

STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF MASS TIMBER

A short primer on the basics of mass timber design

Presented by: Greg Kingsley, PhD, PE
President and CEO, KL&A Engineers and Builders



Disclaimer: This presentation was developed by a third party and is not funded by WoodWorks or the Softwood Lumber Board.

STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF MASS TIMBER

Outline

1. Materials
2. Gravity Load Design
3. Deflection and Vibration
4. Connections
5. Lateral Load Design
6. Fire Resistance
7. Constructability



MASS TIMBER MATERIALS

Photo Credit: KL&A



- IT'S MADE OF TREES



- IT'S MADE OF TREES
- IT'S SOLID WOOD
(BIG PIECES MADE OUT OF
LITTLE PIECES)

Nail Laminated Timber (NLT)
Dowel Laminated Timber (DLT)



Glue Laminated Timber (GLT)



Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL)
and Mass Plywood Panels (MPP)



Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)



- IT'S MADE OF TREES
- IT'S SOLID WOOD
(BIG PIECES MADE OUT OF
LITTLE PIECES)
- IT'S FLAT PANELS (CLT, NLT, etc.)



Photo Credit: Shears Adkins Rockmore Architects

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- IT'S FLAT PANELS (CLT, NLT, etc.)
- IT'S ALSO BEAMS AND
COLUMNS



Photo Credit: KL&A

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- IT'S PREFABRICATED

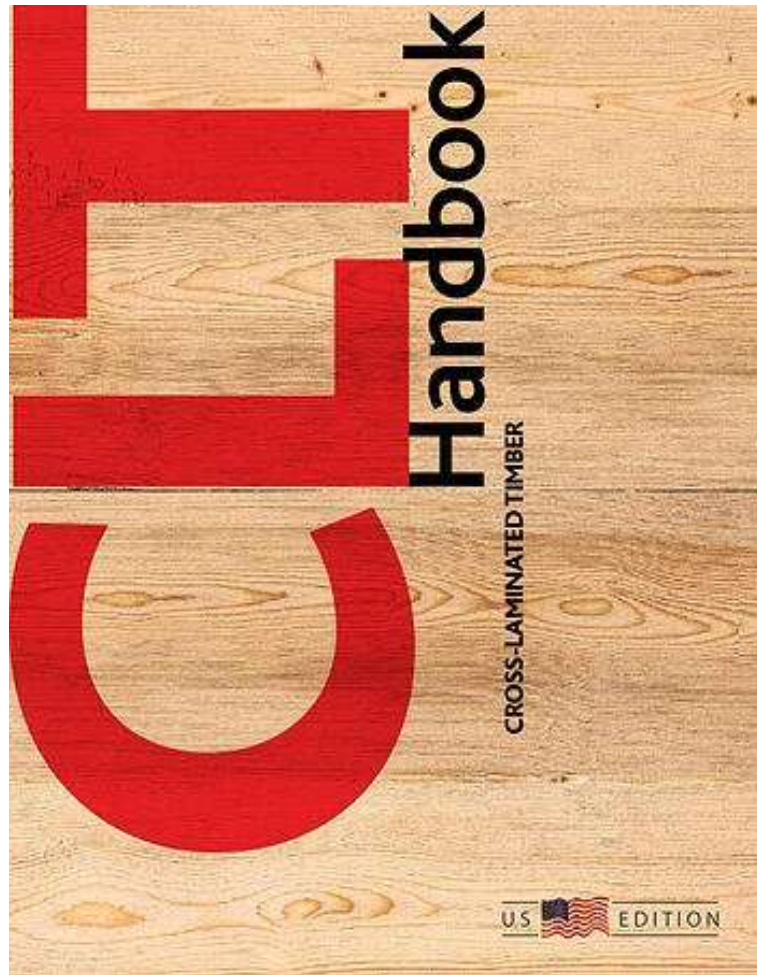
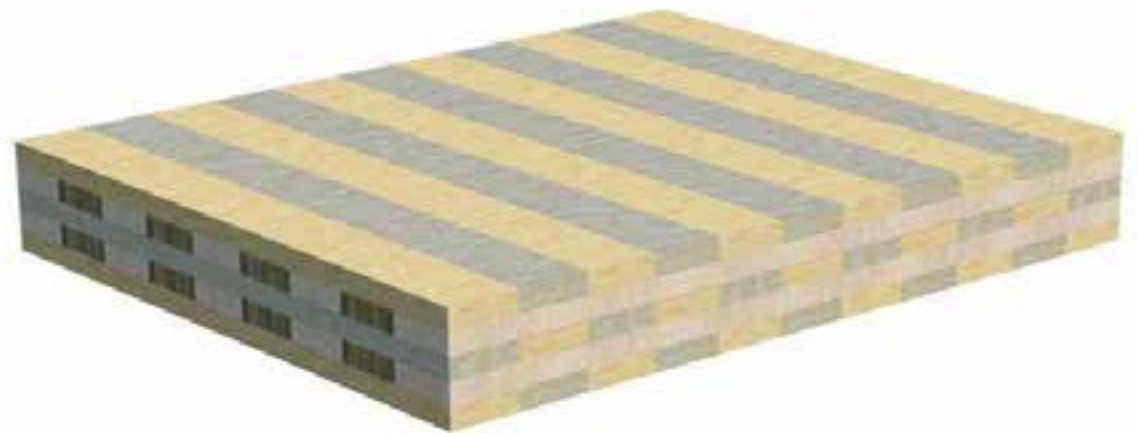
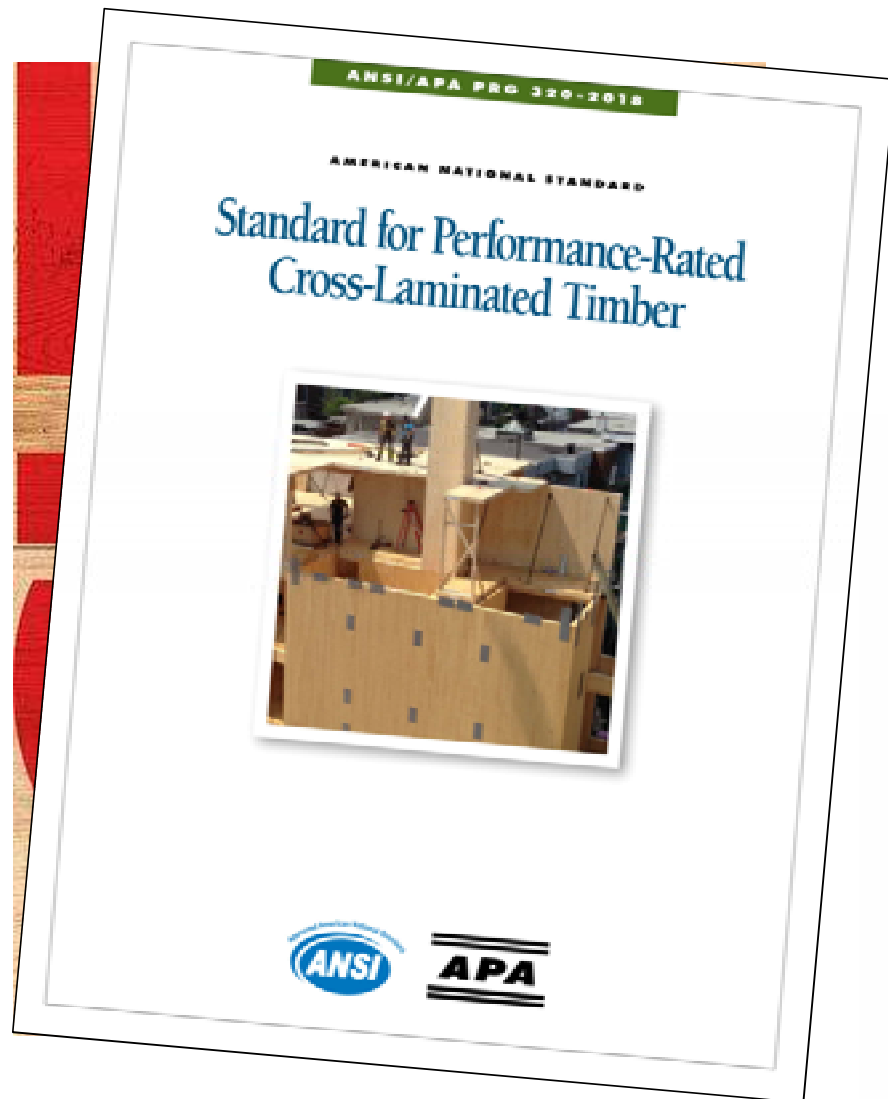
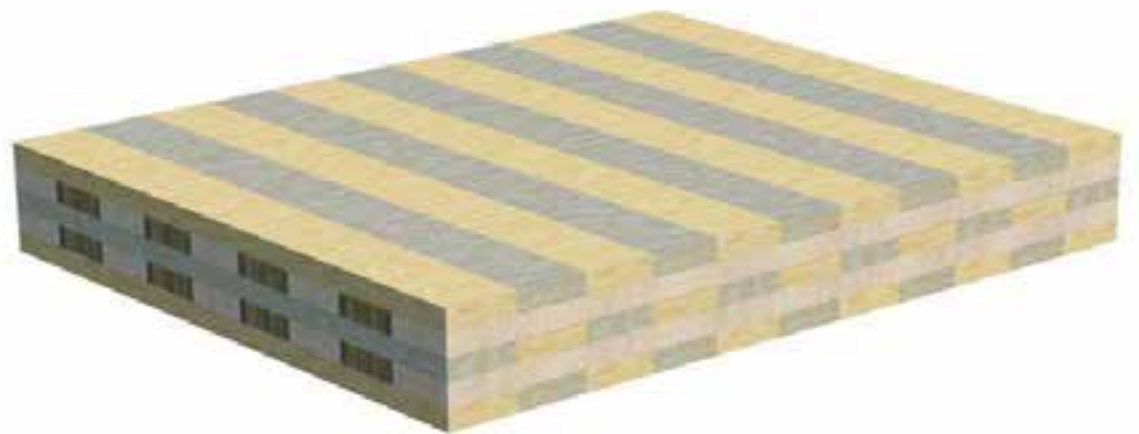


Image Courtesy of Fast and Epp



Cross Laminated Timber

Image Courtesy of Fast and Epp



Cross Laminated Timber

Image Courtesy of Fast and Epp



Cross Laminated Timber

Image Courtesy of Fast and Epp



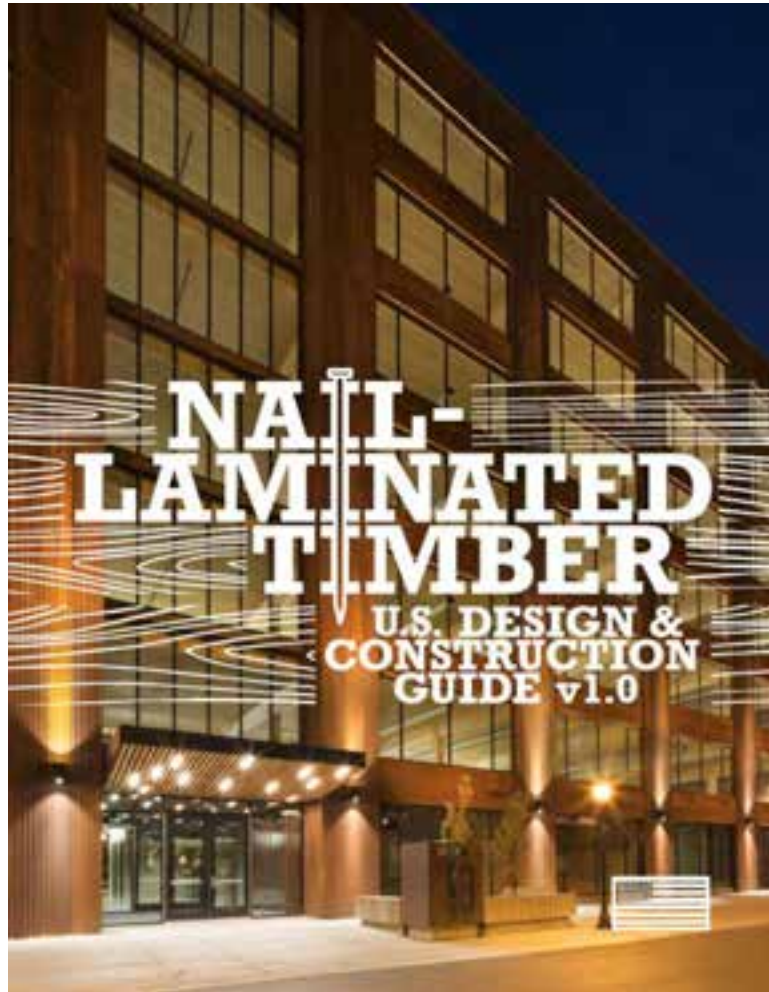
Not a
commodity!

- Structurlam
- Nordic
- DR Johnson
- Smartlam
- Freres Lumber Co
- Katerra
- Vaagen Timber
- Kalesnikoff
- ...

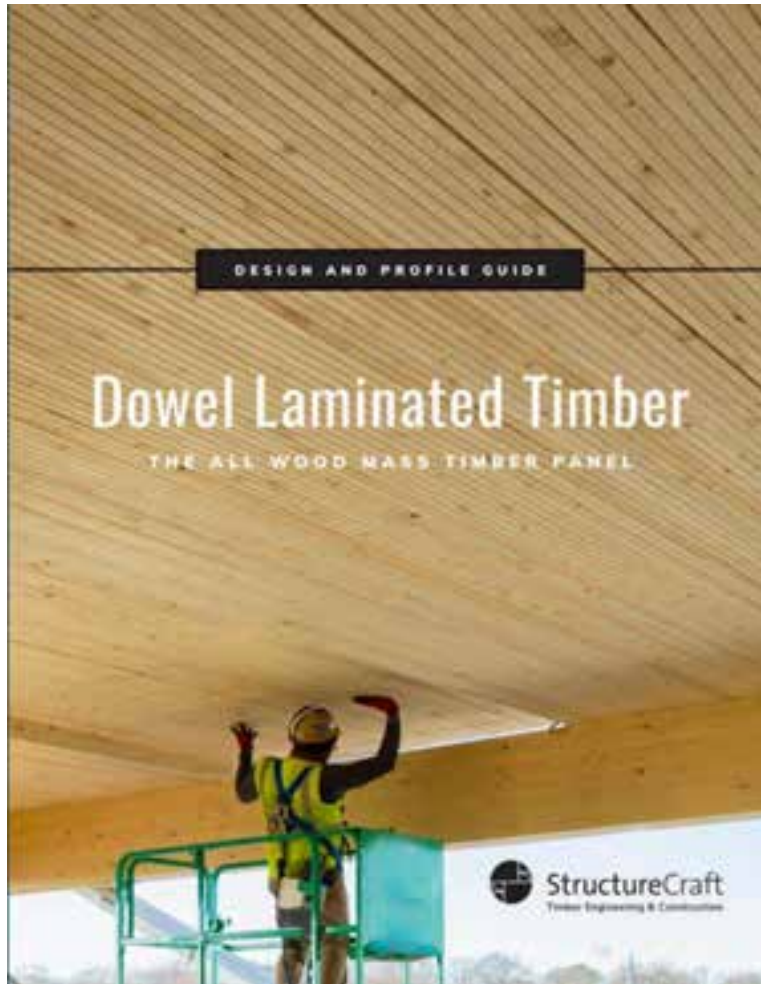


Cross Laminated Timber

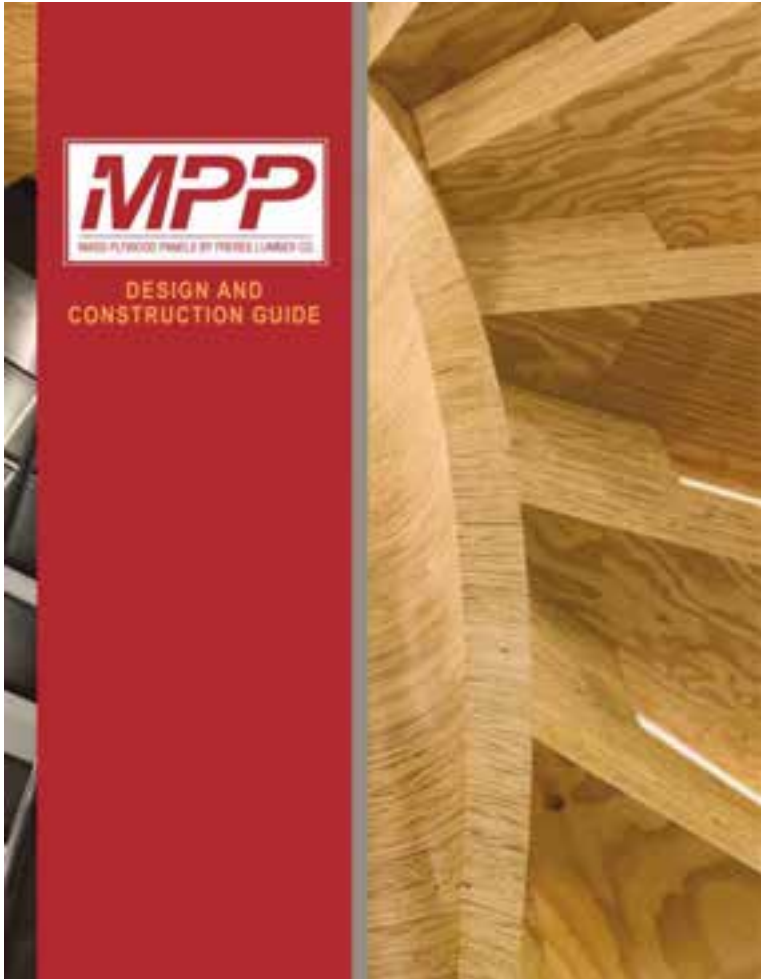
Image Courtesy of Fast and Epp



Nail Laminated Timber



Dowel Laminated Timber



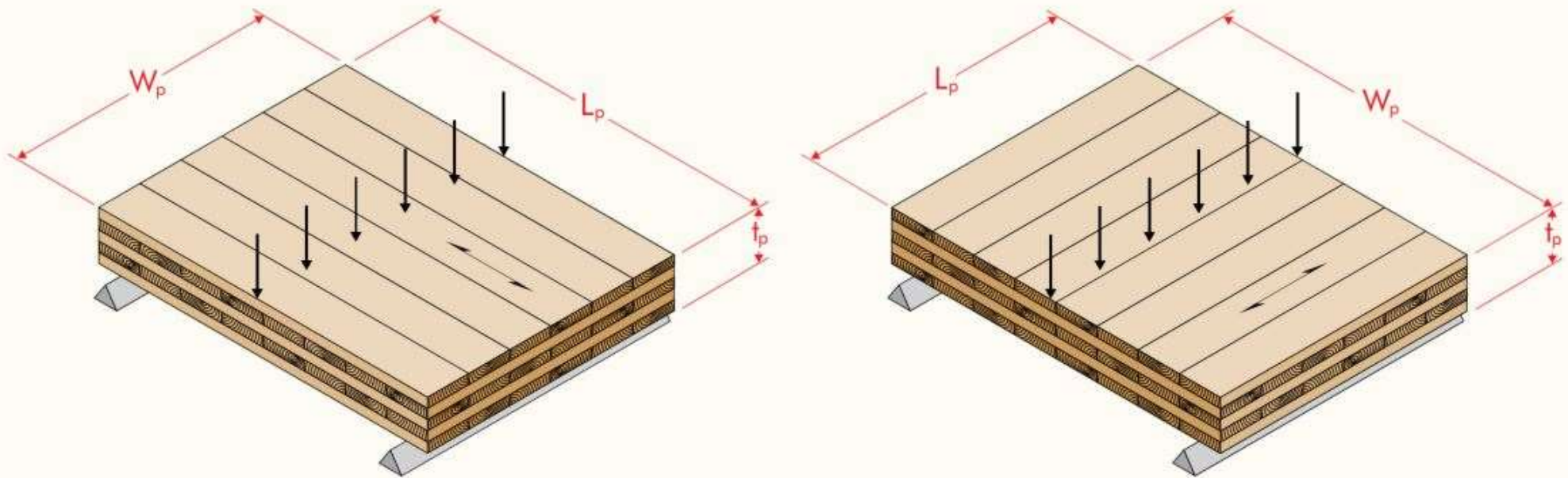
Mass Plywood Panel

GRAVITY DESIGN OF CLT

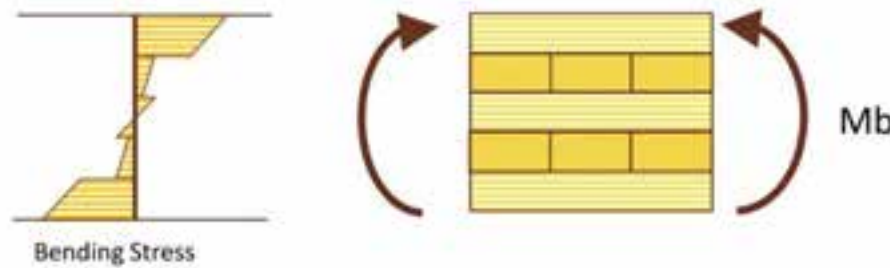


Strong Axis vs Weak Axis: CLT is Orthotropic

FLATWISE BENDING IN THE MAJOR (LEFT) AND MINOR (RIGHT) CLT STRENGTH DIRECTIONS



FLEXURAL STRENGTH



$$M_b \leq C_D C_M C_t C_L (F_b S_{eff})$$

Per NDS

Typically = 1

Provided as combined
value by manufacturer

$$M_b \leq C_D (F_b S_{eff})$$

FLEXURAL STRENGTH

TABLE A2

ASD REFERENCE DESIGN VALUES^{a,b,c} FOR CLT (FOR USE IN THE U.S.)

CLT Layout	CLT t_p (in.)	Lamination Thickness (in.) in CLT Layout								Major Strength Direction				Minor Strength Direction			
		=	⊥	=	⊥	=	⊥	=	⊥	$(F_b S)_{CLT,0}$ (lb-ft/ft of width)	$(EI)_{CLT,0}$ (10 ⁶ lb-ft ² /ft of width)	$(GA)_{CLT,0}$ (10 ⁴ lb-ft/ft of width)	$V_{CLT,0}$ (lb-ft/ft of width)	$(F_b S)_{CLT,90}$ (lb-ft/ft of width)	$(EI)_{CLT,90}$ (10 ⁶ lb-ft ² /ft of width)	$(GA)_{CLT,90}$ (10 ⁴ lb-ft/ft of width)	$V_{CLT,90}$ (lb-ft/ft of width)
E1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,525	115	0.46	1,430	160	3.1	0.61	495
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,400	440	0.92	1,970	1,370	81	1.2	1,430
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,375	1,089	1.4	2,490	3,125	309	1.8	1,960
E2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	3,825	102	0.53	1,910	165	3.6	0.56	660
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,825	389	1.1	2,625	1,430	95	1.1	1,910
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	15,600	963	1.6	3,325	3,275	360	1.7	2,625
E3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,800	81	0.35	1,110	110	2.3	0.44	385
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	6,400	311	0.69	1,530	955	61	0.87	1,110
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	11,325	769	1.0	1,940	2,180	232	1.3	1,520
E4	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,525	115	0.50	1,750	140	3.4	0.62	605
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,400	440	1.0	2,410	1,230	88	1.2	1,750
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,400	1,089	1.5	3,050	2,800	335	1.9	2,400
V1	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,090	108	0.53	1,910	165	3.6	0.59	660
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	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,500	1,027	1.6	3,325	3,275	360	1.8	2,625
V2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,030	95	0.46	1,430	160	3.1	0.52	495
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,675	363	0.91	1,970	1,370	81	1.0	1,430
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,275	898	1.4	2,490	3,125	309	1.6	1,960
V3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1,740	95	0.49	1,750	140	3.4	0.52	605
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,000	363	0.98	2,420	1,230	88	1.0	1,750
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	7,100	899	1.5	3,050	2,800	335	1.6	2,400

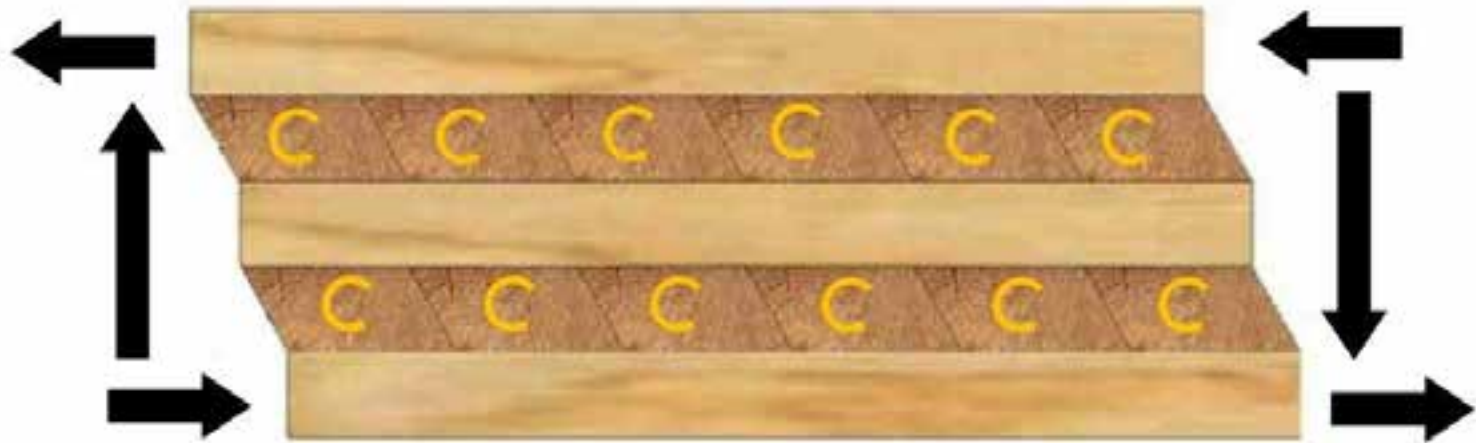
For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft = 304.8 mm; 1 lbf = 4.448 N

a. See Section 4 for symbols.

b. This table represents one of many possibilities that the CLT could be manufactured by varying lamination grades, thicknesses, orientations, and layer arrangements in the layout.

c. Custom CLT layouts that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with 7.2.1.

SHEAR STRENGTH



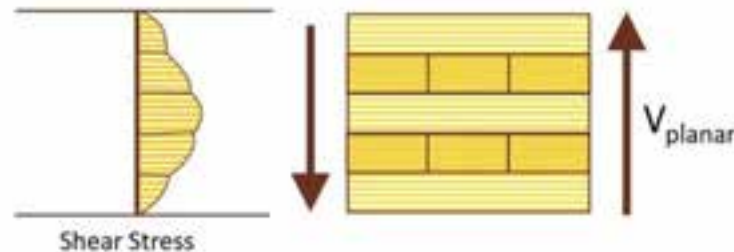
“Planar Shear” = “Out-of-plane Shear” = “Rolling Shear”

Wood Structural
Panel Term

Structural
Engineering Term

CLT Term

SHEAR STRENGTH



$$V_{planar} \leq \underbrace{C_M C_t}_{\text{Typically} = 1} \underbrace{\left(F_s (I_b Q)_{eff} \right)}_{\text{Provided as combined value by manufacturer}} = 1.0 V_s$$

$$V_{planar} \leq V_s$$

SHEAR STRENGTH

TABLE A2

ASD REFERENCE DESIGN VALUES^{a,b,c} FOR CLT (FOR USE IN THE U.S.)

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	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,400	440	0.92	1,970	1,370	81	1.2	1,430
	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	18,375	1,089	1.4	2,490	3,125	309	1.8	1,960
E2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	3,825	102	0.53	1,910	165	3.6	0.56	660
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	8,825	389	1.1	2,625	1,430	95	1.1	1,910
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E3	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,800	81	0.35	1,110	110	2.3	0.44	385
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	6,400	311	0.69	1,530	955	61	0.87	1,110
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V2	4 1/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	2,030	95	0.46	1,430	160	3.1	0.52	495
	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	4,675	363	0.91	1,970	1,370	81	1.0	1,430
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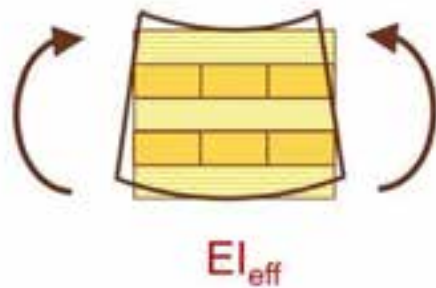
For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft = 304.8 mm; 1 lbf = 4.448 N

a. See Section 4 for symbols.

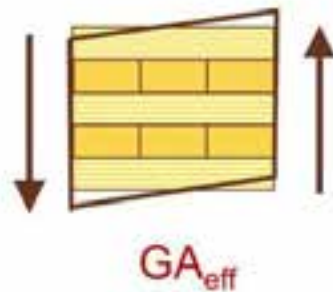
b. This table represents one of many possibilities that the CLT could be manufactured by varying lamination grades, thicknesses, orientations, and layer arrangements in the layout.

c. Custom CLT layouts that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with 7.2.1.

FLEXURE AND SHEAR DEFORMATIONS



$$(EI)_{\text{eff},0} = \sum_{i=1}^n E_i b_0 \frac{t_i^3}{12} + \sum_{i=1}^n E_i b_0 t_i z_i^2$$



$$(GA)_{\text{eff},0} = \frac{(t_f - \frac{t_1}{2} - \frac{t_n}{2})^2}{\left[\left(\frac{t_1}{2G_1 b_0} \right) + \left(\sum_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{t_i}{G_i b_0} \right) + \left(\frac{t_n}{2G_n b_0} \right) \right]}$$

FLEXURE AND SHEAR DEFORMATIONS

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	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	10,400	440	0.92	1,970	1,370	81	1.2	1,430
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	9 5/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	7,100	899	1.5	3,050	2,800	335	1.6	2,400

For SI: 1 in. = 25.4 mm; 1 ft = 304.8 mm; 1 lbf = 4.448 N

a. See Section 4 for symbols.

b. This table represents one of many possibilities that the CLT could be manufactured by varying lamination grades, thicknesses, orientations, and layer arrangements in the layout.

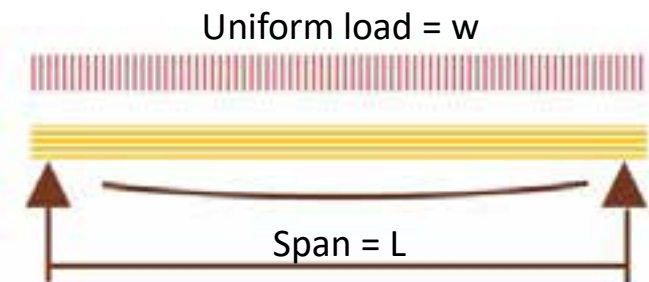
c. Custom CLT layouts that are not listed in this table shall be permitted in accordance with 7.2.1.

FLEXURE AND SHEAR DEFORMATIONS

Example:

Short-term mid-span deflection of a uniformly loaded one-way slab

$$\Delta_{ST} = \frac{5}{384} \cdot \frac{wL^4}{EI_{eff}} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{wL^2}{GA_{eff}}$$

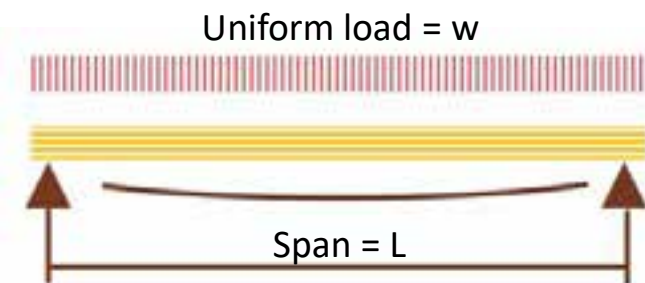


FLEXURE AND SHEAR DEFORMATIONS

Example:

Short-term mid-span deflection of a uniformly loaded one-way slab

$$\Delta_{ST} = \frac{5}{384} \cdot \frac{wL^4}{EI_{eff}} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{wL^2}{GA_{eff}}$$



Long-term deflection

$$\Delta_T = K_{cr} \Delta_{LT} + \Delta_{ST}$$

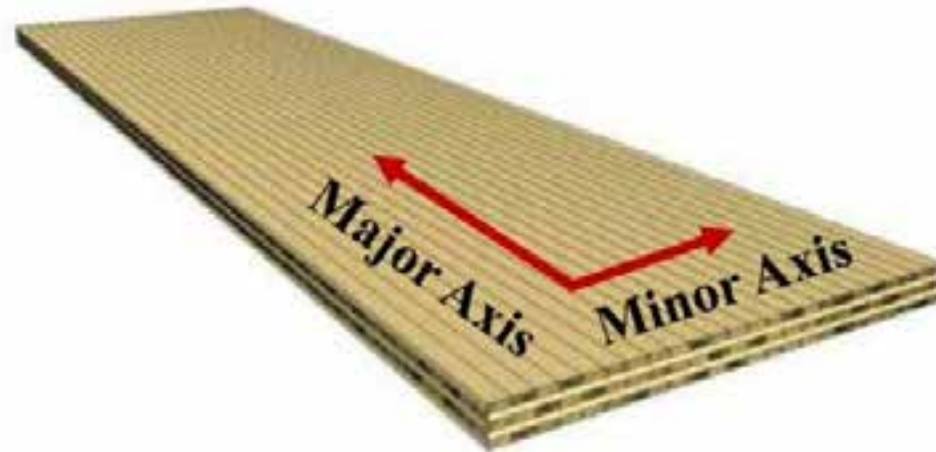
NDS Eq 3.5-1

Δ_{ST} Deflection due to short term loading

Δ_{LT} Immediate deflection due to long term loading

K_{cr} Creep factor for CLT = 2.0 for dry service conditions

PROPERTIES FOR STRENGTH AND DEFORMATION



Flexural Strength:

$$F_b S_{\text{eff},0}$$

$$F_b S_{\text{eff},90}$$

Flexural Stiffness:

$$EI_{\text{eff},0}$$

$$EI_{\text{eff},90}$$

Shear Strength:

$$V_{s,0}$$

$$V_{s,90}$$

Shear Stiffness:

$$GA_{\text{eff},0}$$

$$GA_{\text{eff},90}$$

Values in RED provided by CLT manufacturer

DESIGN FOR VIBRATION



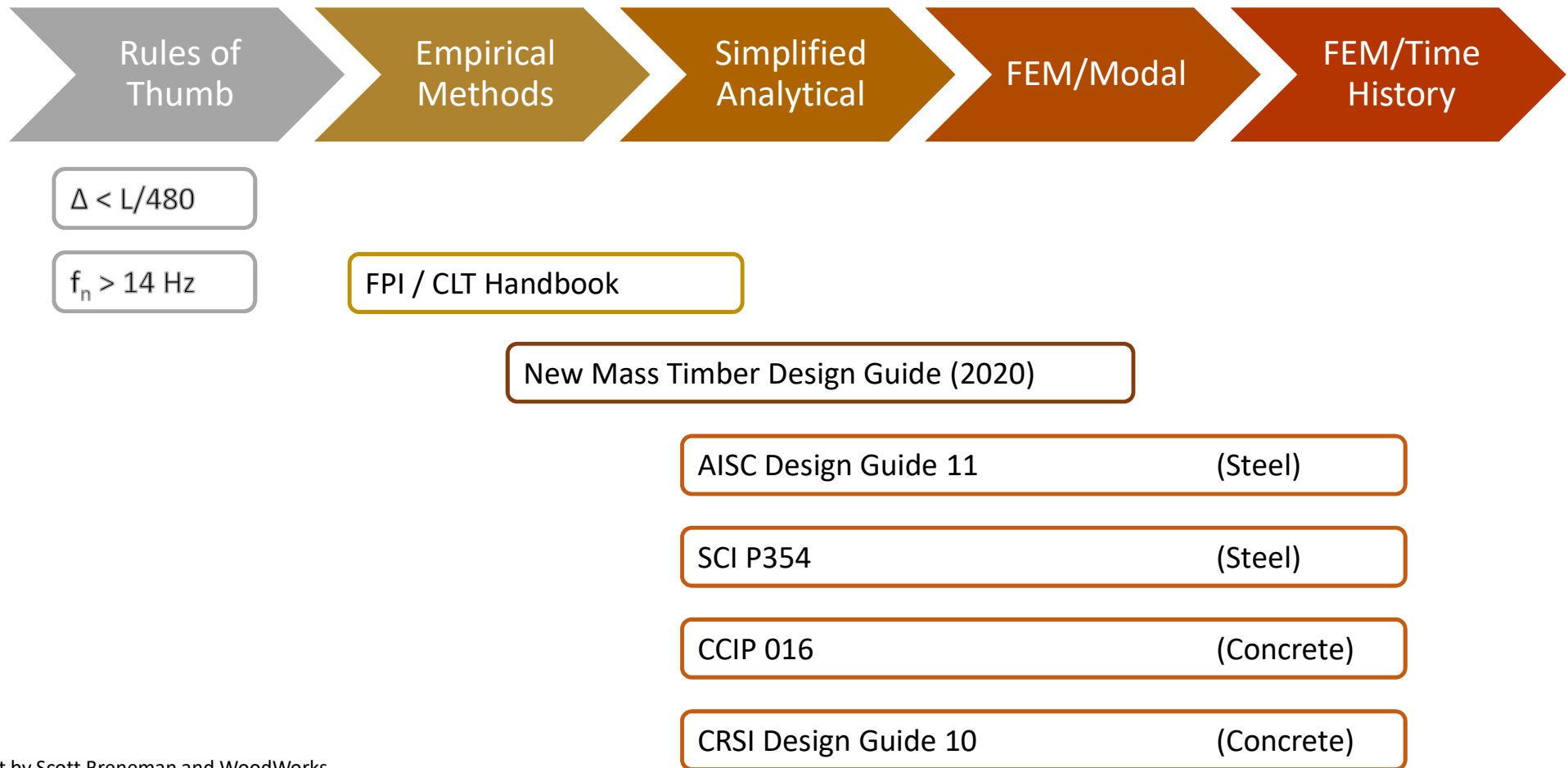
U.S. Building Code Requirements for Vibration:

NONE

Barely discussed in IBC, NDS, etc.

ASCE 7 Commentary Appendix C has some discussion, no requirements

Floor Vibration Design Methods



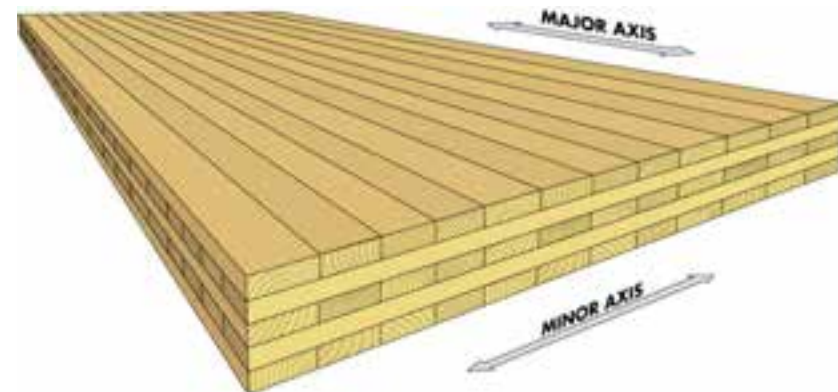
One possible approach to vibration analysis:
U.S. CLT Handbook, Chapter 7 (FPI Method)

Limit CLT Floor Span such that:

$$\text{Span } L \leq \frac{1}{12.05} \frac{(EI_{app})^{0.293}}{(\rho A)^{0.122}}$$

Based on:

- Un-topped CLT
- Single, simple span
- Bearing wall supports



FPI Span Limits for Basic CLT Grades / Layups

Grade	Layup	Thickness	FPI Span Limit
V1	3ply	4 1/8"	12' 2"
	5ply	6 7/8"	17' 0"
	7ply	9 5/8"	21' 3"
V2	3ply	4 1/8"	11' 11"
	5ply	6 7/8"	16' 8"
	7ply	9 5/8"	20' 10"
V3	3ply	4 1/8"	12' 0"
	5ply	6 7/8"	16' 9"
	7ply	9 5/8"	21' 0"

Grade	Layup	Thickness	FPI Span Limit
E1	3ply	4 1/8"	12' 5"
	5ply	6 7/8"	17' 4"
	7ply	9 5/8"	21' 8"
E2	3ply	4 1/8"	12' 0"
	5ply	6 7/8"	16' 8"
	7ply	9 5/8"	20' 10"
E3	3ply	4 1/8"	11' 7"
	5ply	6 7/8"	16' 1"
	7ply	9 5/8"	20' 1"
E4	3ply	4 1/8"	12' 2"
	5ply	6 7/8"	17' 0"
	7ply	9 5/8"	21' 3"

Approximate rules of thumb based on FPI Span Limits:

- 3-ply: 11 to 12 ft
- 5-ply: 16 to 17 ft
- 7-ply: 20 to 21 ft

These span limits do not account for:

- Strength or deflection limits
- Effect of beam flexibility on vibration
- Effect of panel continuity on vibration



MASS TIMBER CONNECTIONS

Photo: Eric Mortenson / Capital Press

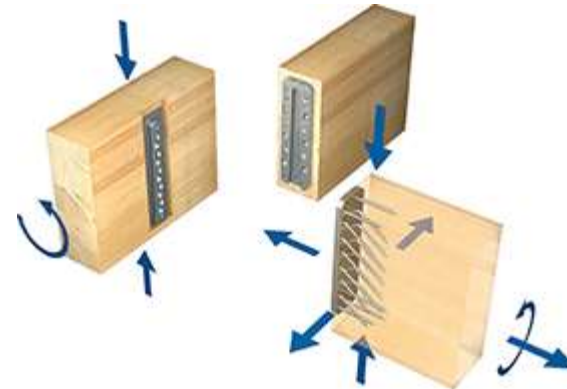
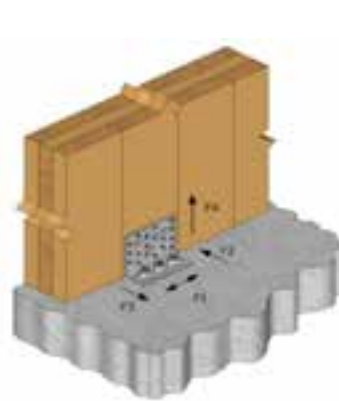
Long self-tapping screws used extensively in mass timber construction



Connection “Classes”



Simple Bearing



Custom Steel



Proprietary - Exposed



Proprietary - Concealed



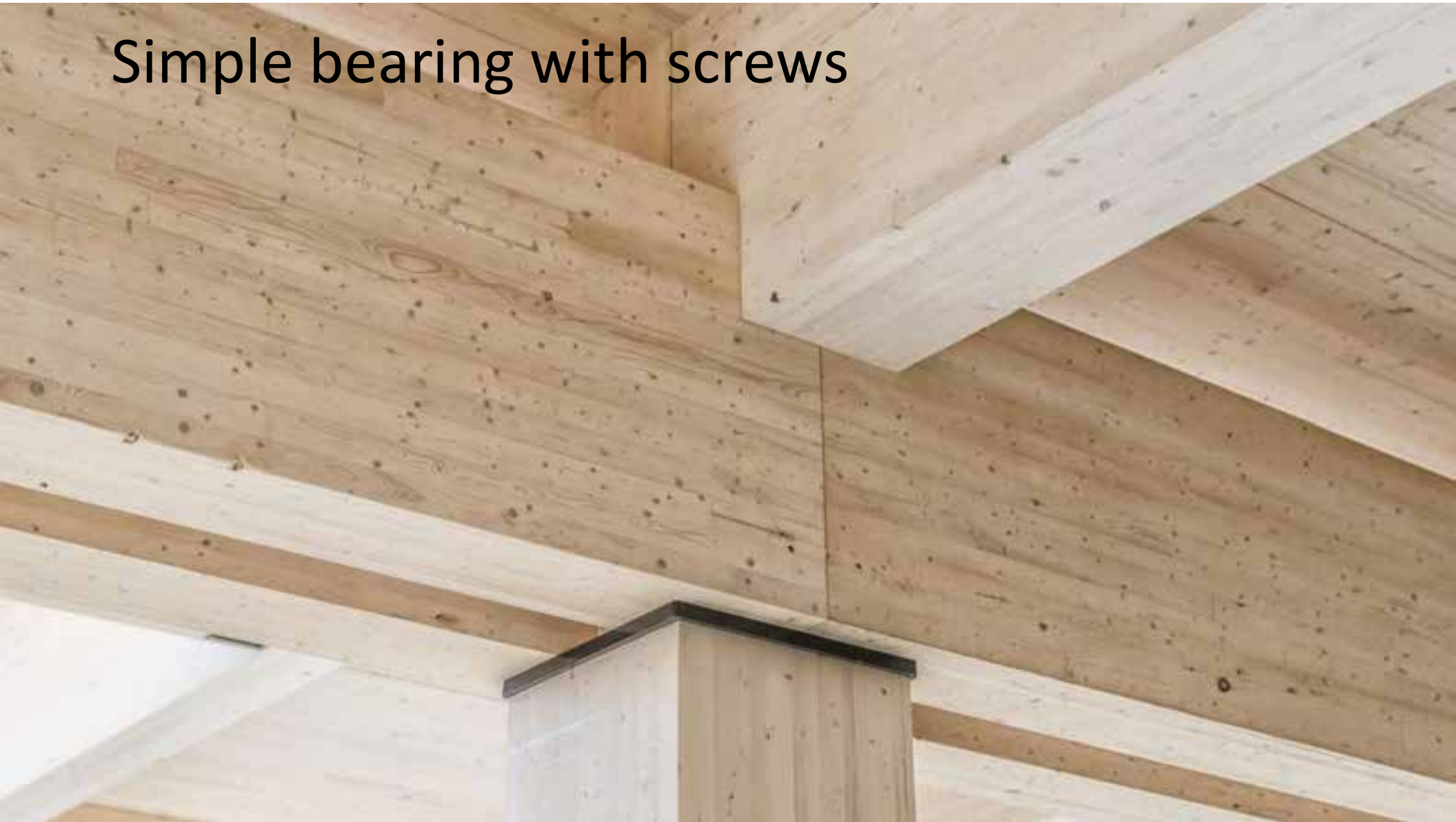


Photo Credit: myticon



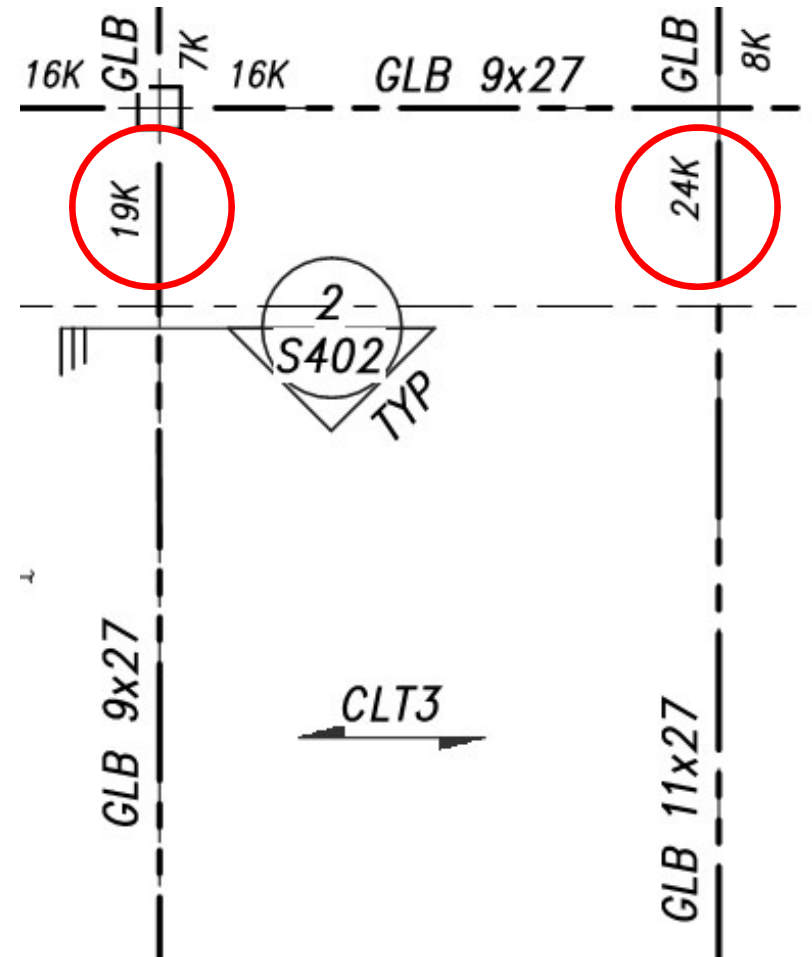
Panel to beam connections

Simple bearing with screws



Connection Considerations For Mass Timber

High Loads



Connection Considerations For Mass Timber

High Loads Parallel to Grain



Connection Considerations For Mass Timber

Aesthetics



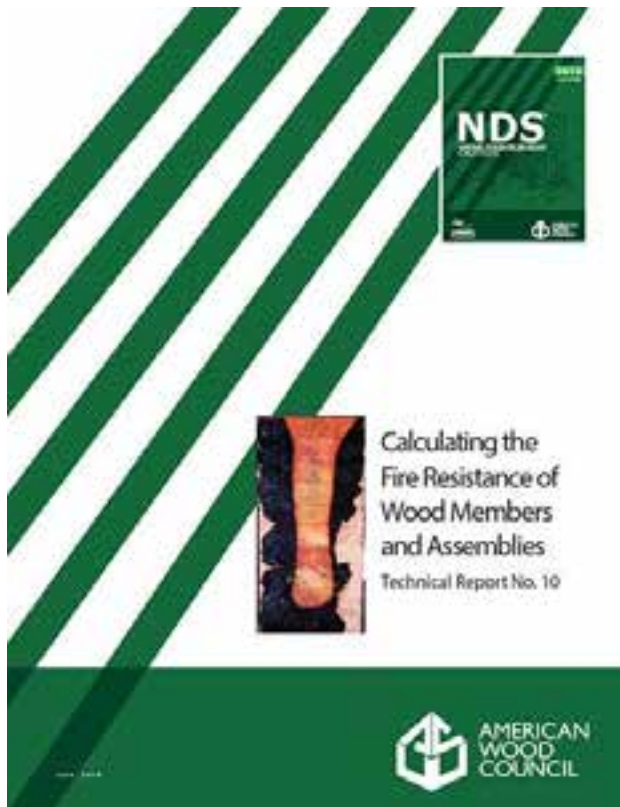
Connection Considerations For Mass Timber

Shrinkage



Connection Considerations For Mass Timber

Fire Ratings





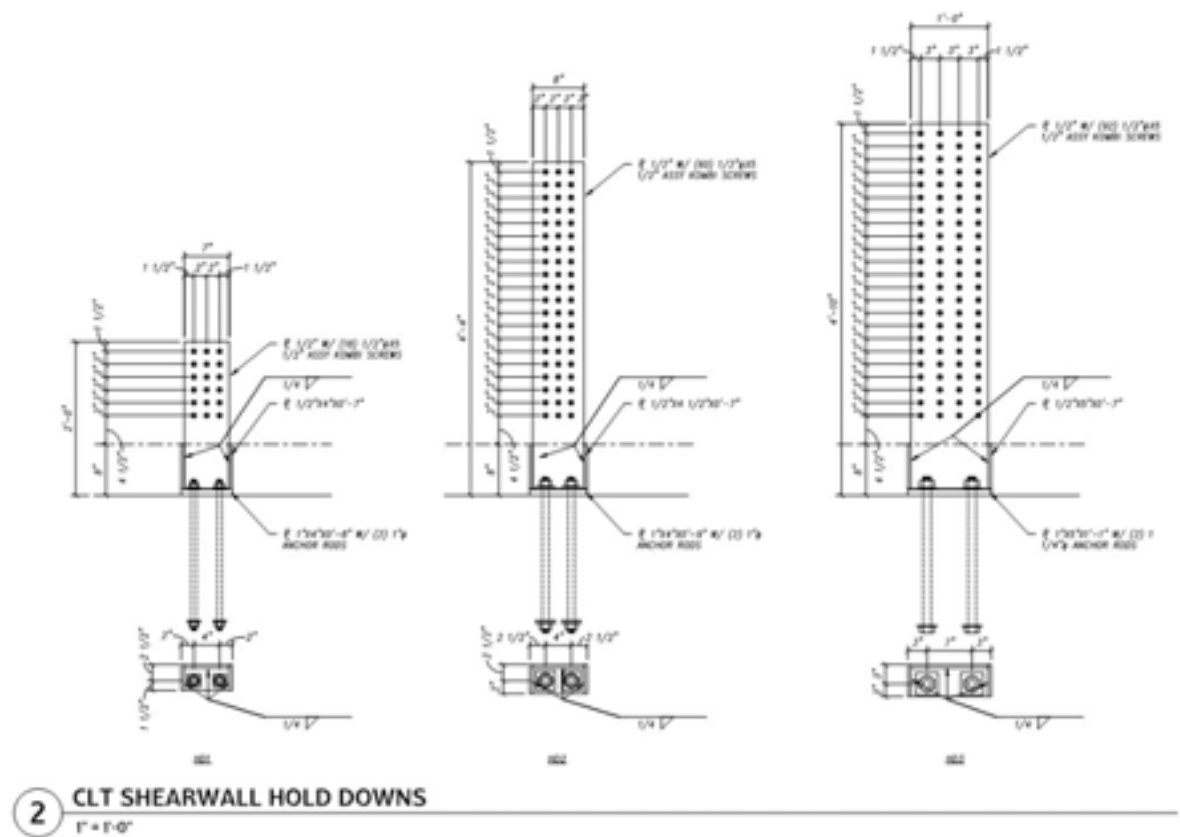
CLT SHEAR WALLS



3-Story, small building
maxed out potential of
rigid CLT shear walls.

Next step: rocking
walls

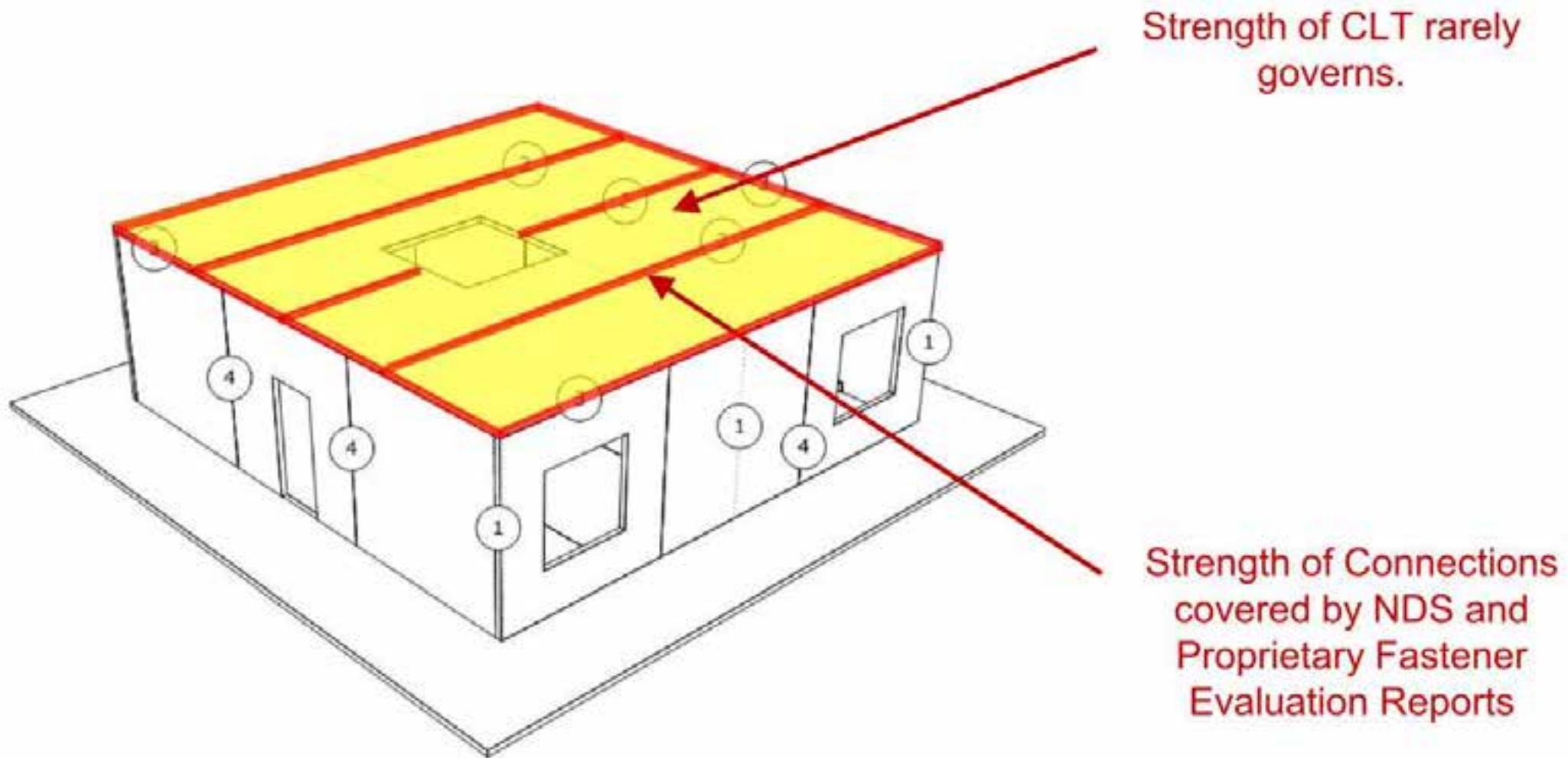
Significant Hold-down Forces



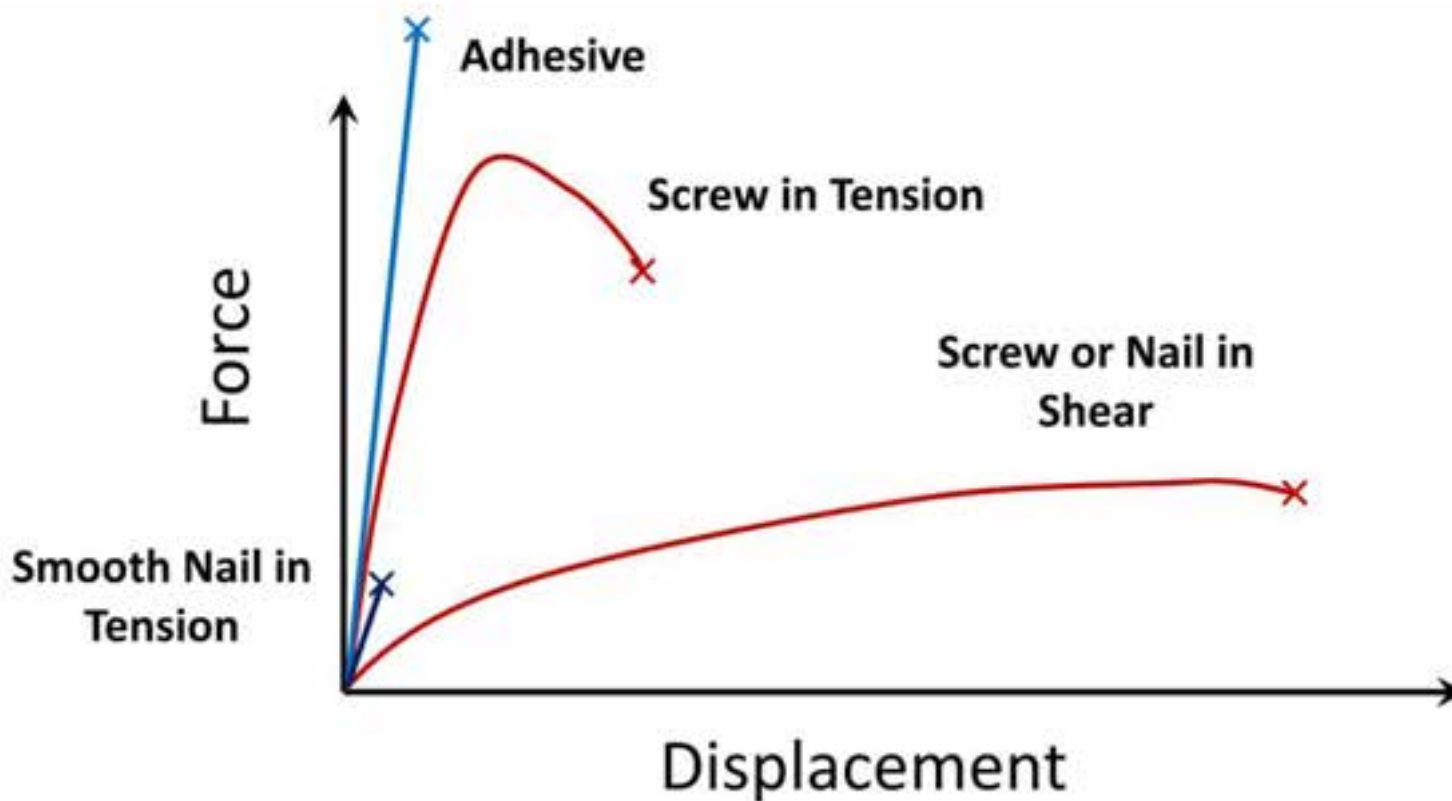


CLT DIAPHRAGMS

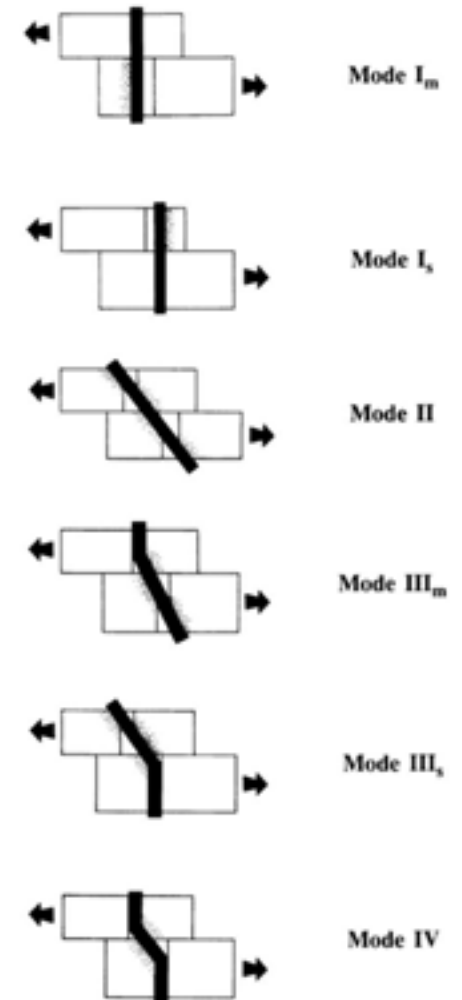
CLT Diaphragm design not yet codified



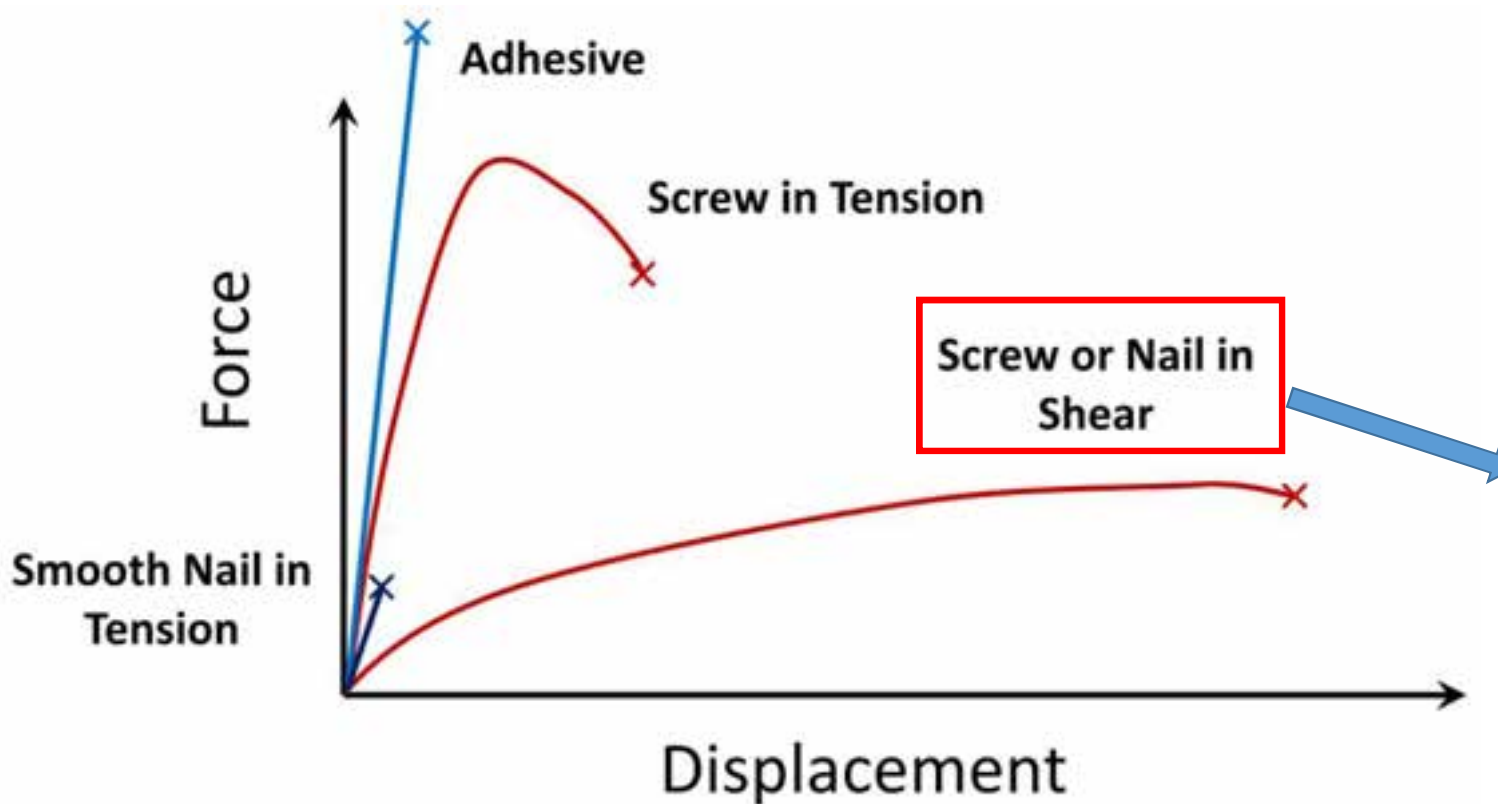
Suggestion: Diaphragm **shear connections** at CLT panel edges and diaphragm boundary connections should be designed to ensure that the connection capacity is limited by ductile fastener yielding in accordance with **Mode III_s** or **Mode IV** per NDS 12.3.1



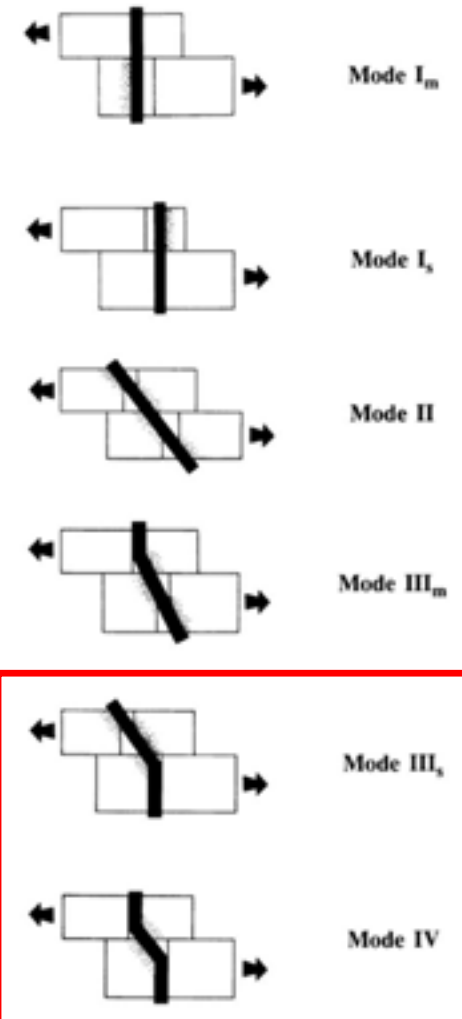
Single Shear Connections



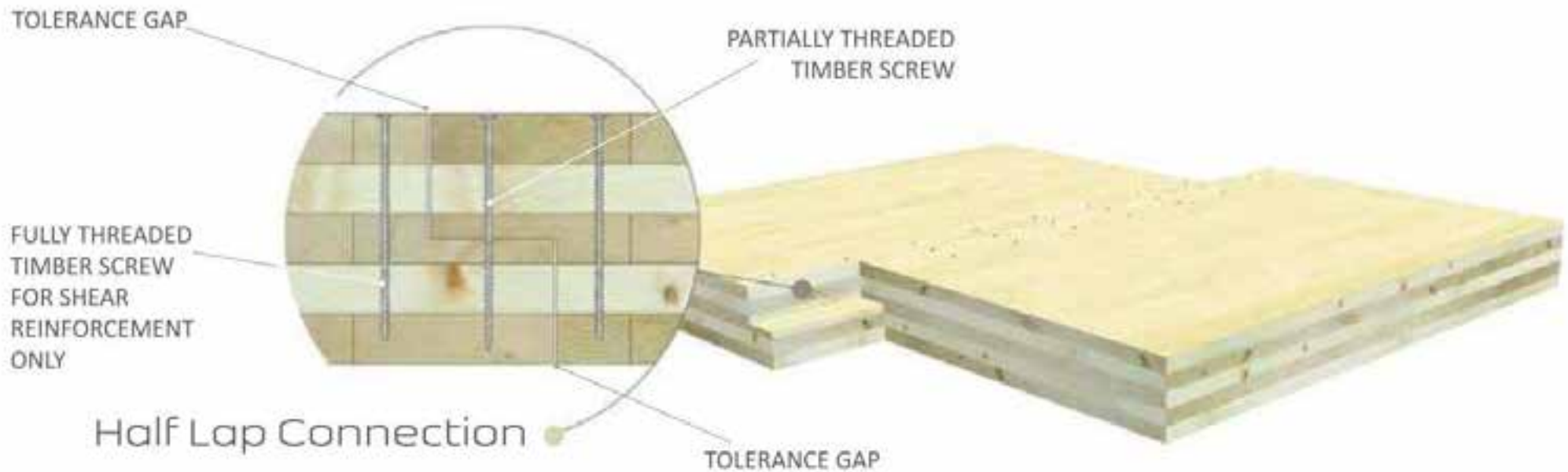
Suggestion: Diaphragm **shear connections** at CLT panel edges and diaphragm boundary connections should be designed to ensure that the connection capacity is limited by ductile fastener yielding in accordance with **Mode III_s** or **Mode IV** per NDS 12.3.1



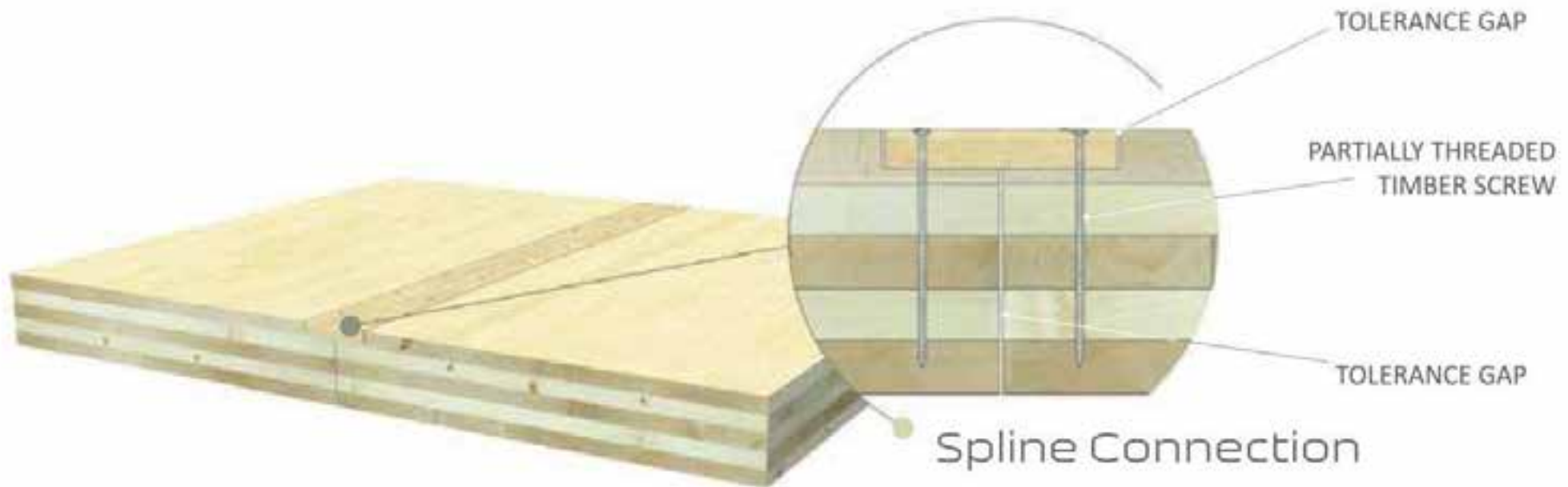
Single Shear Connections



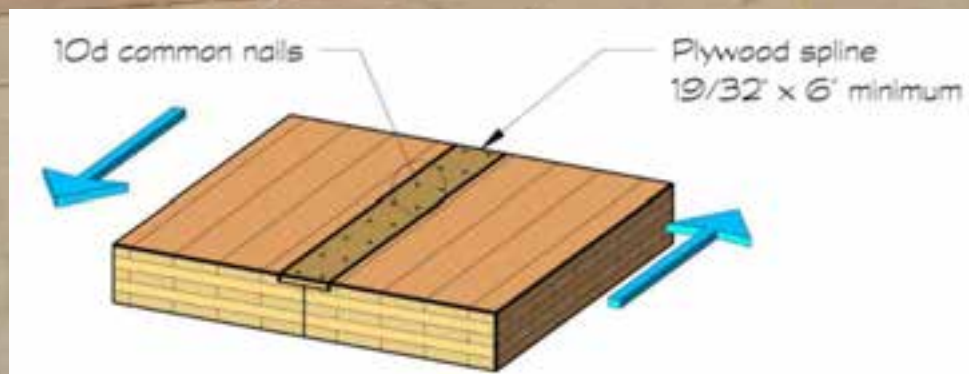
Half-lap Panel-Panel Connection



Spline Panel-Panel Connection

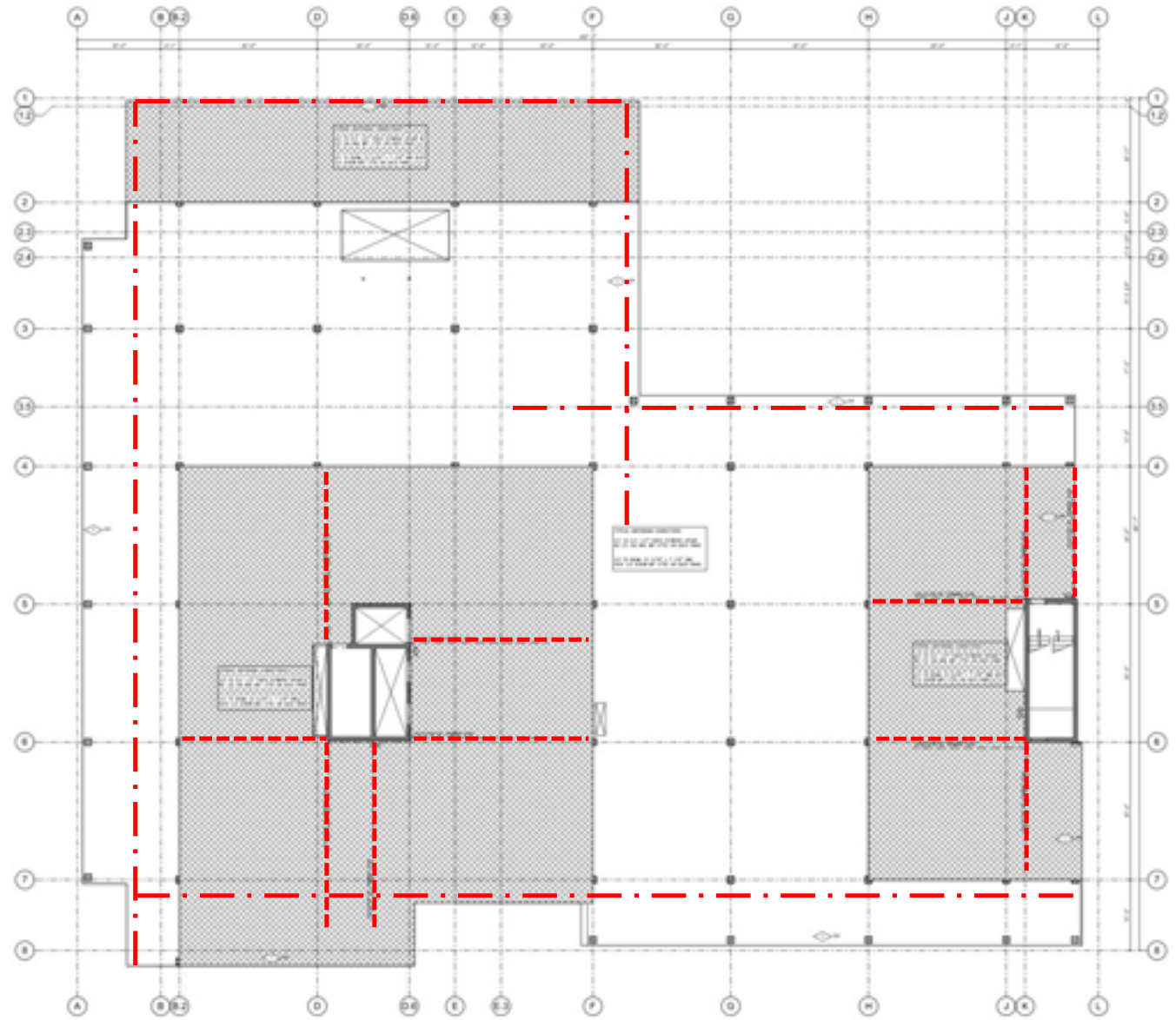


NAILED SPLINE CONNECTION AT CLT DIAPHRAGM



Spline Thickness	10d 6"o.c.	10d 4"o.c.	10d 2 1/2"o.c.	2 rows 10d 4"o.c.	2 rows 10d 2 1/2"o.c.
<i>Wind</i>					
19/32"	505	672	1007		
23/32"				995	1427
<i>Seismic</i>					
19/32"	360	480	720		
23/32"				710	1020

Diaphragm chords and collectors

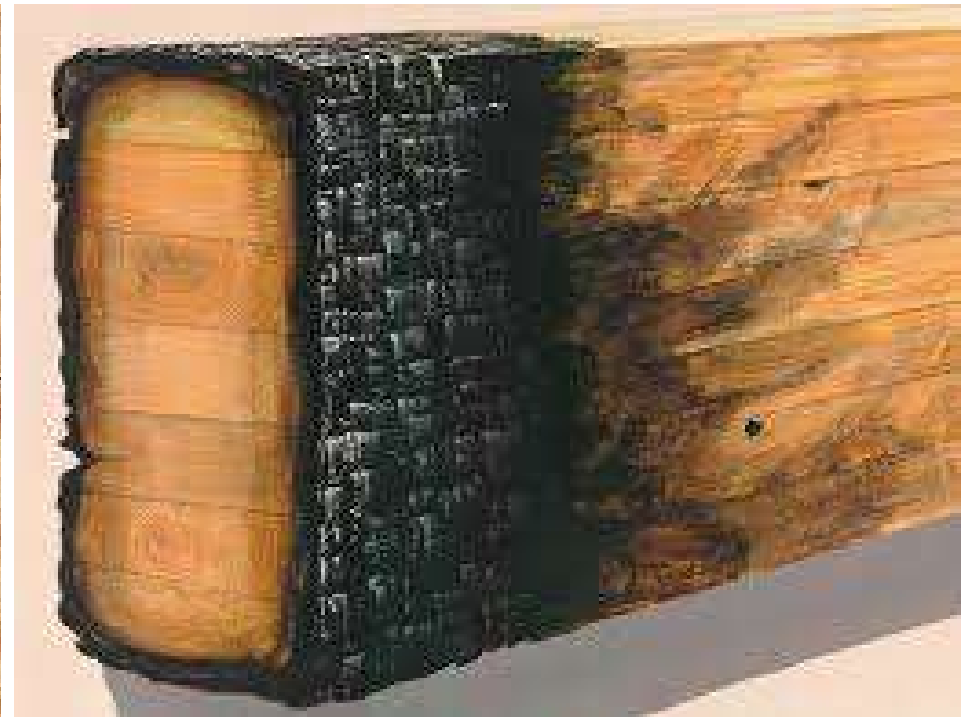
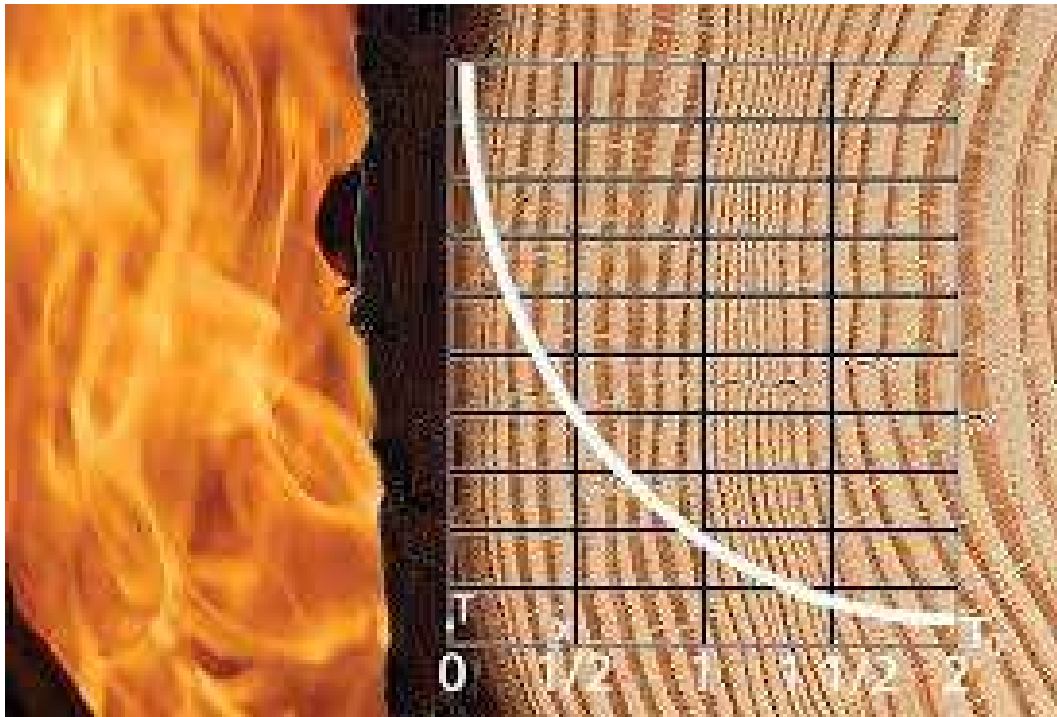








FIRE RESISTANCE



Mass wood has inherent fire resistant rating

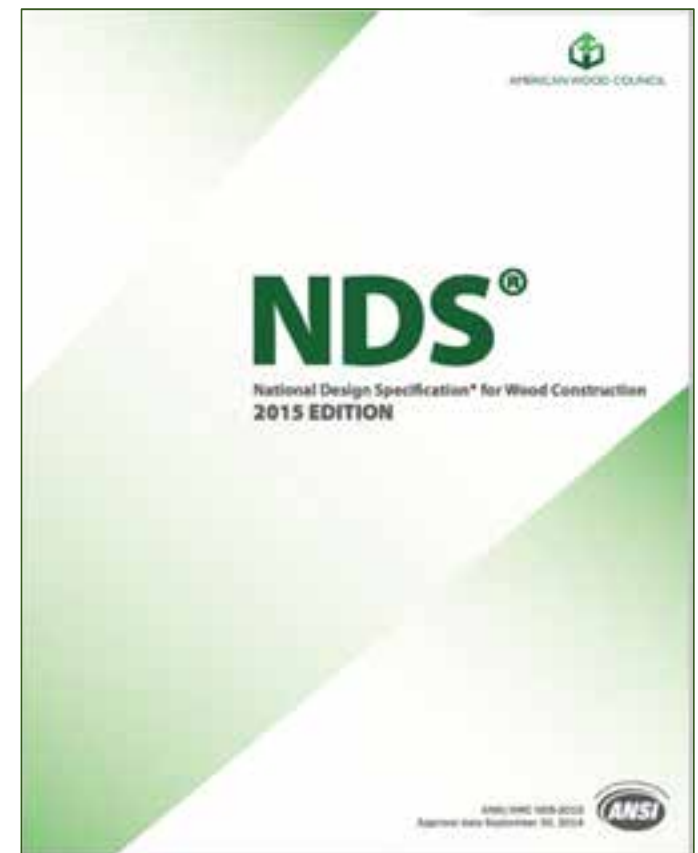
MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

NDS Chapter 16 addresses FRR of NLT, CLT, Glulam, Solid Sawn and SCL wood products

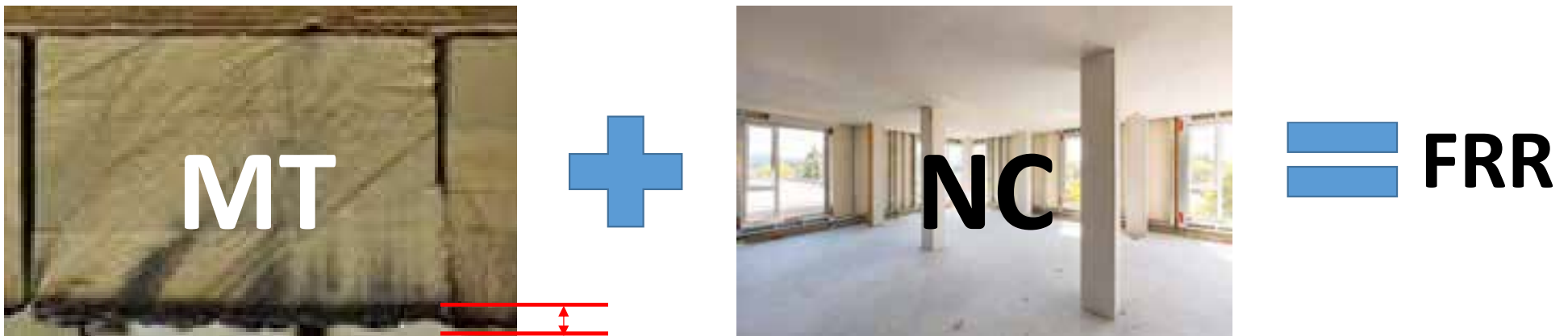
$$\beta_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1.2\beta_n}{t^{0.187}}$$

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



MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



IBC 722.7

The fire resistance rating of the mass timber elements shall consist of the fire resistance of the unprotected element (MT) added to the protection time of the noncombustible (NC) protection



Not fire
protected

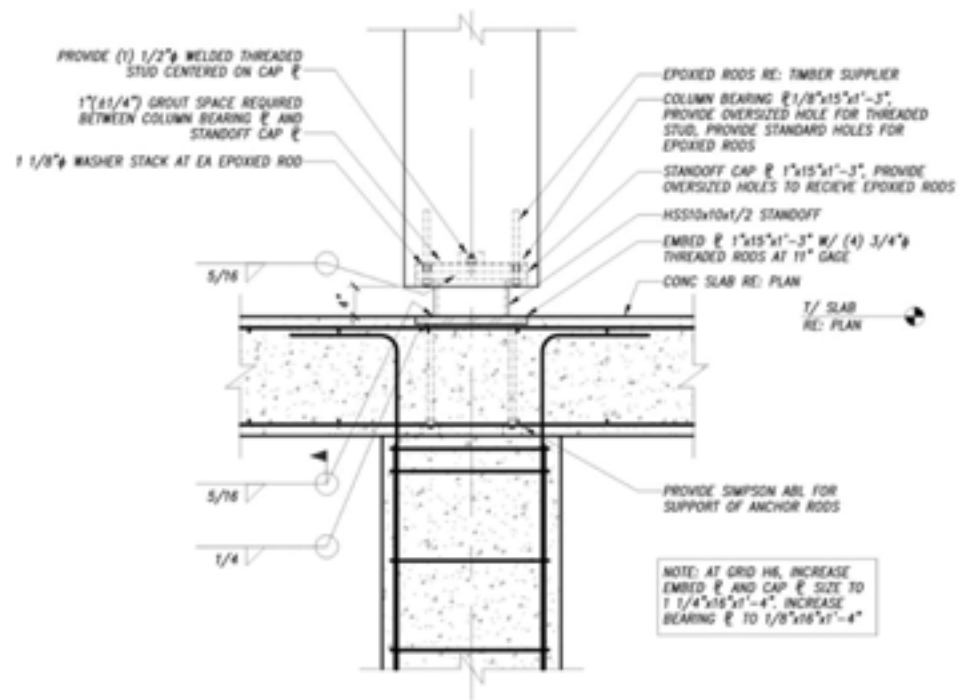
DU Burwell Center for Career Achievement, Denver, Colorado

Photo Credit: Shears Adkins Rockmore Architects

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a wooden bridge structure under construction. The image shows several large, light-colored wooden beams forming a truss-like framework. The sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. In the bottom left corner, a construction crane is partially visible. The word "CONSTRUCTABILITY" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

CONSTRUCTABILITY

Photo Credit: KL&A



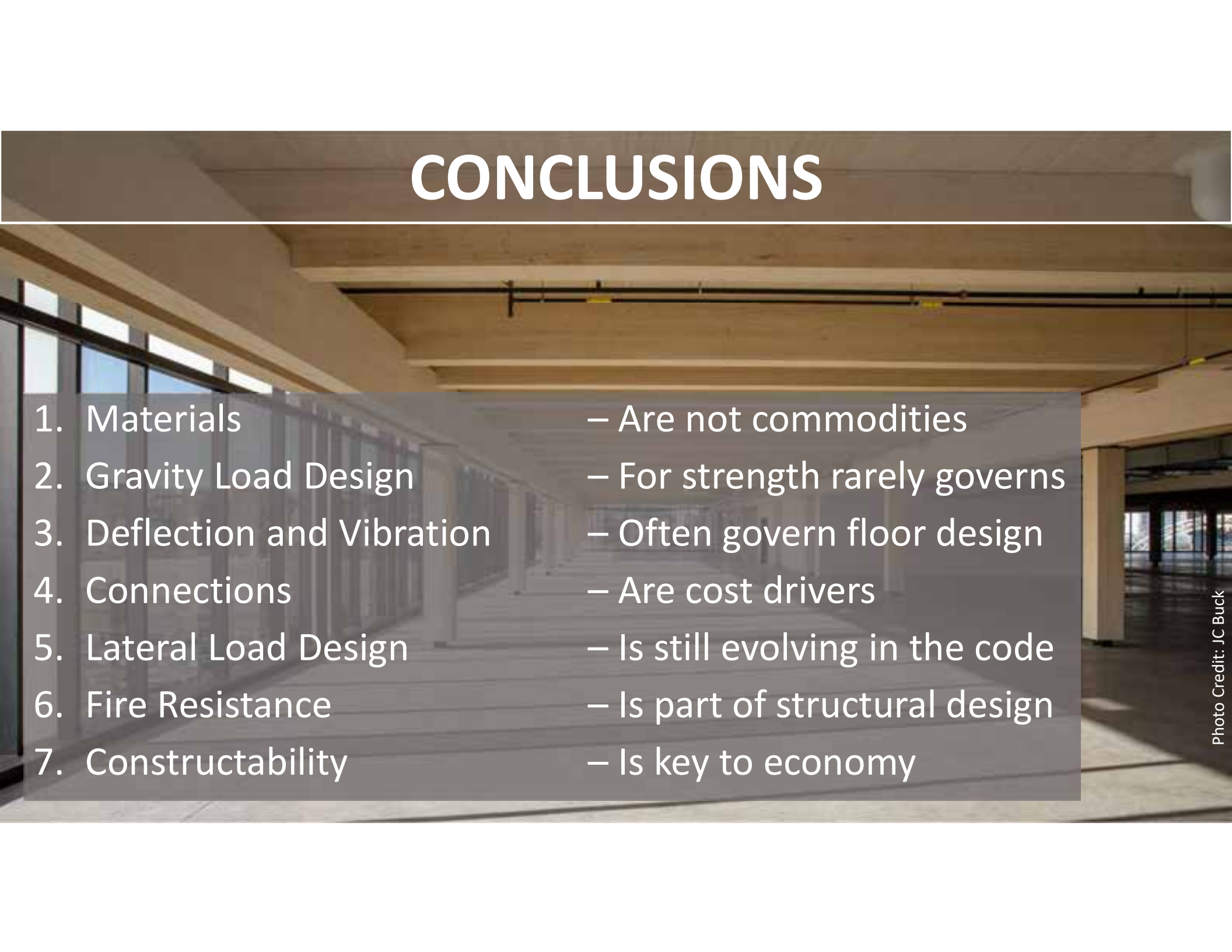


CONCLUSIONS



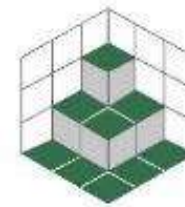
Photo Credit: JC Buck

CONCLUSIONS

- 
1. Materials
 - Are not commodities
 2. Gravity Load Design
 - For strength rarely governs
 3. Deflection and Vibration
 - Often govern floor design
 4. Connections
 - Are cost drivers
 5. Lateral Load Design
 - Is still evolving in the code
 6. Fire Resistance
 - Is part of structural design
 7. Constructability
 - Is key to economy

QUESTIONS?

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KL&A
Engineers & Builders