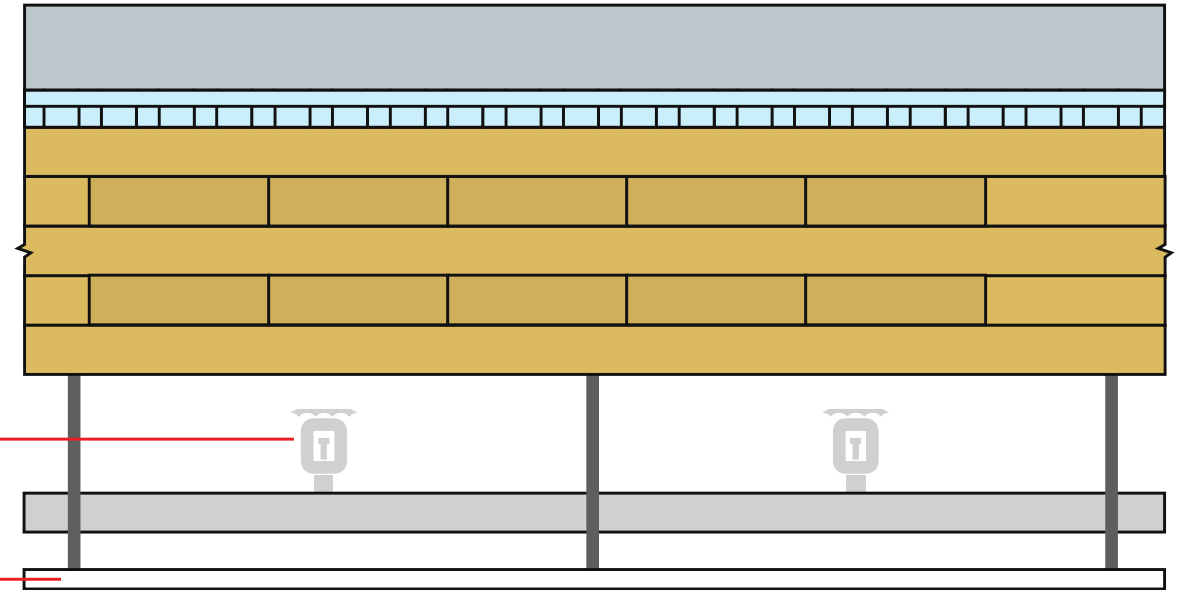
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

### Option 1:

Sprinklers in concealed spaces

Dropped ceiling





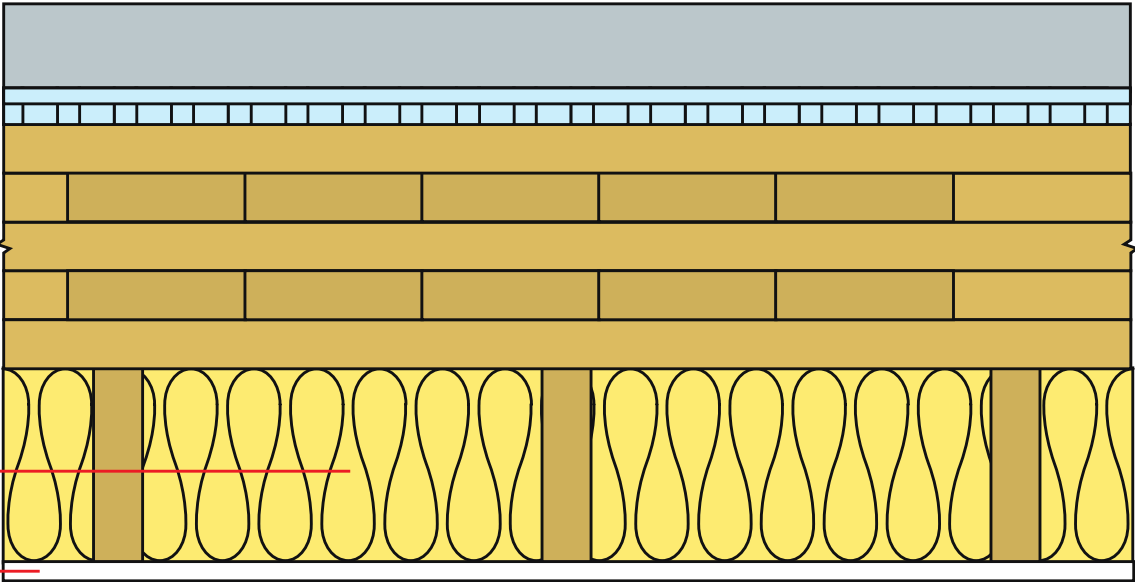
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

Option 2:

Noncombustible insulation

Dropped ceiling



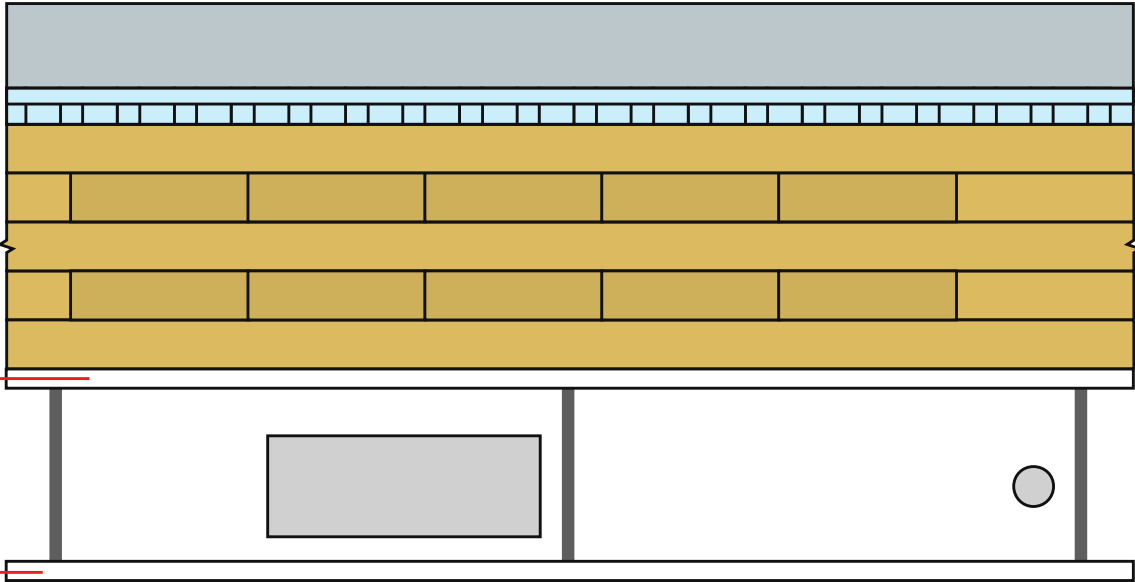
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

### Option 3:

5/8" Type X gypsum on all mass timber surfaces within concealed space

Dropped ceiling



# Construction Types

## Concealed spaces solutions paper



### Concealed Spaces in Mass Timber and Heavy Timber Structures

Concealed spaces, such as those created by a dropped ceiling in a floor/ceiling assembly or by a stud wall assembly, have unique requirements in the International Building Code (IBC) to address the potential of fire spread in non-visible areas of a building. Section 718 of the 2018 IBC includes prescriptive requirements for protection and/or compartmentalization of concealed spaces through the use of draft stopping, fire blocking, sprinklers and other means. For information on these requirements, see the WoodWorks Q&A, *Are sprinklers required in concealed spaces such as floor and roof cavities in multi-family wood-frame buildings?*

For mass timber building elements, the choice of construction type can have a significant impact on concealed space requirements. Because mass timber products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) are prescriptively recognized for Type IV construction, there is a common misperception that exposed mass timber building elements cannot be used or exposed in other construction types. This is not the case.

In addition to Type IV buildings, structural mass timber elements—including CLT, glue-laminated timber (glulam), nail-laminated timber (NLT), structural composite lumber (SCL), and tongue-and-groove (T&G) decking—can be utilized and exposed in the following construction types, whether or not a fire-resistance rating is required:

- **Type III** – Floors, roofs and interior walls may be any material permitted by code, including mass timber; exterior walls are required to be noncombustible or fire retardant-treated wood.
- **Type V** – Floors, roofs, interior walls and exterior walls (i.e., the entire structure) may be constructed of mass timber.
- **Types I and II** – Mass timber may be used in select circumstances such as roof construction—including the primary frame in the 2021 IBC—in Types I-B, II-A or II-B; exterior columns and arches when 20 feet or more of horizontal separation is provided; and balconies, canopies and similar projections.



The John W. Olver Design Building at UMass Amherst includes exposed wood structure in some areas and dropped ceilings in others. Architect: Leers Weinzapfel Associates



[https://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood\\_solution\\_paper-Concealed\\_Spaces\\_Timber\\_Structures.pdf](https://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-Concealed_Spaces_Timber_Structures.pdf)



# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type V: All interior elements, roofs & exterior walls



Image: Christian Columbres Photography

# Construction Types

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Type III: 6 stories

Allowable mass  
timber building size  
for group B  
occupancy with  
NFPA 13 Sprinkler



Credit: Ema Peter

Type IV: 6 stories

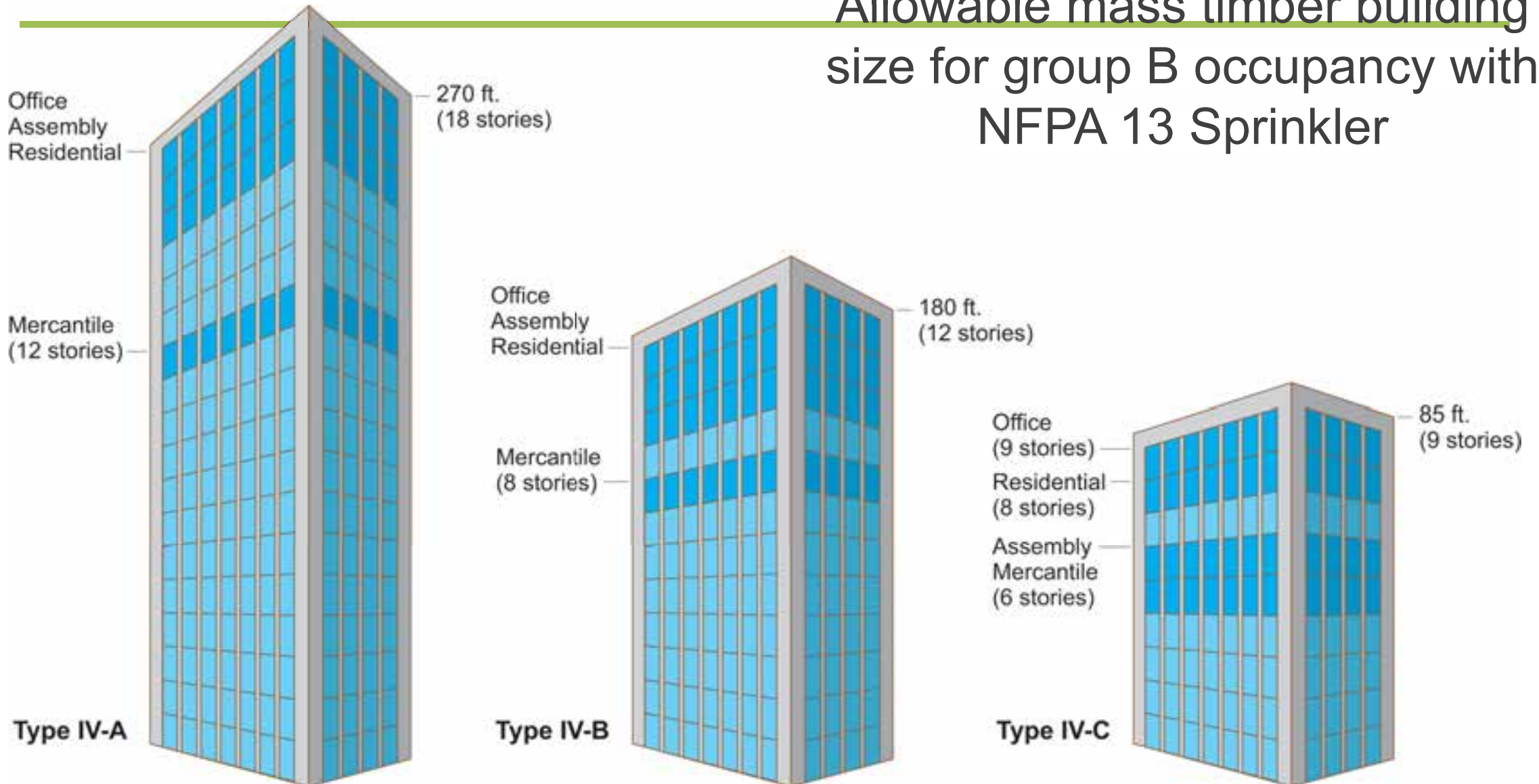


Credit: Christian Columbres Photography

Type V: 4 stories

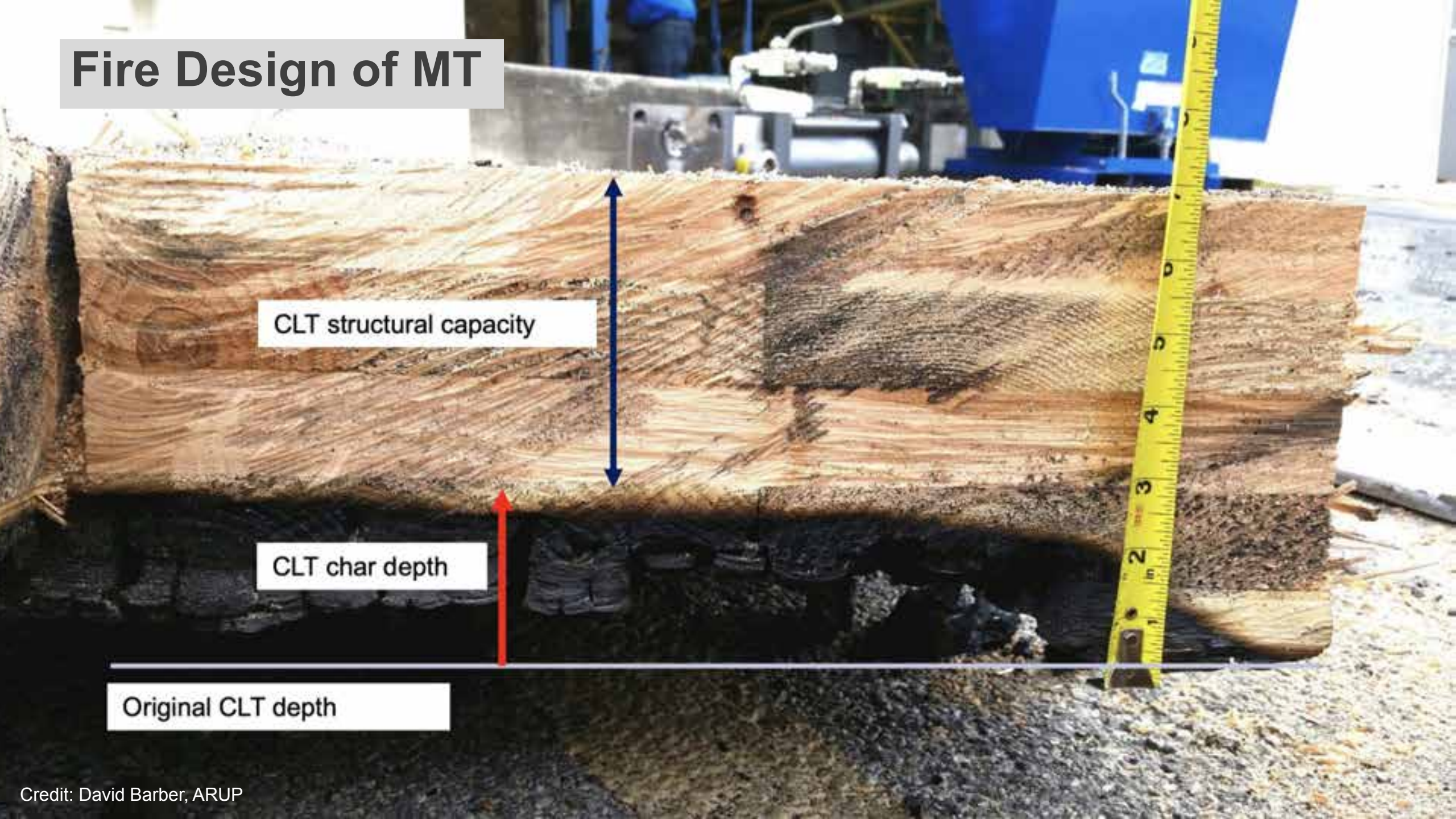
# Construction Types

New Options in 2021 IBC  
Allowable mass timber building  
size for group B occupancy with  
NFPA 13 Sprinkler





# Fire Design of MT



CLT structural capacity

CLT char depth

Original CLT depth



# Key Early Design Decisions

Construction type influences FRR

**TABLE 601**  
**FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)**

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	HT	1	0
Bearing walls									
Exterior <sup>e, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	1/HT	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions					See Table 602				
Exterior									
Nonbearing walls and partitions							See Section 602.4.6		
Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary members (see Section 202)	1½ <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0

Source: 2018 IBC

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction type influences FRR

- Type IV-HT Construction (minimum sizes)
- Other than type IV-HT: Demonstrated fire resistance

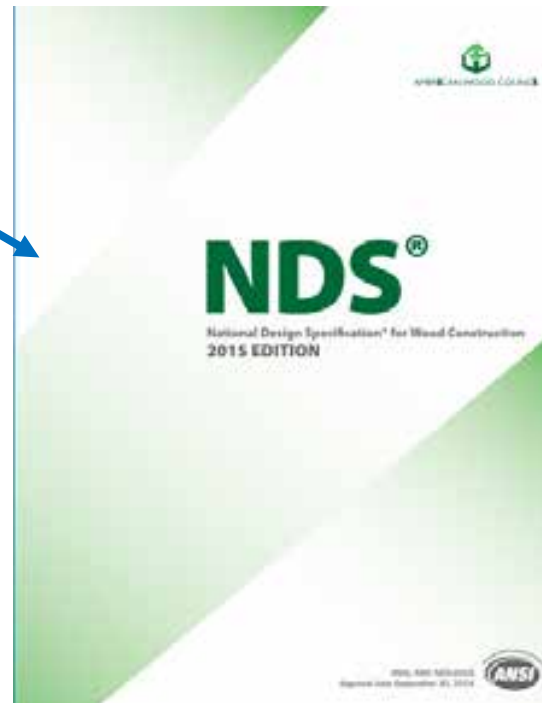
Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing)  
can impact member sizing





# FRR Design of MT

## Calculated FRR of Exposed MT: IBC to NDS code compliance path



### IBC 703.3

#### Methods for determining fire resistance

- Prescriptive designs per IBC 721.1
- **Calculations in accordance with IBC 722**
- Fire-resistance designs documented in sources
- Engineering analysis based on a comparison
- Alternate protection methods as allowed by 104.11



### IBC 722

#### Calculated Fire Resistance

"The calculated *fire resistance* of exposed wood members and wood decking shall be permitted in accordance with **Chapter 16 of ANSI/AWC National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS)**"

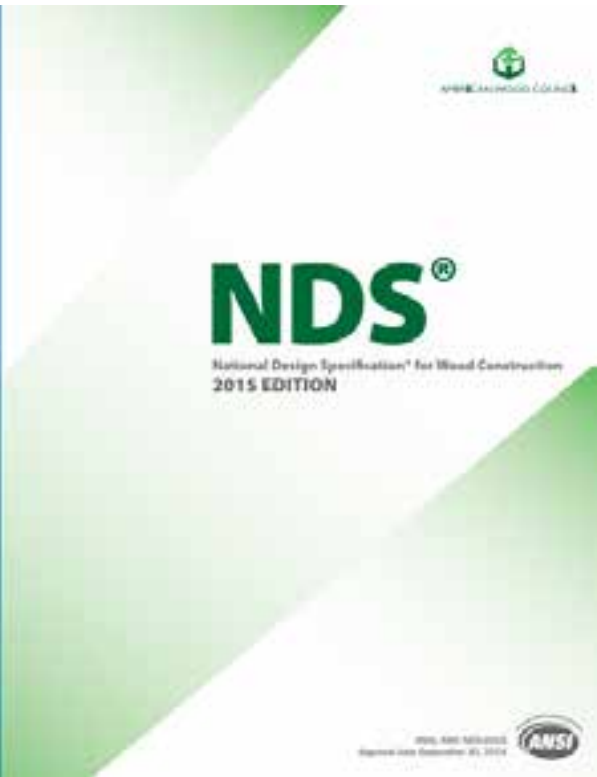


### NDS Chapter 16

#### Fire Design of Wood Members

- Limited to calculating fire resistance up to 2 hours
- Char depth varies based on exposure time (i.e., fire-resistance rating), product type and lamination thickness. Equations and tables are provided.
- TR 10 and NDS commentary are helpful in implementing permitted calculations.

# FRR Design of MT



NDS Chapter 16 includes calculation of fire resistance of NLT, CLT, Glulam, Solid Sawn and SCL wood products

**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n=1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{char}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{lam}$ (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6



# FRR Design of MT

NDS Table 16.2.2 Design stress adjustment factors applied to adjust to average ultimate strength under fire design conditions

**Table 16.2.2 Adjustment Factors for Fire Design<sup>1</sup>**

			ASD					
			Design Stress to Member Strength Factor	Size Factor <sup>2</sup>	Volume Factor <sup>2</sup>	Flat Use Factor <sup>2</sup>	Beam Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>	Column Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>
Bending Strength	F <sub>b</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	C <sub>V</sub>	C <sub>fu</sub>	C <sub>L</sub>	-
Beam Buckling Strength	F <sub>bE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-
Tensile Strength	F <sub>t</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	-
Compressive Strength	F <sub>c</sub>	x	2.58	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	C <sub>P</sub>
Column Buckling Strength	F <sub>cE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-

1. See 4.3, 5.3, 8.3, and 10.3 for applicability of adjustment factors for specific products.

2. Factor shall be based on initial cross-section dimensions.

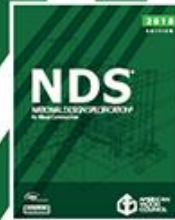
3. Factor shall be based on reduced cross-section dimensions.

Source: AWC's NDS



# FRR Design of MT

AWC's TR10 is a technical design guide, aids in the use of NDS  
Chapter 16 calculations



Calculating the  
Fire Resistance of  
Wood Members  
and Assemblies

Technical Report No. 10



## Example 5: Exposed CLT Floor - Allowable Stress Design

Simply-supported cross-laminated timber (CLT) floor spanning  $L=18$  ft in the strong-axis direction. The design loads are  $q_{live}=80$  psf and  $q_{dead}=30$  psf including estimated self-weight of the CLT panel. Floor decking, nailed to the unexposed face of CLT panel, is spaced to restrict hot gases from venting through half-lap joints at edges of CLT panel sections. Calculate the required section dimensions for a 1-hour structural fire resistance time when subjected to an ASTM E119 fire exposure.

For the structural design of the CLT panel, calculate the maximum induced moment.

Calculate panel load (per foot of width):

$$W_{load} = (q_{dead} + q_{live}) = (30 \text{ psf} + 80 \text{ psf})(1 \text{ ft width}) = 110 \text{ plf/ft of width}$$

Calculate maximum induced moment (per foot of width):

$$M_{max} = W_{load} L^2 / 8 = (110)(18^2)/8 = 4,455 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width}$$

From PRG 320, select a 5-ply CLT floor panel made from 1-3/8 in x 3-1/2 in. lumber boards (CLT thickness of 6-7/8 inches). For CLT grade V2, tabulated properties are:

$$\text{Bending moment, } F_b S_{eff,0} = 4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width} \quad (\text{PRG 320 Annex A, Table A2})$$

Calculate the allowable design moment (assuming  $C_D=1.0$ ;  $C_M=1.0$ ;  $C_t=1.0$ ;  $C_L=1.0$ )

$$M_s' = F_b(S_{eff})(C_D)(C_M)(C_t)(C_L) = 4,675 (1.0)(1.0)(1.0) = 4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width} \quad (\text{NDS 10.3.1})$$

$$\text{Structural Check:} \quad M_s' \geq M_{max} \quad 4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft} > 4,455 \text{ ft-lb/ft} \quad \checkmark$$

(note: serviceability check is not performed to simplify the design example, but should be done in typical structural design).

# FRR Design of MT

## WoodWorks Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies



CLT Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Major x Minor Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.49 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5 E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 30% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105mm 4.13 in)	Structulam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under J-channels and furring strips with 5 1/8" dimensional joists	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	3	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	None	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	3	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 1/8" Joists with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between joists	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structulam	E1 M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 30% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structulam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (245mm 9.65")	Structulam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% Moment Capacity	2.5	1 (Test 7)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	SL-V4	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 9d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 4)	Western Fire Center 10/26/2016
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	V1	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 9d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 3)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 9d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	KIH	CVDM1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI

# FRR Design of MT



## Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McCann, P.E., S.E. • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks  
Scott Zimmerman, P.E., S.E. • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks

For many years, exposed heavy timber framing elements have been permitted in U.S. buildings due to their inherent fire-resistance properties. The predictability of wood's char rate has been well-established for decades and has long been recognized in building codes and standards.

Today, one of the exciting trends in building design is the growing use of mass timber—i.e., large solid wood panel products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT)—for floor, wall and roof construction. Like heavy timber, mass timber products have inherent fire resistance that allows them to be left exposed and still achieve a fire-resistance rating. Because of their strength and dimensional stability, these products also offer a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. It is this combination of exposed structure and strength that developers and designers across the country

are leveraging to create innovative designs with a warm yet modern aesthetic, often for projects that go beyond traditional norms of wood design.

This paper has been written to support architects and engineers exploring the use of mass timber for commercial and multi-family construction. It focuses on how to meet fire-resistance requirements in the International Building Code (IBC), including calculation and testing-based methods. Unless otherwise noted, references refer to the 2018 IBC.

### Mass Timber & Construction Type

Before demonstrating fire-resistance ratings of exposed mass timber elements, it's important to understand under what circumstances the code currently allows the use of mass timber in commercial and multi-family construction.

A building's assigned construction type is the main indicator of where and when all wood systems can be used. IBC Section 602 defines five main options (Type I through V) with all but Type IV having subcategories A and B. Types III and V permit the use of wood framing throughout much of the structure and both are used extensively for modern mass timber buildings.

**Type III (IBC 602.3)** – Timber elements can be used in floors, roofs and interior walls. Fire-retardant-treated wood (FRTTW) framing is permitted in exterior walls with a fire-resistance rating of 2 hours or less.

**Type V (IBC 602.5)** – Timber elements can be used throughout the structure, including floors, roofs and both interior and exterior walls.

**Type IV (IBC 602.4)** – Commonly referred to as "Heavy Timber" construction, this option



Carbon12 | Portland, Oregon  
Kaiser Design | Beth Architecture  
Munz Structural Engineering

## Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Free download at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)



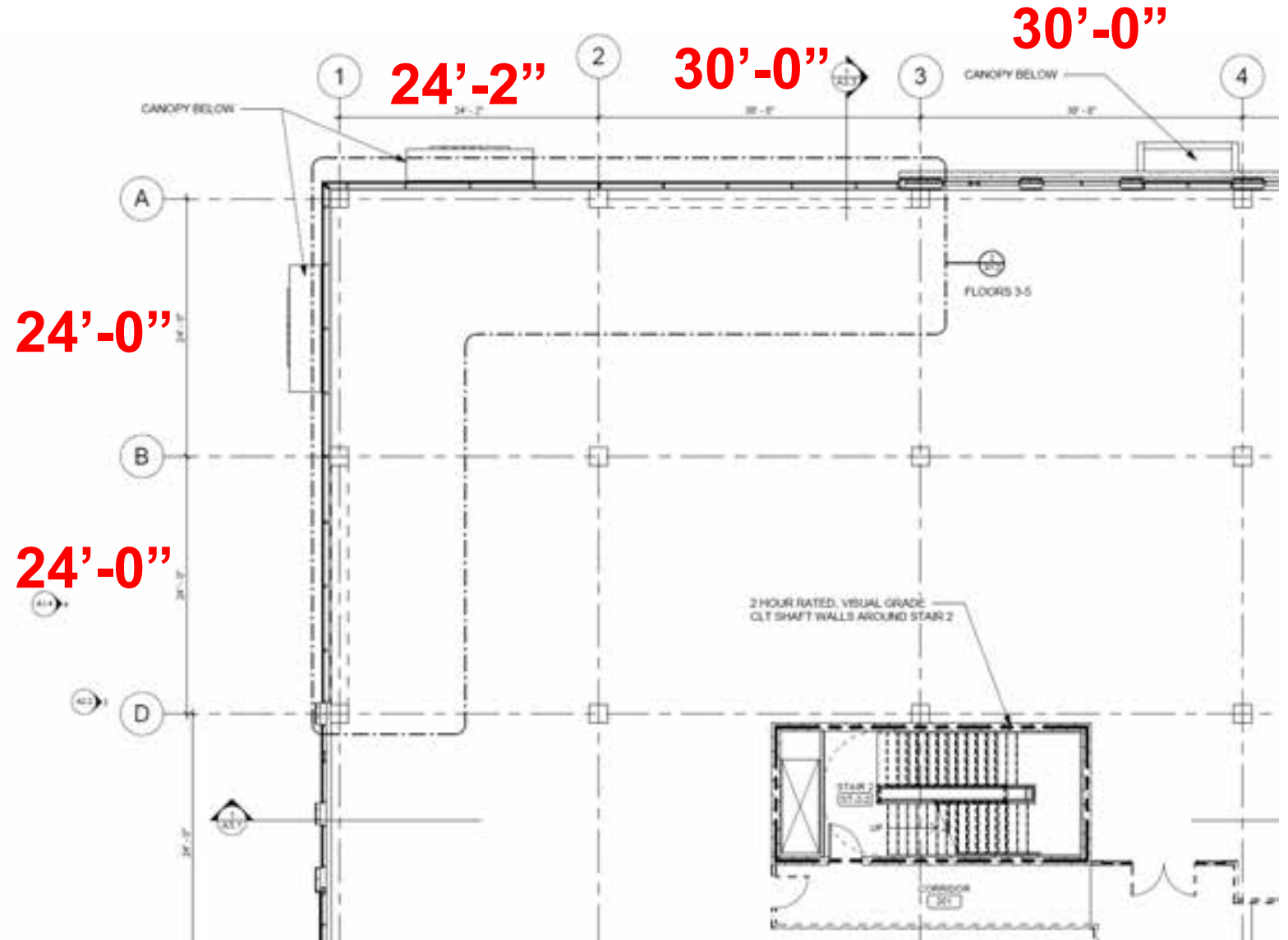
# Structural Grid



# Structural Grid

## Grids & Spans

- Consider Efficient Layouts
- Repetition & Scale
- Manufacturer Panel Sizing
- Transportation



# Structural Grid

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## Member Sizes

- Impact of FRR on Sizing
- **Impact of Sizing on Efficient Spans**
- Consider connections – can drive member sizing

## 0 HR FRR: Consider 3-ply Panel

- Efficient Spans of 10-12 ft
- Grids of 20x20 (1 purlin) to 30x30 (2 purlins) may be efficient

Albina Yard, Portland, OR  
20x20 Grid, 1 purlin per bay  
3-ply CLT  
Image: Lever Architecture





# Structural Grid

---

## Member Sizes

- Impact of FRR on Sizing
- **Impact of Sizing on Efficient Spans**
- Consider connections – can drive member sizing

## 1 or 2 HR FRR: Likely 5-ply Panel

- Efficient spans of 14-17 ft
- Grids of 15x30 (no purlins) to 30x30 (1 purlin) may be efficient

First Tech Credit Union, Hillsboro, OR  
12x32 Grid, One-Way Beams  
5-ply (5.5") CLT  
Image: Swinerton



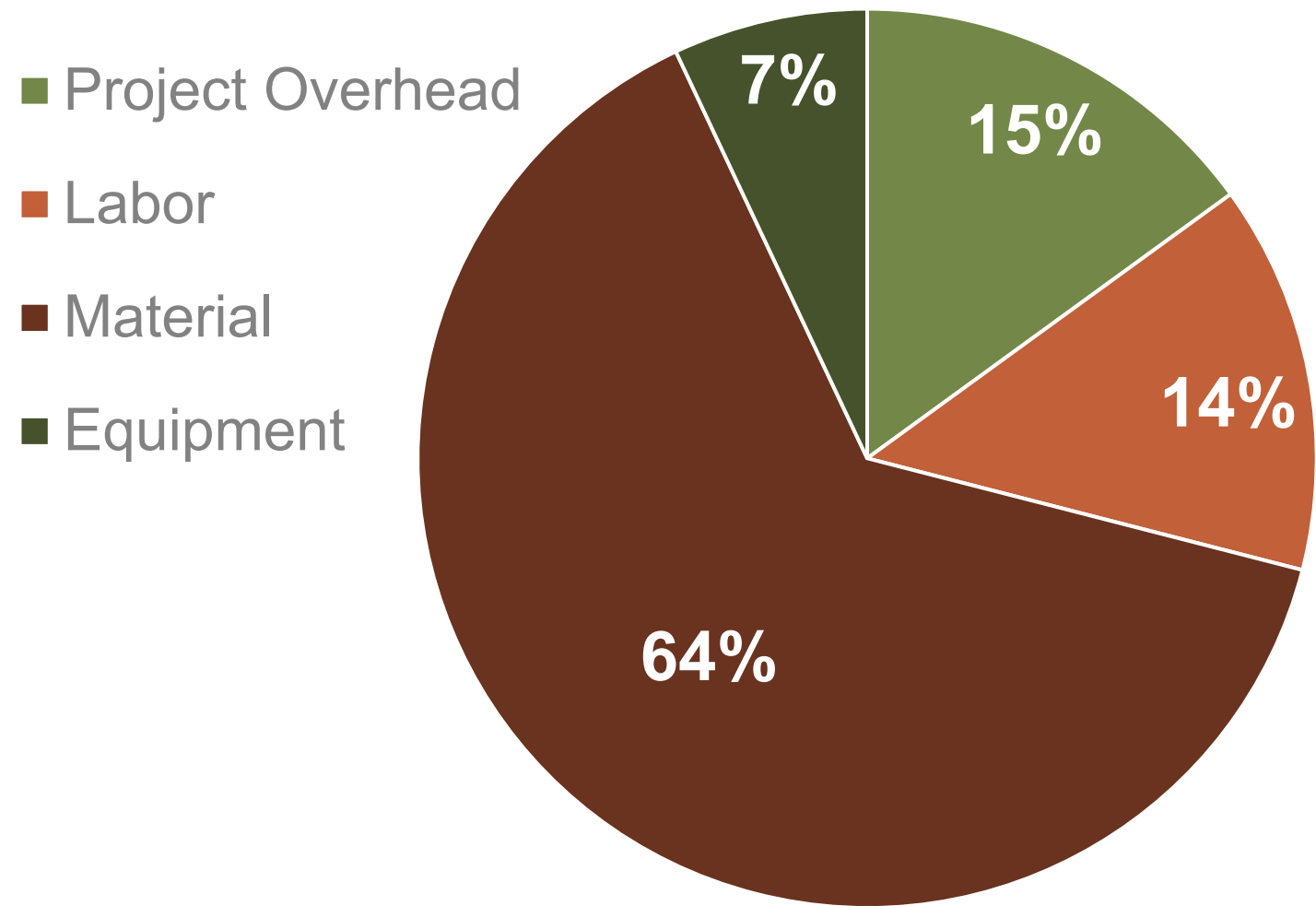
# Key Early Design Decisions

**Why so much focus on panel thickness?**



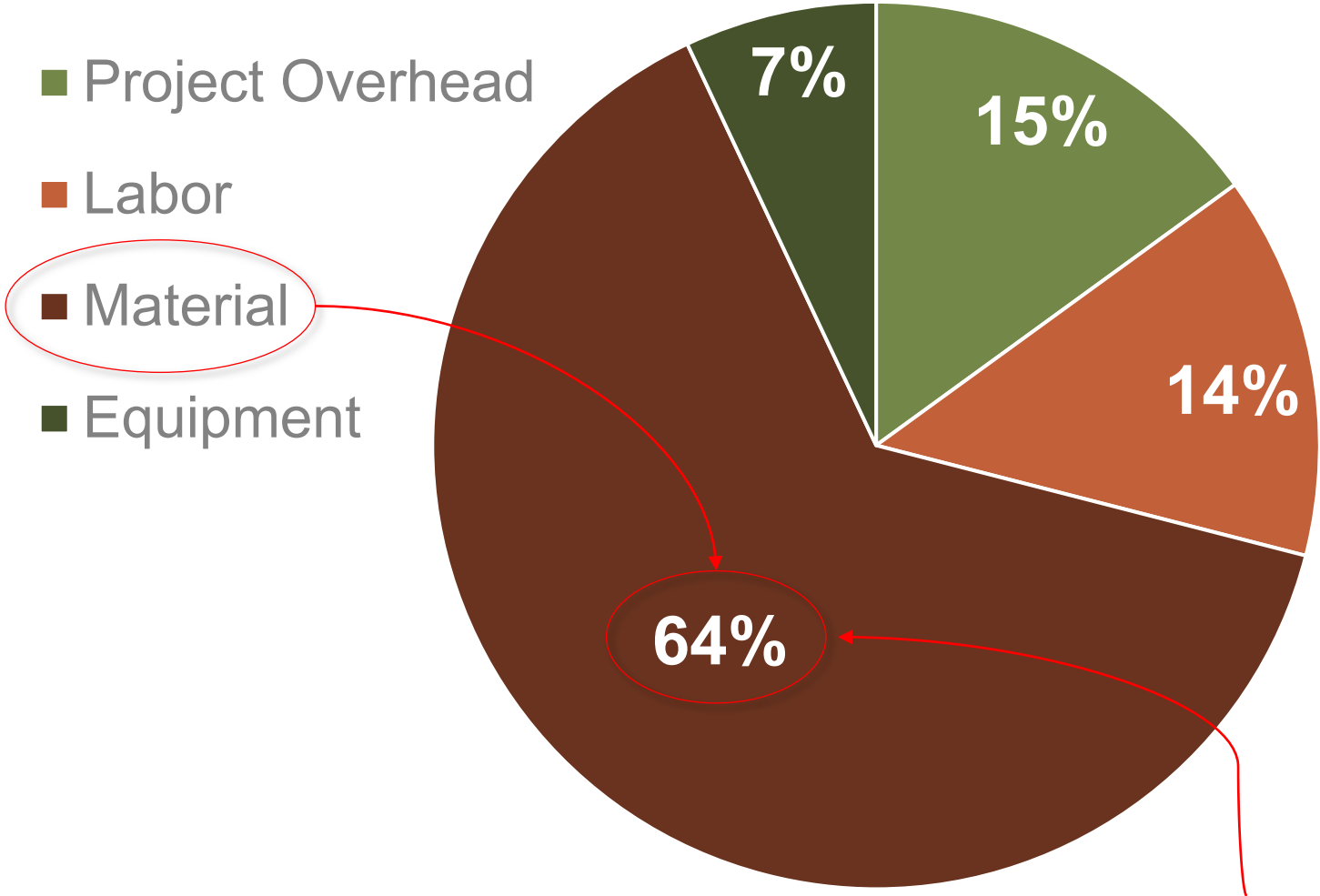
# Key Early Design Decisions

## Typical MT Package Costs





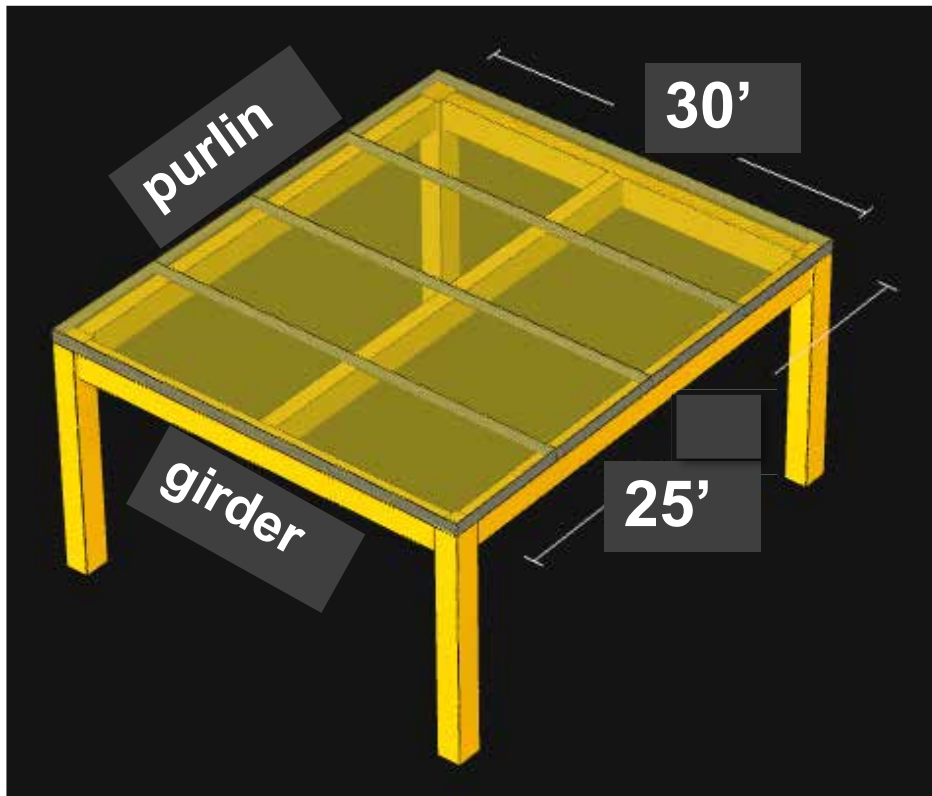
# Key Early Design Decisions



**Panels are the biggest part of the biggest piece of the cost pie**

# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IIIA option 1

1-hr FRR

Purlin: 5.5"x28.5"

Girder: 8.75"x33"

Column: 10.5"x10.75"

Floor panel: 5-ply

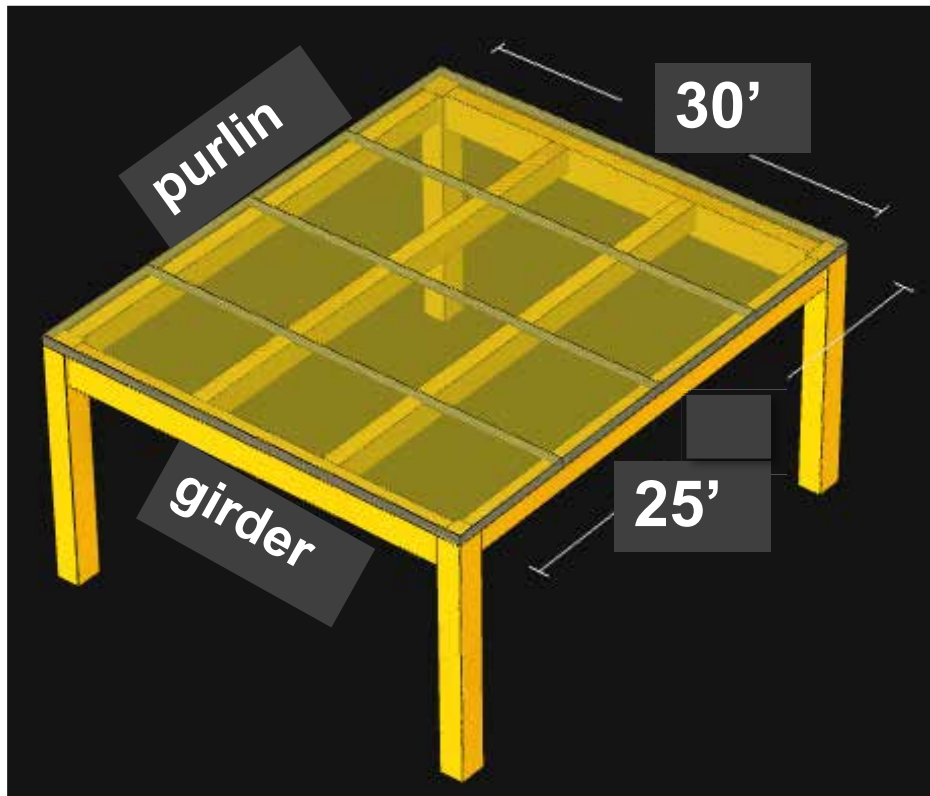
Glulam volume = 118 CF (22% of MT)

CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

Total volume = 0.73 CF / SF

# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IIIA option 2

1-hr FRR

Purlin: 5.5"x24"

Girder: 8.75"x33"

Column: 10.5"x10.75"

Floor panel: 5-ply

Glulam volume = 123 CF (22% of MT)

CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

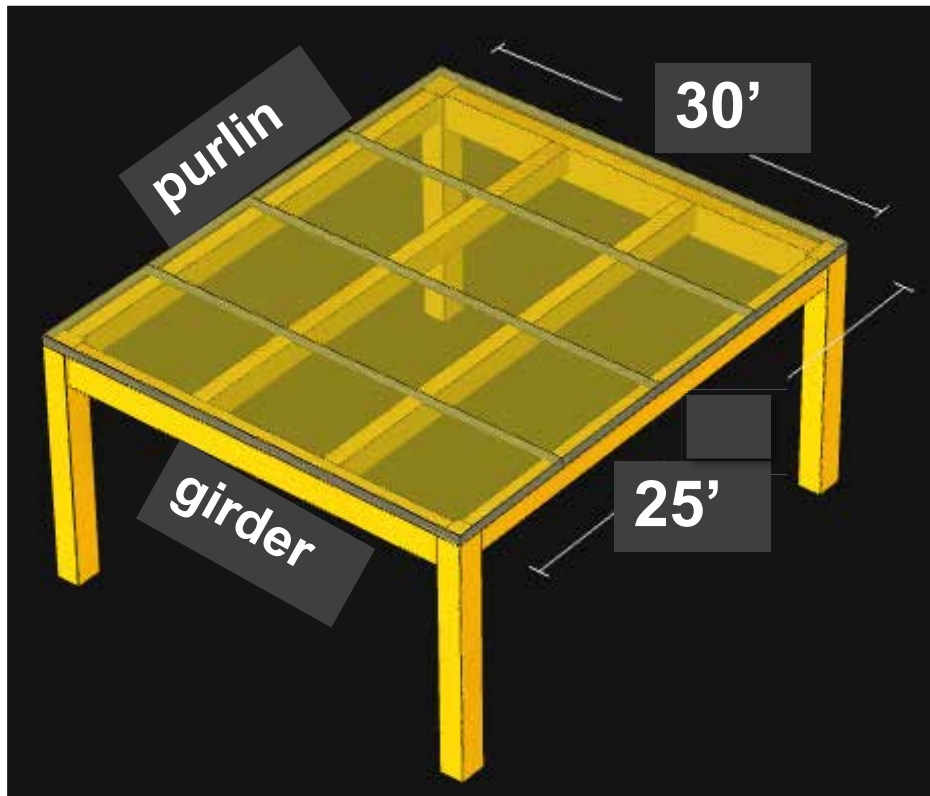
Total volume = 0.74 CF / SF

Cost considerations: One additional beam (one additional erection pick), 2 more connections



# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IV-HT

0-hr FRR (min sizes per IBC)

Purlin: 5.5"x24" (IBC min = 5"x10.5")

Girder: 8.75"x33" (IBC min = 5"x10.5")

Column: 10.5"x10.75" (IBC min = 6.75"x8.25")

Floor panel: 3-ply (IBC min = 4" CLT)

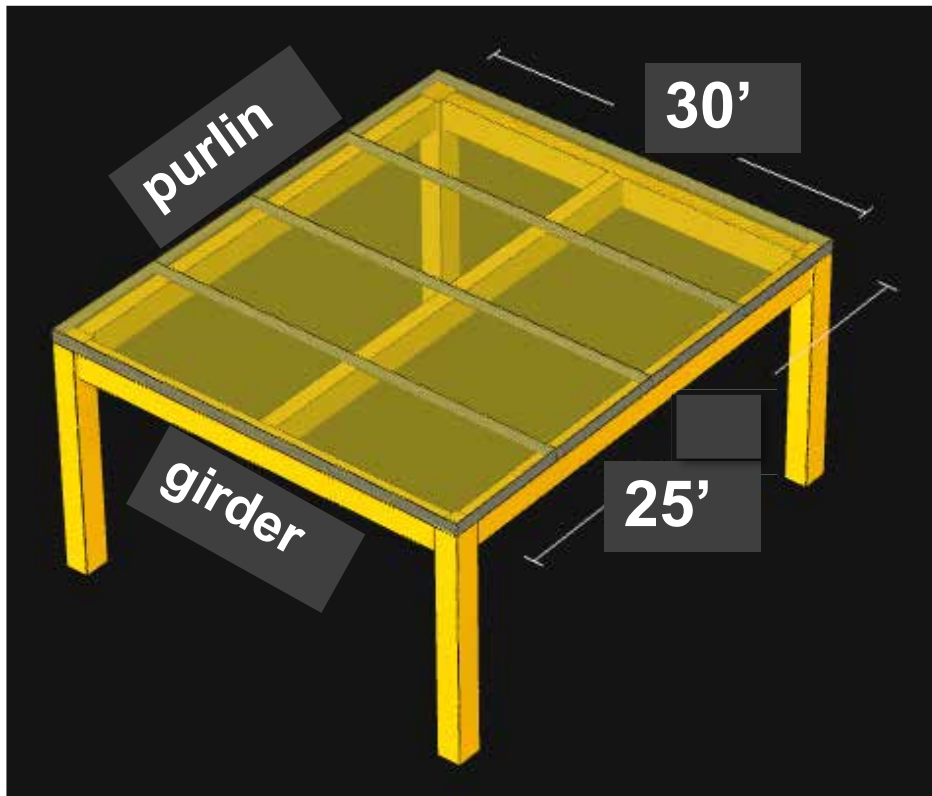
Glulam volume = 120 CF (32% of MT)

CLT volume = 258 CF (68% of MT)

Total volume = 0.51 CF / SF

# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



## Type IV-C

2-hr FRR

Purlin: 8.75"x28.5"

Girder: 10.75"x33"

Column: 13.5"x21.5"

Floor panel: 5-ply

Glulam volume = 183 CF (30% of MT)

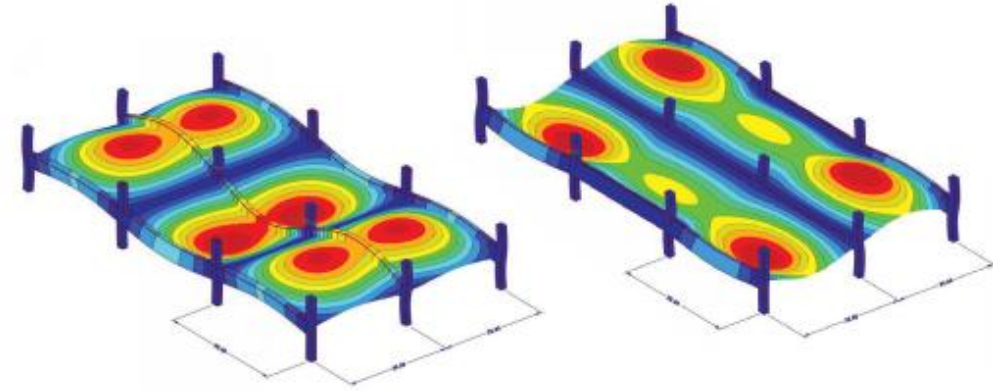
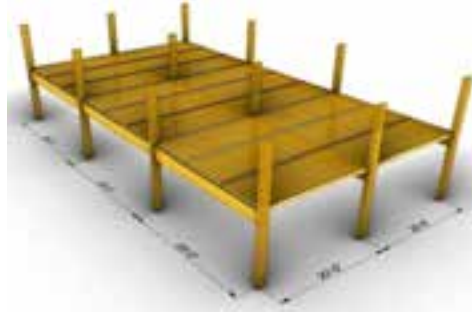
CLT volume = 430 CF (70% of MT)

Total volume = 0.82 CF / SF

Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

# Key Early Design Decisions

## NEW MASS TIMBER FLOOR VIBRATION DESIGN GUIDE



U.S. Mass Timber  
Floor Vibration

**D e s i g n   G u i d e**



**Worked office, lab  
and residential  
Examples**

***Covers simple and complex  
methods for bearing wall and  
frame supported floor systems***



# Connections



# Key Early Design Decisions

---

Many ways to demonstrate connection fire protection: calculations, prescriptive NC, test results, others as approved by AHJ

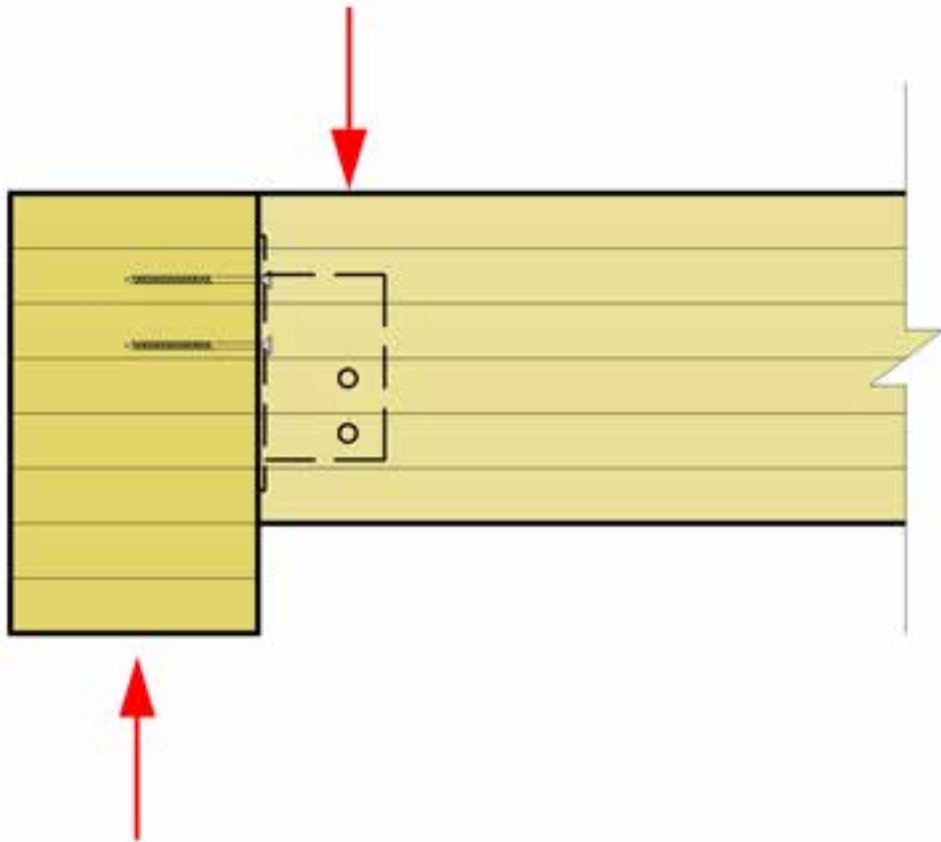




# Key Early Design Decisions

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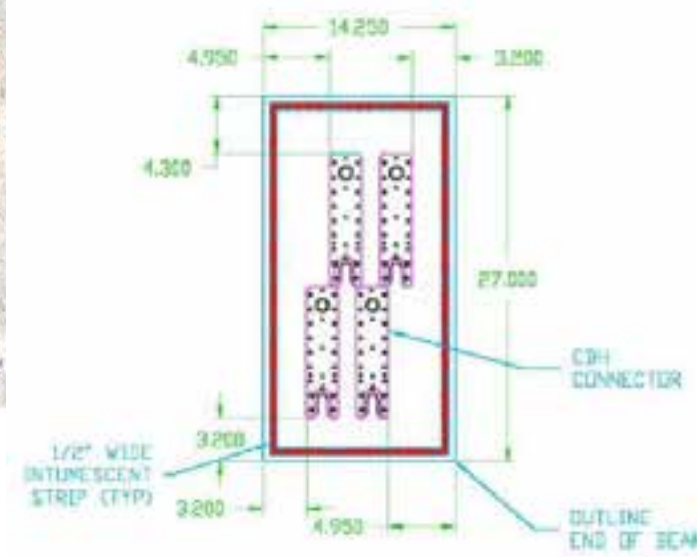
Steel hangers/hardware fully concealed within a timber-to-timber connection is a common method of fire protection





# Key Early Design Decisions

Connection FRR and beam reactions could impact required beam/column sizes



Photos: Simpson Strong-Tie

Photo: LEVER Architecture



# Key Early Design Decisions

2017 Glulam Beam to Column Connection Fire Tests under standard ASTM E119 time-temperature exposure



# Key Early Design Decisions

---

Member to member bearing also commonly used, can avoid some/all steel hardware at connection





# Key Early Design Decisions

---

Member to member bearing also commonly used, can avoid some/all steel hardware at connection



**Style of connection also impacts and is impacted by grid layout and MEP integration**



# Key Early Design Decisions



**KL&A**  
Engineers & Builders



ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN DESIGN  
INTERIOR DESIGN

**SWINERTON**  
MASS TIMBER

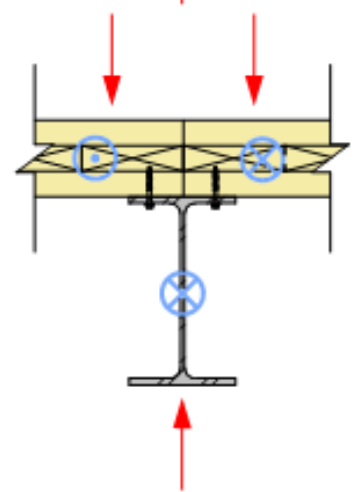
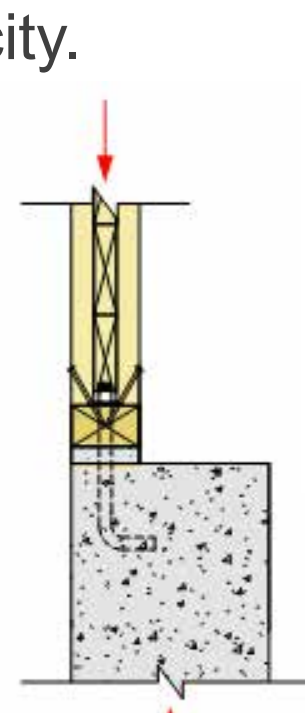
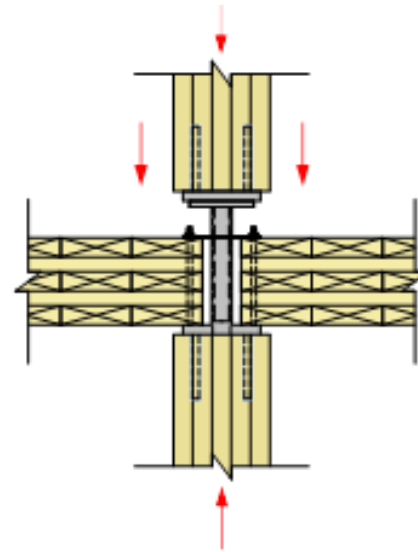


WoodWorks Index of  
Mass Timber Connections



## MASS TIMBER CONNECTIONS INDEX

A library of commonly used mass timber connections with designer notes and information on fire resistance, relative cost and load capacity.



# Connections

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## Other connection design considerations:

- Structural capacity
- Shrinkage
- Constructability
- Aesthetics
- Cost



Credit: Alex Schreyer



# Penetrations & Firestopping





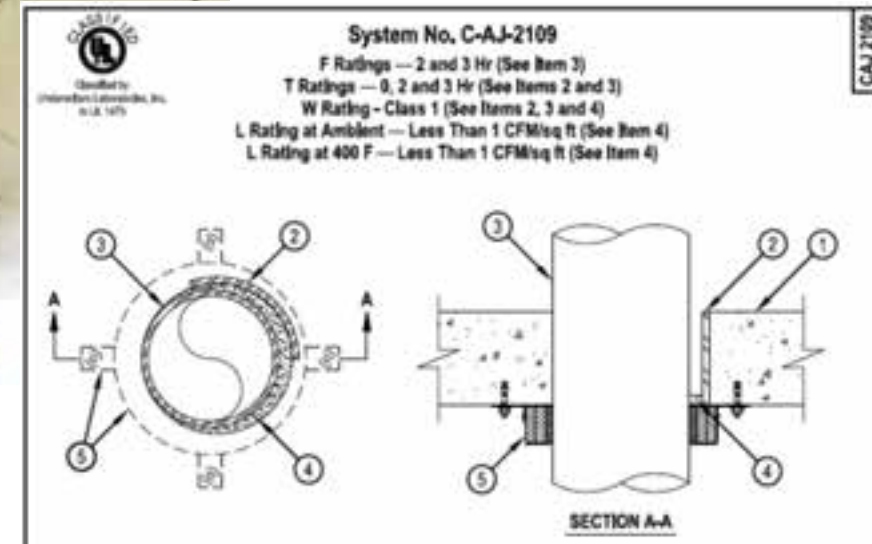
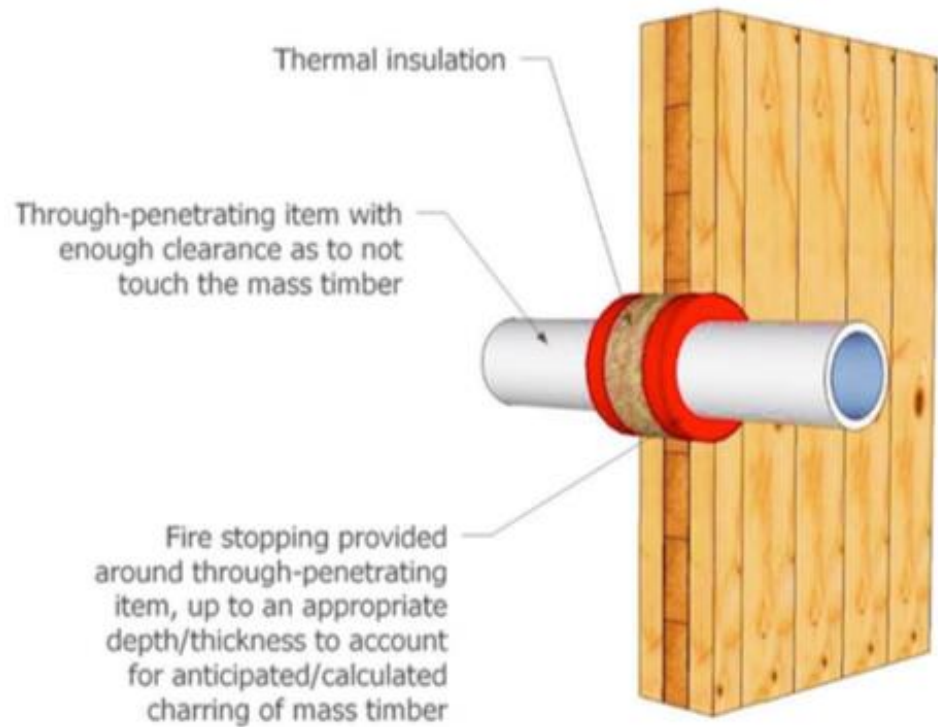
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Option 1: MT penetration firestopping via tested products



# Penetrations & Firestopping

Most firestopping systems include combination of fire safing (eg. noncombustible materials such as mineral wool insulation) plus fire caulk





# Penetrations & Firestopping

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CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DIVISION

FIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
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FAX (210) 882-3377



### FIRE RESISTANCE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF A PENETRATION FIRESTOP SYSTEM TESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM E814-13A, STANDARD TEST METHOD FOR FIRE TESTS OF PENETRATION FIRESTOP SYSTEMS

**FINAL REPORT**  
Consisting of 18 Pages

SwRI® Project No. 01.21428.01.001a  
Test Date: September 30, 2015  
Report Date: October 22, 2015

Prepared for:

American Wood Council  
222 Catoclin Circle SE  
Leesburg, VA 20175

## FIRE PERFORMANCE OF FIRESTOPS, PENETRATIONS, AND FIRE DOORS IN MASS TIMBER ASSEMBLIES

Lindsay Ranger<sup>1</sup>, Christian Dagenais<sup>1</sup>, Conroy Lum<sup>1</sup>, Tony Thomas<sup>1</sup>

**ABSTRACT:** Integrity and continuity must be maintained for fire separations required to provide fire resistance to prevent passage of hot gases or increased temperature on the unexposed side. Vulnerable locations, where penetrations are introduced into mass timber systems, are susceptible to fire spread. Service and closure penetrations through mass timber fire separation have been investigated. Many of the fire stop systems were able to achieve 1-hr fire resistance in accordance with CAN/ULC-S115, which would be required for 2-hr fire resistance rated assemblies, in tall wood buildings. Construction details are outlined which ensure adequate fire performance of these penetrations.

**KEYWORDS:** Firestop, through-penetrations, fire rated door, mass timber, cross-laminated timber, buildings, fire resistance

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Many tall wood buildings using mass timber are planned or are currently being designed for construction around the world. A few have been built in Canada, including an 18 storey cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glulam building in British Columbia. The prescriptive requirements in the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) [1] do not (yet) permit the construction of wood buildings taller than six stories, however an alternative solutions approach can be used to demonstrate equivalent performance to prescriptive acceptable solutions requiring non-combustible construction. The

construction, as well as in several alternative building designs.

Although the general fire performance of mass timber is well documented, there are still several areas that warrant further investigation to ensure that safety levels are met and a number of solutions are available for designers to use. Generating generic assemblies will reduce the need for testing completed on an individual construction which will help ease the approvals process and encourage widespread adoption of tall wood buildings.



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### FIRESTOPPING TEST WITNESS REPORT

for

**NORDIC STRUCTURES**

# Penetrations & Firestopping

## Inventory of Fire Tested Penetrations in MT Assemblies

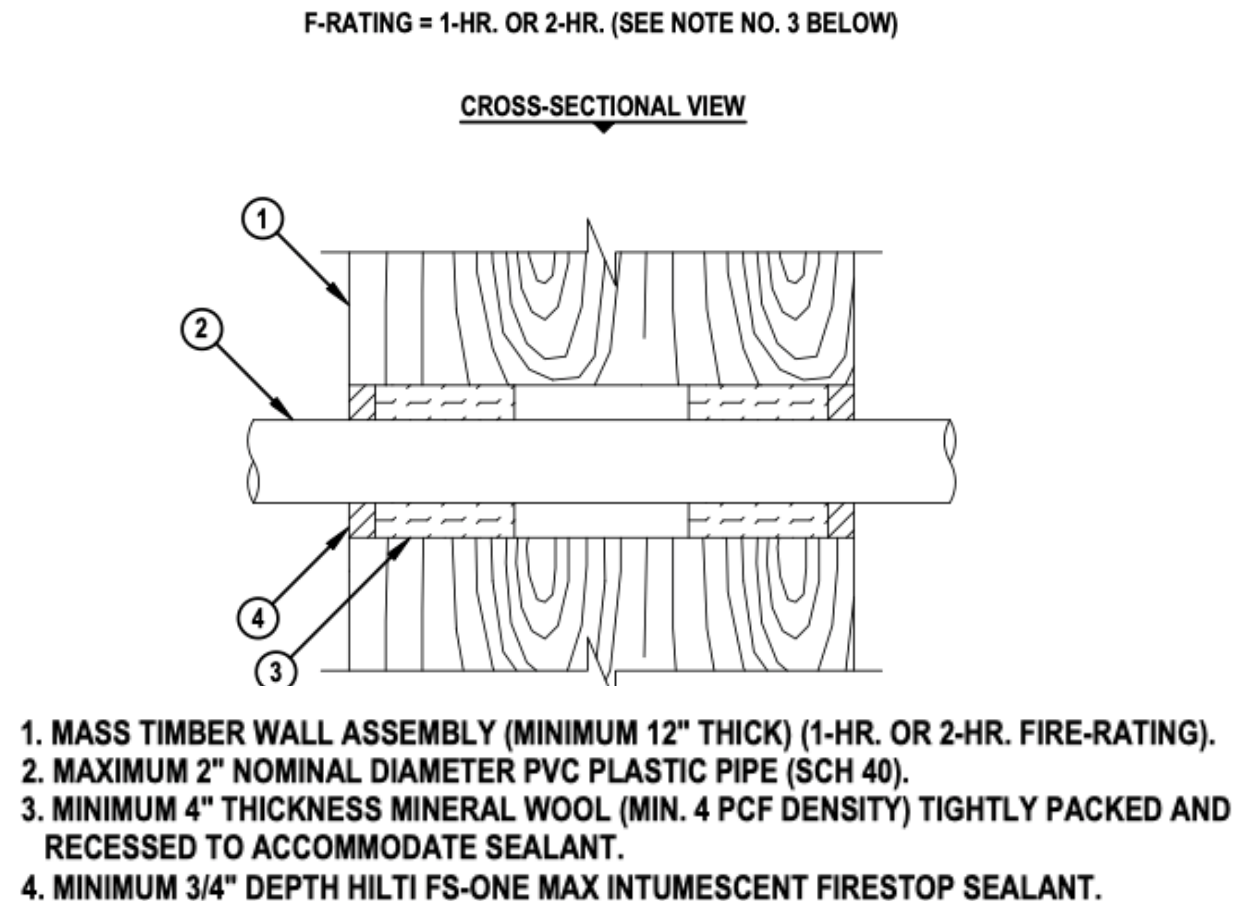
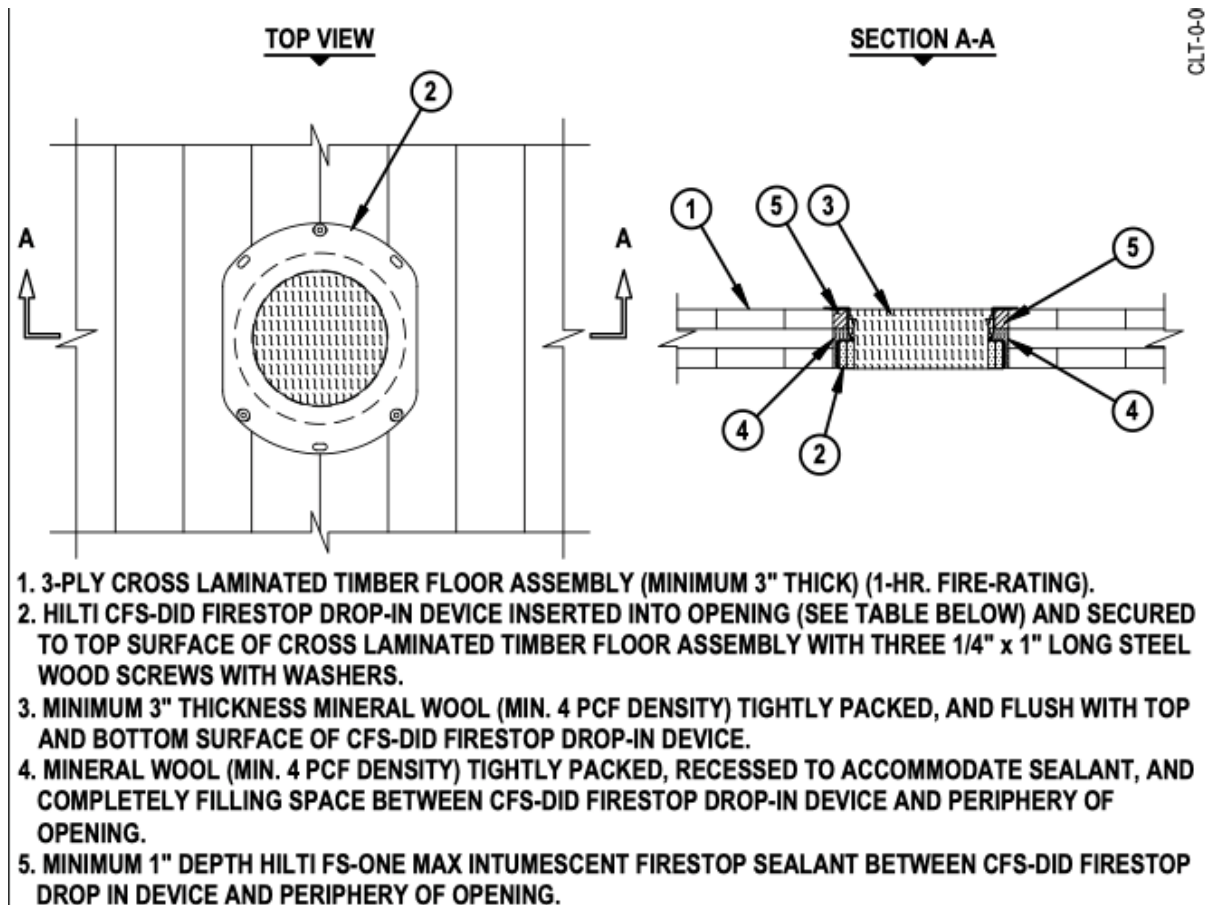


**Table 3: North American Fire Tests of Penetrations and Fire Stops in CLT Assemblies**

CLT Panel	Exposed Side Protection	Penetrating Item	Penetrant Centered or Offset in Hole	Firestopping System Description	F Rating	T Rating	Stated Test Protocol	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	1.5" diameter data cable bunch	Centered	3.5 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the data cables to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	0.5 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	2" copper pipe	Centered	4.375 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the copper pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	2.5" sched. 40 pipe	Centered	4.92 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the schedule 40 pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	6" cast iron pipe	Centered	8.35 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the cast iron pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	Hilti 6 in drop in device, System No.: F-B-2049	Centered	9.01" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 – 1/4 in. annular space around the drop-in device to a total depth of approximately 1 – 7/64 in and the remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top edge of the 9 – 1/64 in. hole in the CLT was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	0.75 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	1.5" diameter data cable bunch	Centered	3.5" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the data cables to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	1.5 hours	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	2" copper pipe	Centered	4.375 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the copper pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	2.5" sched. 40 pipe	Centered	4.92 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the schedule 40 pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	0.5 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	6" cast iron pipe	Centered	8.35 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the cast iron pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	Hilti 6 in drop in device, System No.: F-B-2049	Centered	9.01" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 – 1/4 in. annular space around the drop-in device to a total depth of approximately 1 – 7/64 in and the remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top edge of the 9 – 1/64 in. hole in the CLT was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	1.5 hours	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	1" nominal PVC pipe	Centered	4.21 in diameter with a 3/4 in plywood reducer flush with the top of the slab reducing the opening to 2.28 in. Two wraps of Hilti CP 648-E W4 5/1-3/4" Firestop wrap strip at two locations with a 30 gauge steel sleeve which extended from the top of the slab to 1 in below the slab. The first location was with the bottom of the wrap strip flush with the bottom of the steel sleeve and the second was with the bottom of the wrap strip 3 in. from the bottom of the slab. The void between the steel sleeve and the CLT and between the steel sleeve and pipe at the top was filled with Roxul Safe mineral wool leaving a 3/4 in deep void at the top of the assembly. Hilti FS-One Max Intumescent Firestop Sealant was applied to a depth of 3/4 in on the top of the assembly between the plywood and steel sleeve as well as the steel sleeve and pipe.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	24	QAI Laboratories March 3, 2017

# Penetrations & Firestopping

Option 2: MT penetration firestopping of penetrations via engineering judgement details (contact firestop manufacturer)

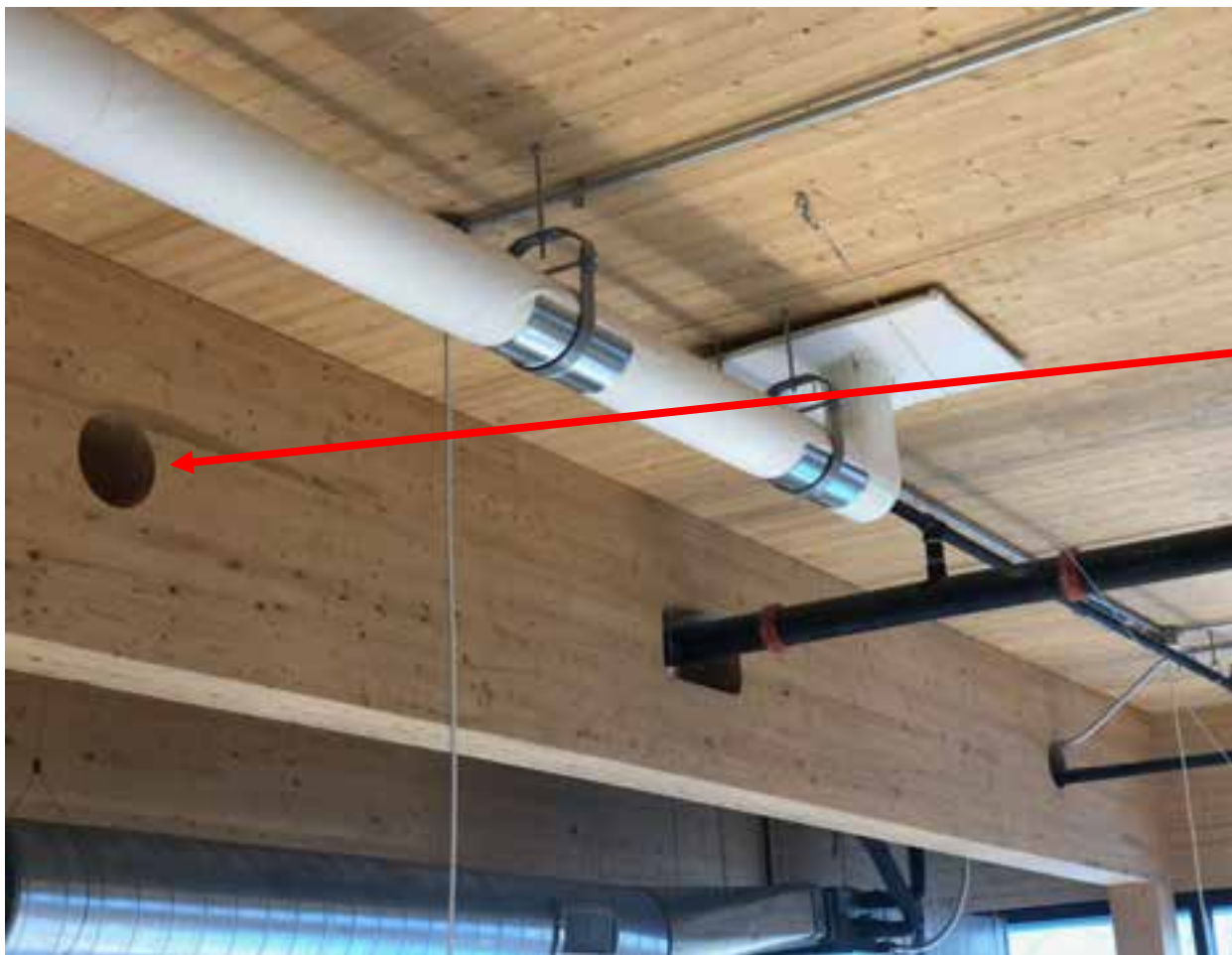




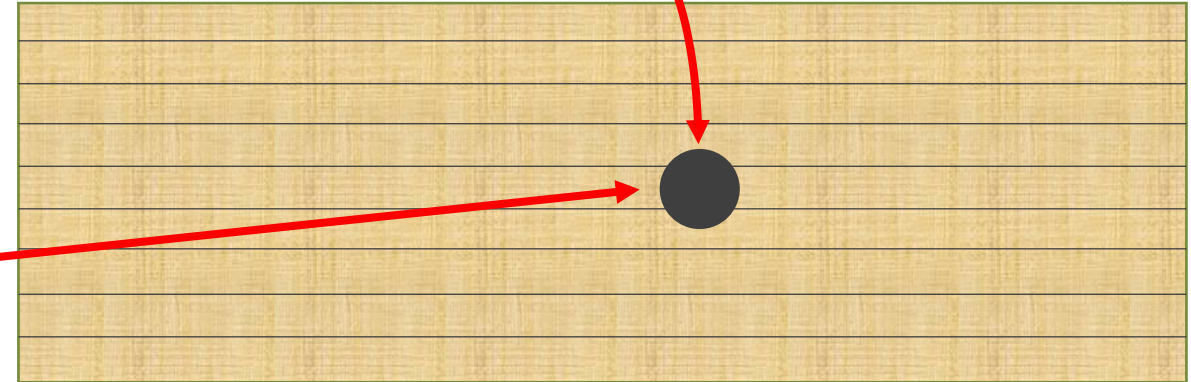
# Penetrations & Firestopping

## Beam penetrations:

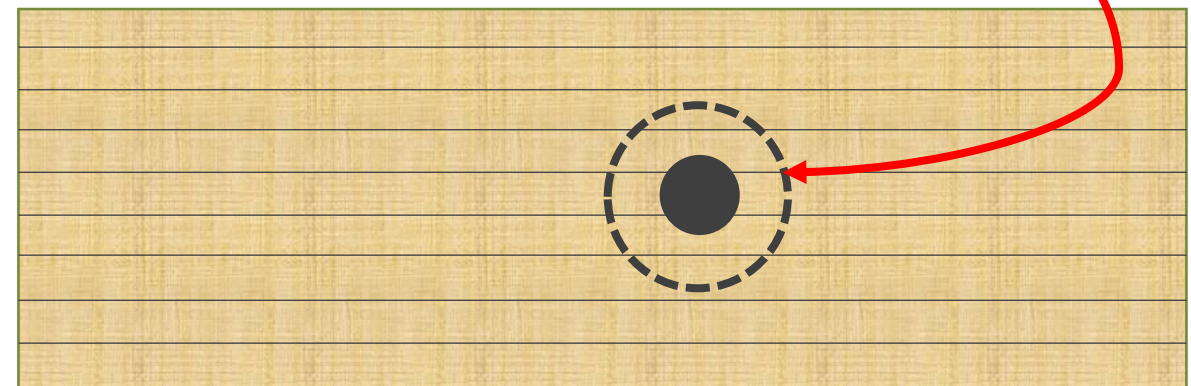
- If FRR = 0-hr, analyze structural impact of hole diameter only
- If FRR > 0-hr, account for charred hole diameter or firestop penetration



Hole diameter



Hole diameter after 1-hr char



# MEP Layout & Integration





# MEP Layout & Integration

Set Realistic Owner Expectations About Aesthetics

- MEP fully exposed with MT structure, or limited exposure?





# MEP Layout & Integration

---

## Key considerations:

- Level of exposure desired
- Floor to floor, structure depth & desired head height
- Building occupancy and configuration (i.e. central core vs. double loaded corridor)
- Grid layout and beam orientations
- Need for future tenant reconfiguration
- Impact on fire & structural design: concealed spaces, penetrations



Credit: WoodWorks

# MEP Layout & Integration

Smaller grid bays at central core (more head height)

- Main MEP trunk lines around core, smaller branches in exterior bays



Credit: Blaine Brownell

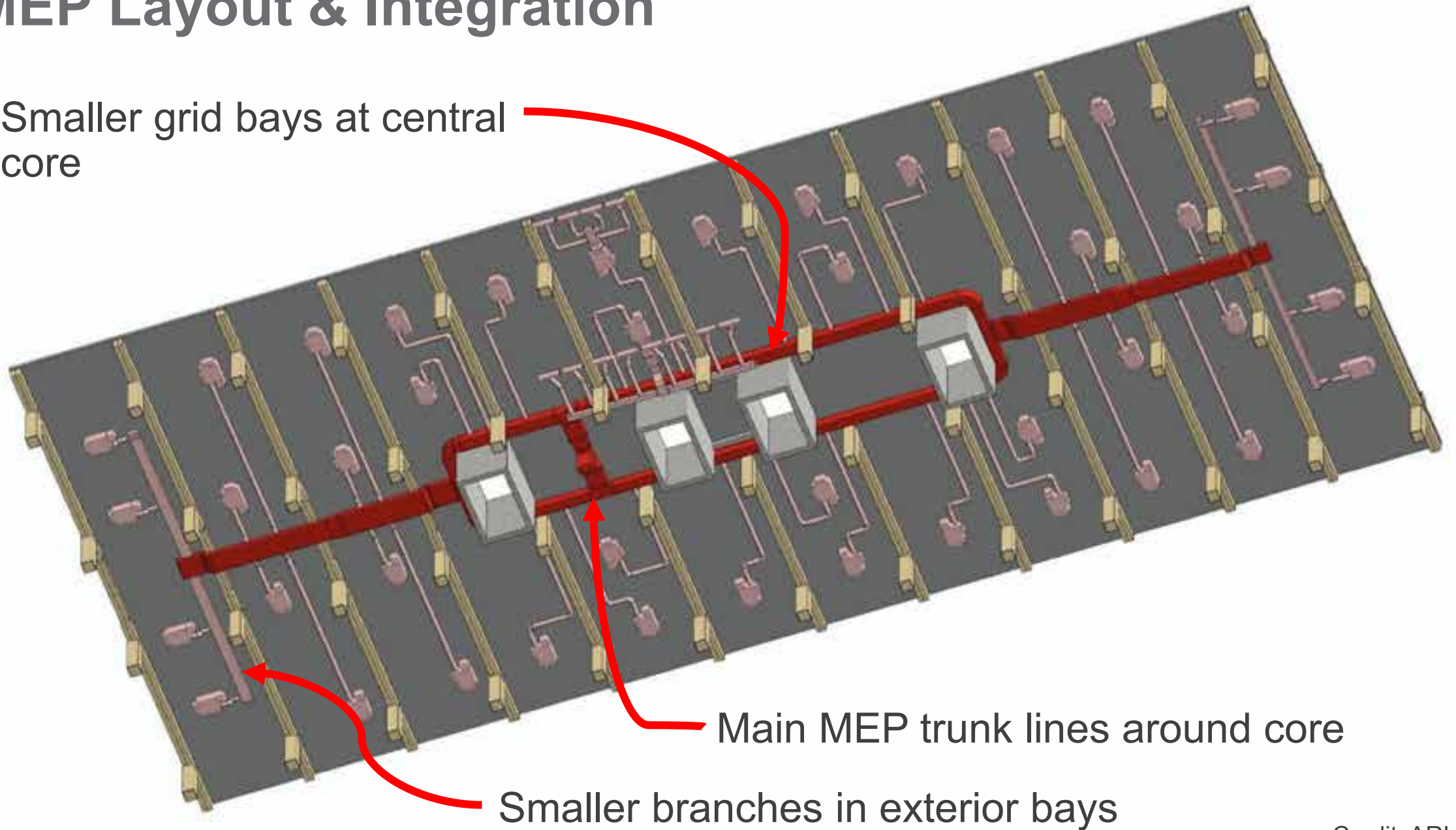


Credit: WoodWorks



# MEP Layout & Integration

Smaller grid bays at central core



Main MEP trunk lines around core

Smaller branches in exterior bays



# MEP Layout & Integration

Dropped below MT framing

- Can simplify coordination (fewer penetrations)
- Bigger impact on head height



# MEP Layout & Integration

In penetrations through MT framing

- Requires more coordination (penetrations)
- Bigger impact on structural capacity of penetrated members
- Minimal impact on head height



Credit: WoodWorks



Credit: WoodWorks



# MEP Layout & Integration

- In chases above beams and below panels at Catalyst
- 30x30 grid, 5-ply CLT ribbed beam system



Credit: Hans-Erik Blomgren





# MEP Layout & Integration

In gaps between MT panels

- Fewer penetrations, can allow for easier modifications later



Credit: Ema Peter/MGA



Credit: Hacker Architects

# MEP Layout & Integration

In gaps between MT panels

- Aesthetics: often uses ceiling panels to cover gaps



Credit: Ema Peter/MGA



# MEP Layout & Integration

- In raised access floor (RAF) above MT
- Aesthetics (minimal exposed MEP)





# MEP Layout & Integration

In topping slab above MT

- Greater need for coordination prior to slab pour
- Limitations on what can be placed (thickness of topping slab)
- No opportunity for renovations later





# Lateral System Choices & Impacts





# Lateral System Choices

## Concrete Shearwalls

---



Credit: Hacker Architects



# Lateral System Choices

Connection to concrete core

---



# Lateral System Choices

## Steel Braced Frame

---





# Lateral System Choices

## Wood-Frame Shearwalls

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Credit: KL&A Engineers & Builders



# Lateral System Choices

## Wood-frame Shearwalls:

---

- Code compliance
- Standard of construction practice well known
- Limited to 65 ft shearwall height, 85 ft overall building height (Type IIIA construction)



Credit: Jeremy Bittermann & Kaiser + Path





# Lateral System Choices

## MT Shearwalls



Photo: Alex Schreyer



# Lateral System Choices

## Timber Braced Frame

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Credit: Alex Schreyer



# Acoustics & Sound Control

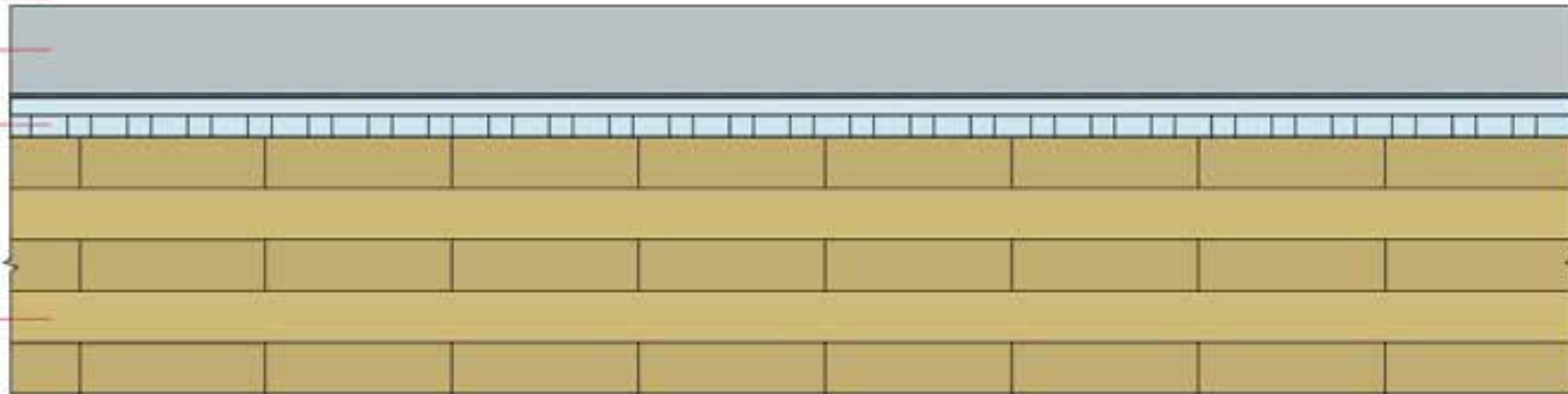


# Acoustics & Sound Control



Images: Maxxon

- Finish Floor if Applicable
- Concrete/Gypsum Topping
- Acoustical Mat Product
- CLT Panel
- No direct applied or hung ceiling

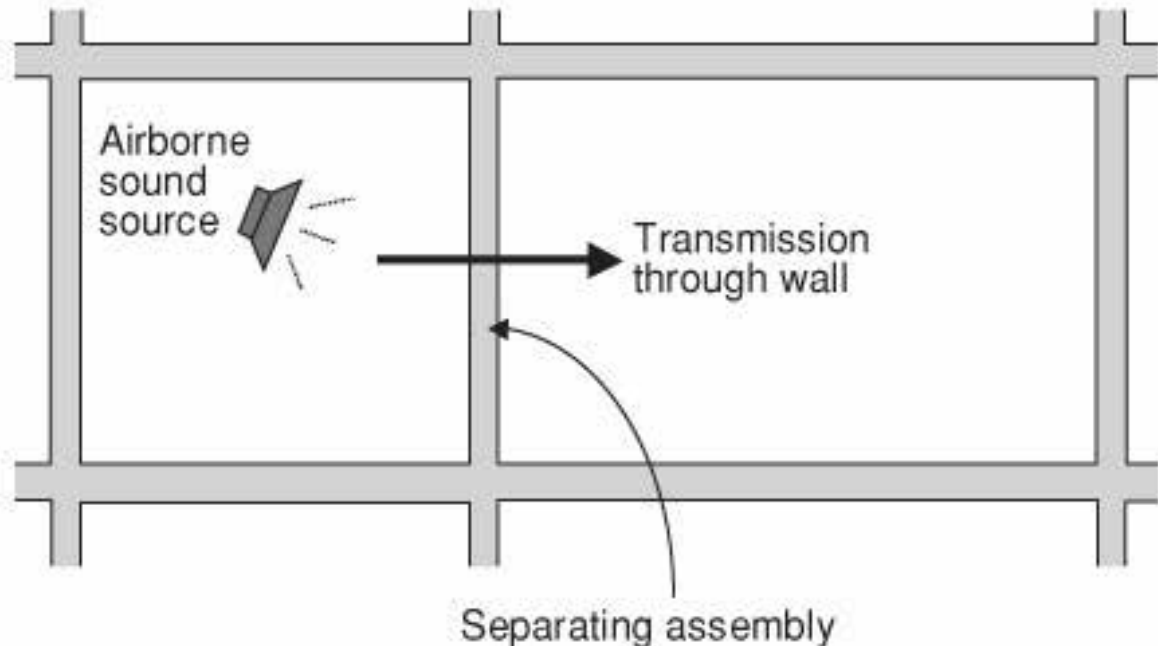


# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Air-Borne Sound:

### Sound Transmission Class (STC)

- Measures how effectively an assembly isolates air-borne sound and reduces the level that passes from one side to the other
- Applies to walls and floor/ceiling assemblies



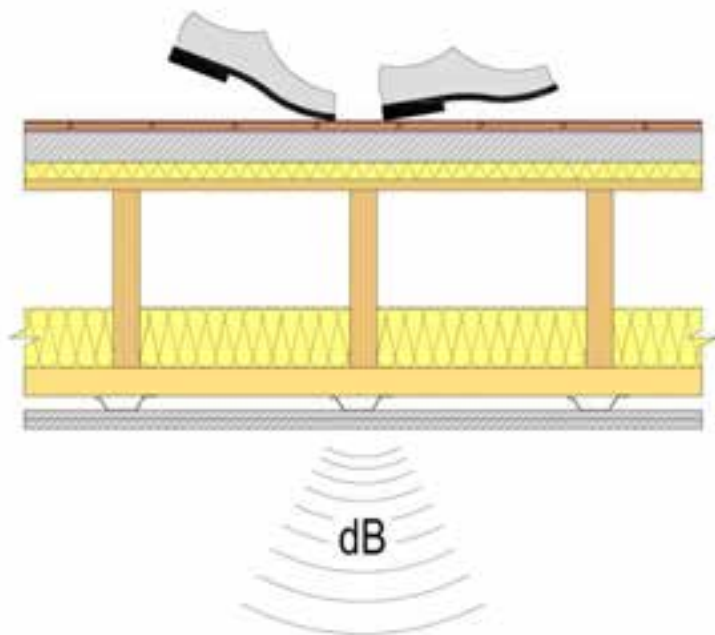


# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Structure-borne sound:

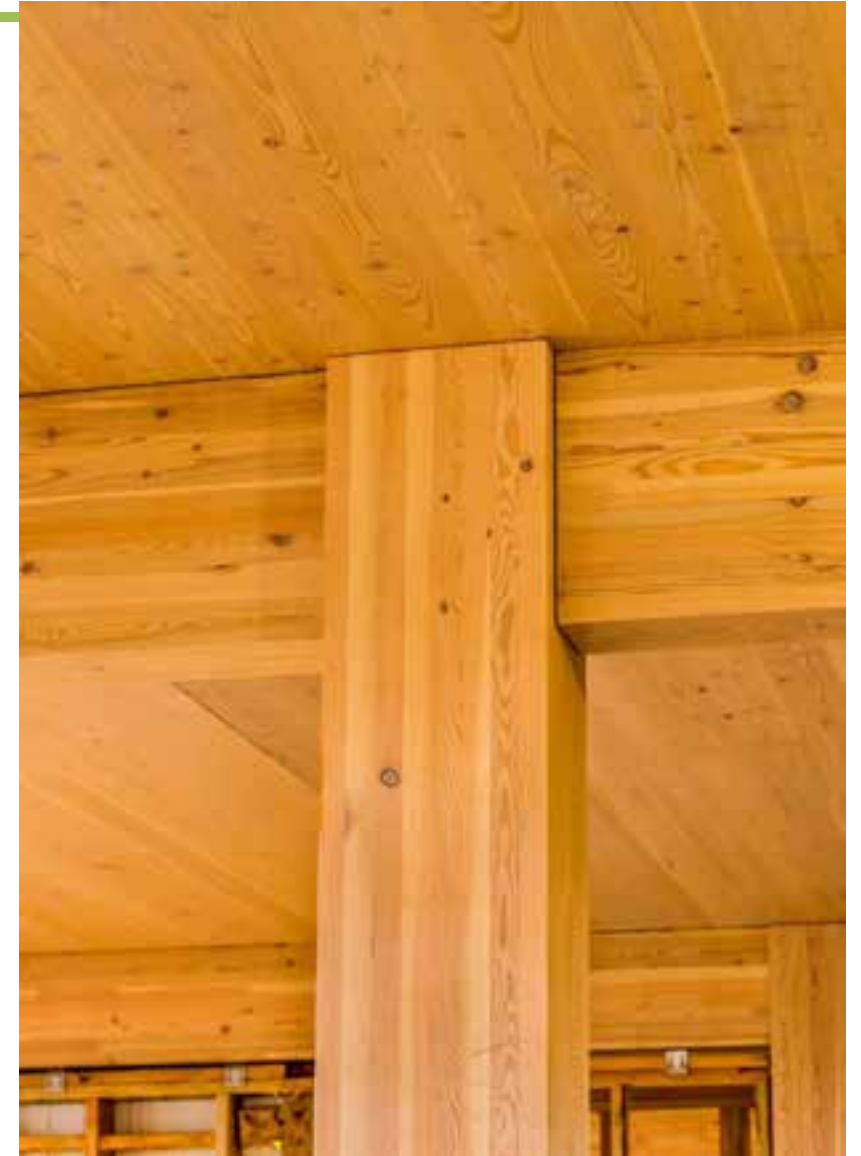
### **Impact Insulation Class (IIC)**

- Evaluates how effectively an assembly blocks impact sound from passing through it
- Only applies to floor/ceiling assemblies



# Acoustics & Sound Control

MT: Structure Often is Finish



Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture/Marcus Kauffman | Architect: Kaiser + PATH

# Acoustics & Sound Control

But by Itself, Not Adequate for Acoustics



T3 Minneapolis  
Architect: MGA | Michael Green Architecture; DLR Group  
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates  
Design Assist + Build: StructureCraft



# Acoustics & Sound Control

**TABLE 1:**  
**Examples of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Panels**

Mass Timber Panel	Thickness	STC Rating	IIC Rating
3-ply CLT wall <sup>4</sup>	3.07"	33	N/A
5-ply CLT wall <sup>4</sup>	6.875"	38	N/A
5-ply CLT floor <sup>5</sup>	5.1875"	39	22
5-ply CLT floor <sup>4</sup>	6.875"	41	25
7-ply CLT floor <sup>4</sup>	9.65"	44	30
2x4 NLT wall <sup>6</sup>	3-1/2" bare NLT 4-1/4" with 3/4" plywood	24 bare NLT 29 with 3/4" plywood	N/A
2x6 NLT wall <sup>6</sup>	5-1/2" bare NLT 6-1/4" with 3/4" plywood	22 bare NLT 31 with 3/4" plywood	N/A
2x6 NLT floor + 1/2" plywood <sup>2</sup>	6" with 1/2" plywood	34	33

# Acoustics & Sound Control

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**Regardless of the structural materials used in a wall or floor ceiling assembly, there are 3 effective methods of improving acoustical performance:**

1. Add mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers

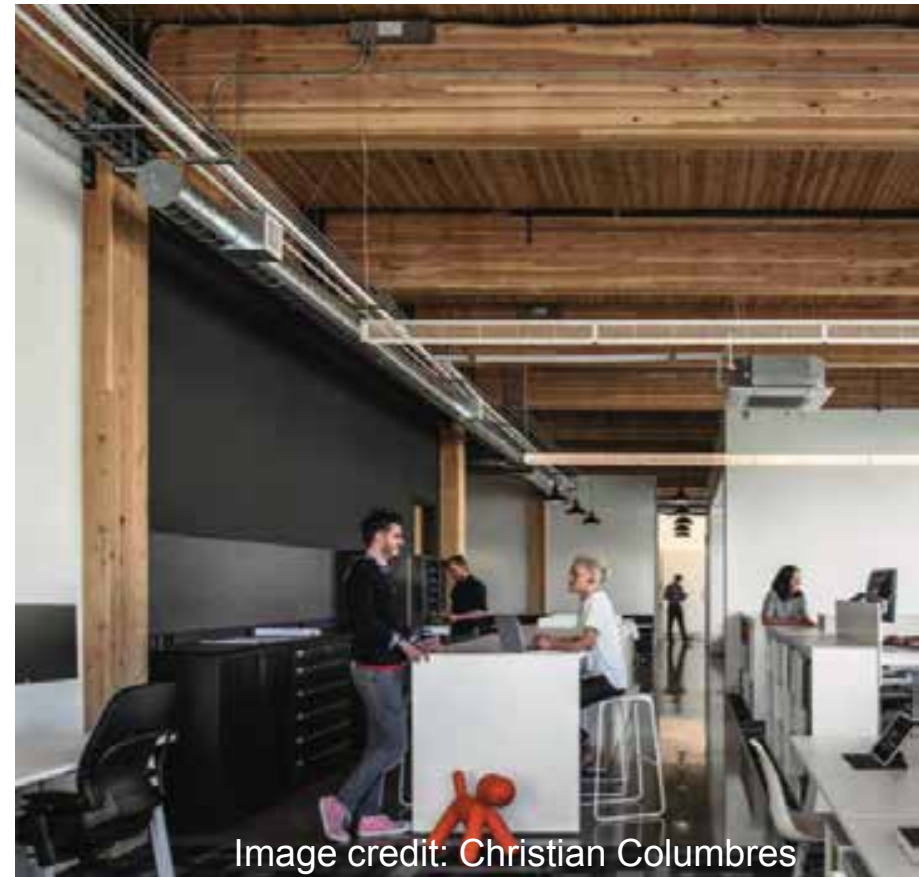


Image credit: Christian Columbres

# Acoustics & Sound Control

**Mass timber has relatively low “mass”**

**Recall the three ways to increase acoustical performance:**

1. **Add mass**
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers



Credit: Christian Columbres



# Acoustics & Sound Control

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Concrete Slab:

6" Thick

80 PSF

STC 53



CLT Slab:

6-7/8" Thick

18 PSF

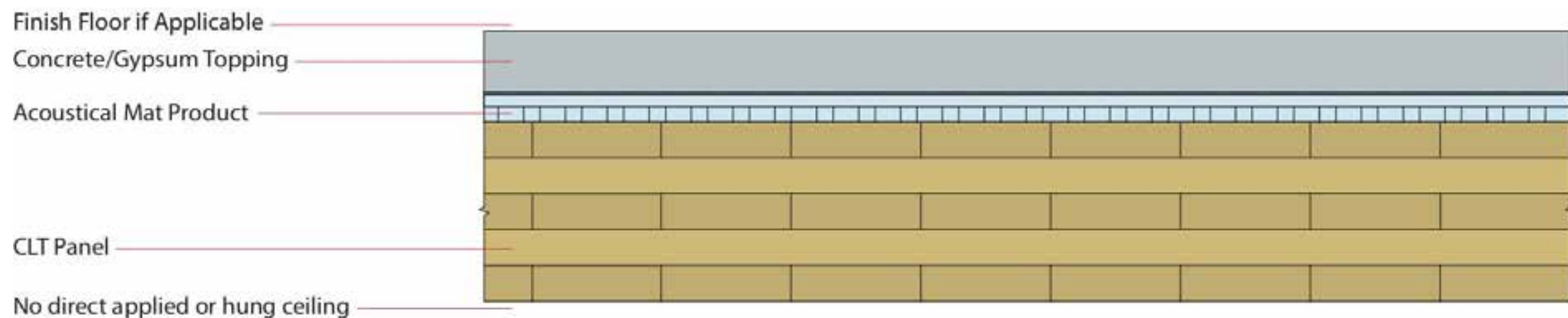
STC 41



# Acoustics & Sound Control

There are three main ways to improve an assembly's acoustical performance:

1. Add mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers



# Acoustics & Sound Control

There are three main ways to improve an assembly's acoustical performance:

1. Add mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers

## Acoustical Mat:

- Typically roll out or board products
- Thicknesses vary: Usually  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1"+



Credit: Maxxon



# Acoustics & Sound Control

Acoustical floor underlayments



Photo: AcoustiTECH<sup>10</sup>

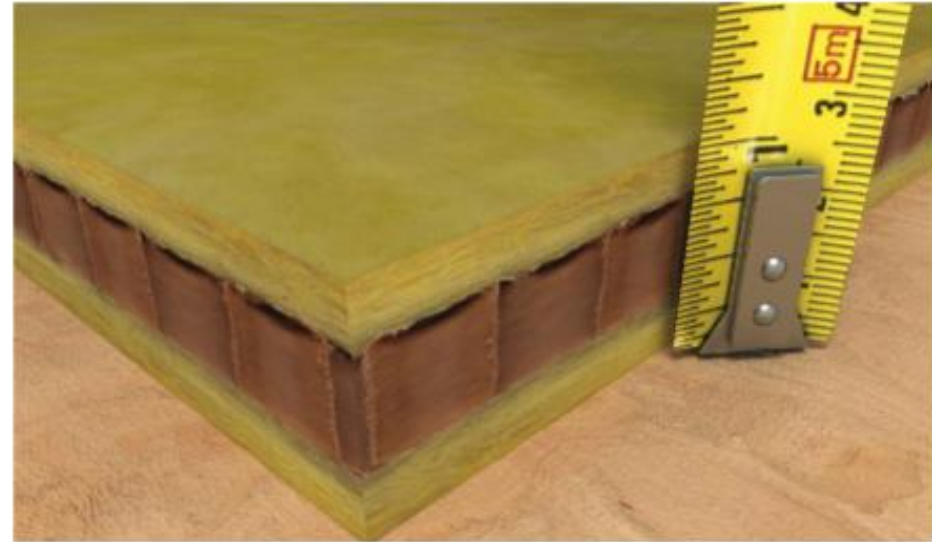


Photo: Kinetics Noise Control, Inc.,<sup>11</sup>



Photo: Maxxon Corporation

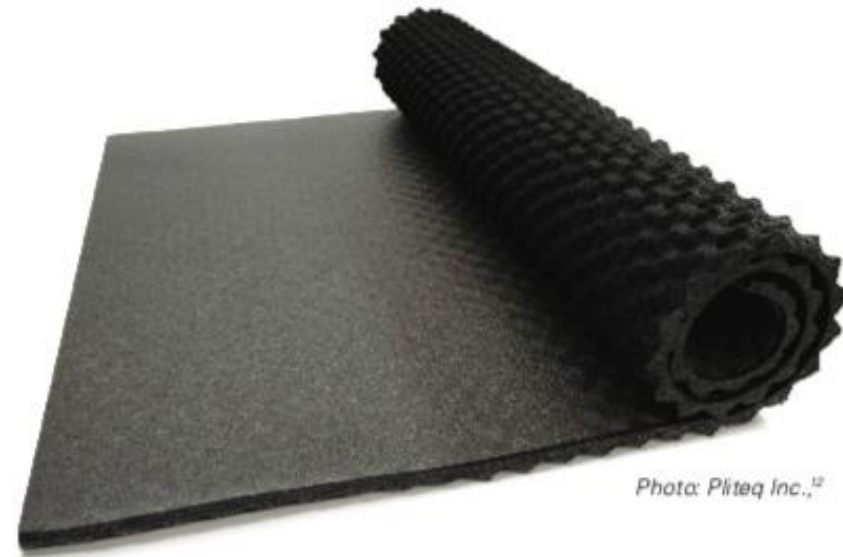


Photo: Pliteq Inc.,<sup>12</sup>

# Acoustics & Sound Control

---

## Common mass timber floor assembly:

- Finish floor (if applicable)
- Underlayment (if finish floor)
- 1.5" to 4" thick concrete/gypcrete topping
- Acoustical mat
- WSP (if applicable)
- Mass timber floor panels



# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Solutions Paper



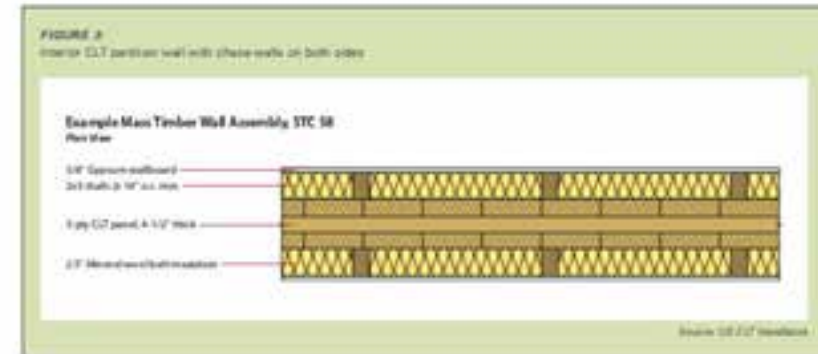
### Acoustics and Mass Timber: Room-to-Room Noise Control

Wayne McLean, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • Acoustics



The growing availability and code acceptance of mass timber—a large solid wood panel product such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT)—for floor, wall and roof construction has given designers a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. However, the use of mass timber in multi-family and commercial buildings presents unique acoustic challenges.

While laboratory measurements of the impact and airborne sound isolation of traditional building assemblies such as light wood-frame, steel and concrete are widely available, fewer resources exist that quantify the acoustic performance of mass timber assemblies. Additionally, one of the most desired aspects of mass timber construction is the ability to leave a building's structure exposed as finish, which creates the need for asymmetric assemblies. With careful design and detailing, mass timber buildings can meet the acoustic performance expectations of most building types.



#### Mass Timber Assembly Options: Walls

Mass timber panels can also be used for interior and exterior walls—both bearing and non-bearing. For interior walls, the need to conceal services such as electrical and plumbing is an added consideration. Common approaches include building a chase wall in front of the mass timber wall or installing gypsum wallboard on resilient channels that are attached to the mass timber wall. As with bare mass timber floor panels, bare mass timber walls don't typically provide adequate noise control, and chase walls also function as acoustical improvements. For example, a 3-ply CLT wall panel with a thickness of 3.07\"/>

#### Acoustical Differences between Mass Timber Panel Options

The majority of acoustically-tested mass timber assemblies include CLT. However, tests have also been done on other mass timber panel options such as NLT and dowel-laminated timber (DLT), as well as traditional heavy timber options such as tongue and groove decking. Most tests have concluded that CLT acoustical performance is slightly better than that of other mass timber options, largely because the cross-orientation of laminations in a CLT panel limits sound flanking.

For those interested in comparing similar assemblies and mass timber panel types and thicknesses, the inventory noted above contains tested assemblies using CLT, NLT, glue-laminated timber panels (GLT), and tongue and groove decking.

#### Improving Performance by Minimizing Flanking

Even when the assemblies in a building are carefully designed and installed for high acoustical performance, consideration of flanking paths—in areas such as assembly intersections, beam-to-column/wall connections, and MEP penetrations—is necessary for a building to meet overall acoustical performance objectives.

One way to minimize flanking paths at these connections and interfaces is to use resilient connection isolation and sealant strips. These products are capable of resisting structural loads in compression between structural members and connections while providing isolation and breaking hard, direct connections between members. In the context of the three methods for improving acoustical performance noted above, these strips act as decouplers. With airtight connections, interfaces and penetrations, there is a much greater chance that the acoustic performance of a mass timber building will meet expectations.





# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Inventory of Tested Assemblies



### Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Assemblies

Following is a list of mass timber assemblies that have been acoustically tested as of January 23, 2019. Sources are noted at the end of this document. For free technical assistance on any questions related to the acoustical design of mass timber assemblies, or free technical assistance related to any aspect of the design, engineering or construction of a commercial or multi-family wood building in the U.S., email [help@woodworks.org](mailto:help@woodworks.org) or contact the WoodWorks Regional Director nearest you: <http://www.woodworks.org/project-assistance>

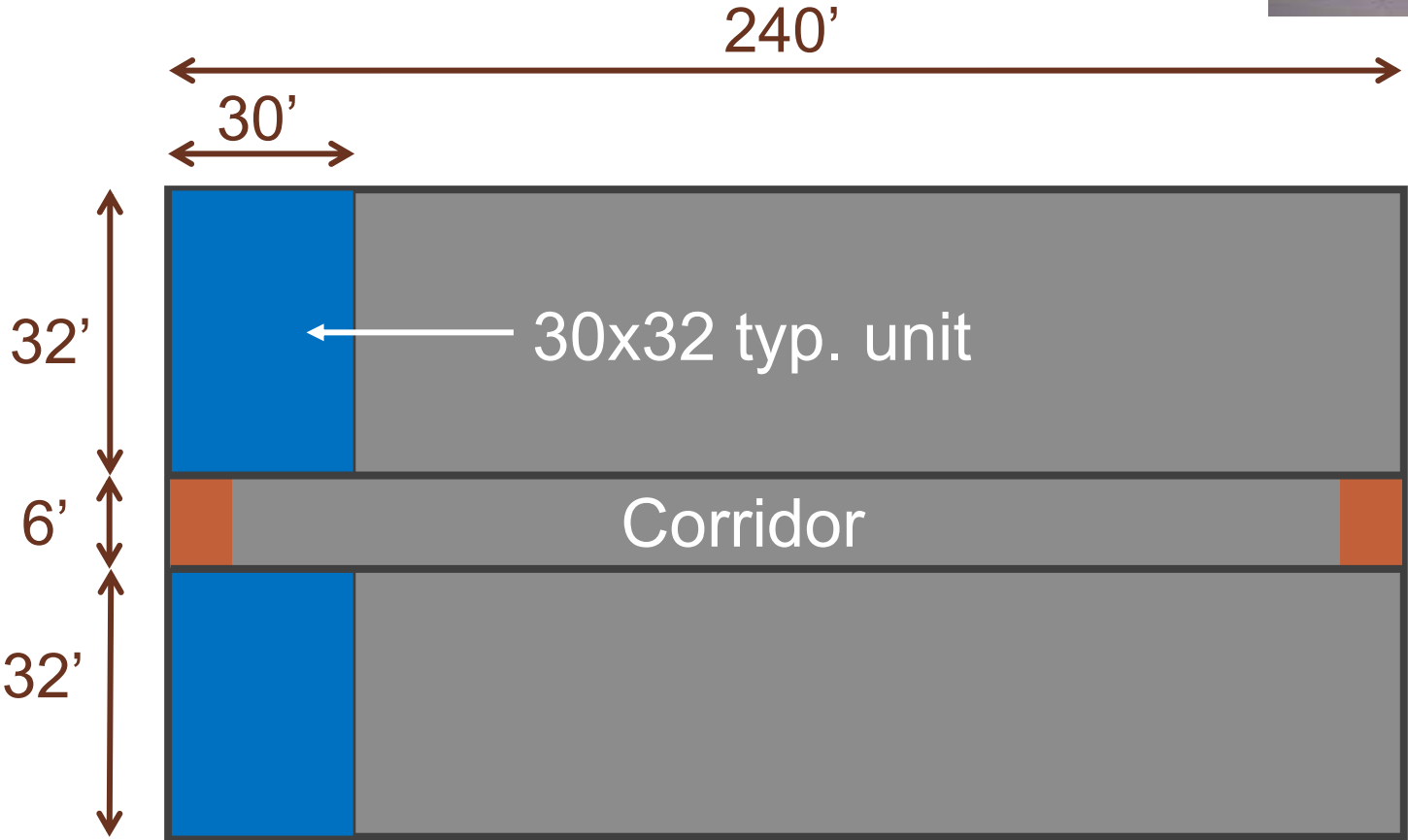
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# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

7-story, multi-family building, typ. floor plan:

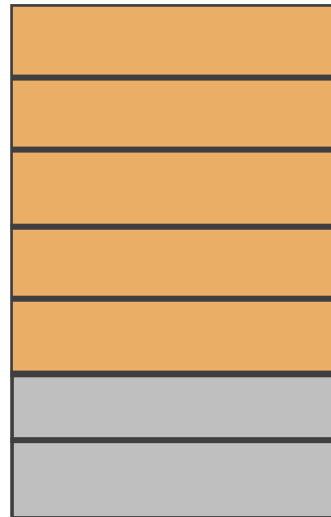
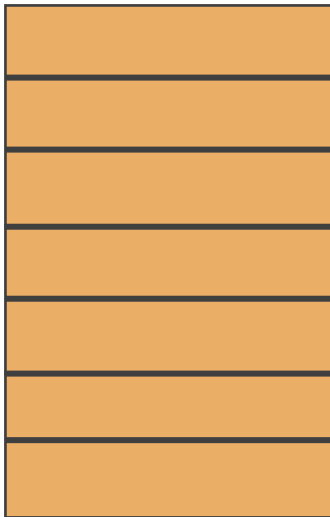


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium





# Reduce Risk

## Optimize Costs

- For the entire project team, not just builders
- Lots of reference documents

## Mass Timber Cost and Design Optimization Checklists

WoodWorks has developed the following checklists to assist in the design and cost optimization of mass timber projects.

The *design optimization* checklists are intended for building designers (architects and engineers), but many of the topics should also be discussed with the fabricators and builders. The *cost optimization* checklists will help guide coordination between designers and builders (general contractors, construction managers, estimators, fabricators, installers, etc.) as they are estimating and making cost-related decisions on a mass timber project.

Most resources listed in this paper can be found on the WoodWorks website. Please see the end notes for URLs.

**First Tech Federal Credit Union - Madison, CT**  
ARCHITECT  
Hickel  
ENGINEERING  
Expert Group & Associates  
Equilibrium Consulting  
CONTRACTOR  
Gannett



**Download Checklists at**  
**[www.woodworks.org](http://www.woodworks.org)**

[www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood\\_solution\\_paper-Mass-Timber-Design-Cost-Optimization-Checklists.pdf](http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-Mass-Timber-Design-Cost-Optimization-Checklists.pdf)

# **Keys to Mass Timber Success:**

Know Your WHY

Design it as Mass Timber From the Start

Leverage Manufacturer Capabilities

Understand Supply Chain

Optimize Grid

Take Advantage of Prefabrication & Coordination

Expose the Timber

Discuss Early with AHJ

Work with Experienced People

Let WoodWorks Help for Free

Create Your Market Distinction



# Questions? Ask me anything.



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