

# Detailing Mass Timber Buildings for Fire Safety

## Chicago Wood Design Symposium

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

# What is Mass Timber ?



Glulam



Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)



Nail Laminated Timber (NLT)



Mass plywood panels (MPP)



Dowel laminated timber (DLT and DCLT)



Timber-Concrete composites

# Why Mass Timber ?



## Sustainability

Low carbon footprint  
possible local material  
lightweight solutions



## Aesthetics

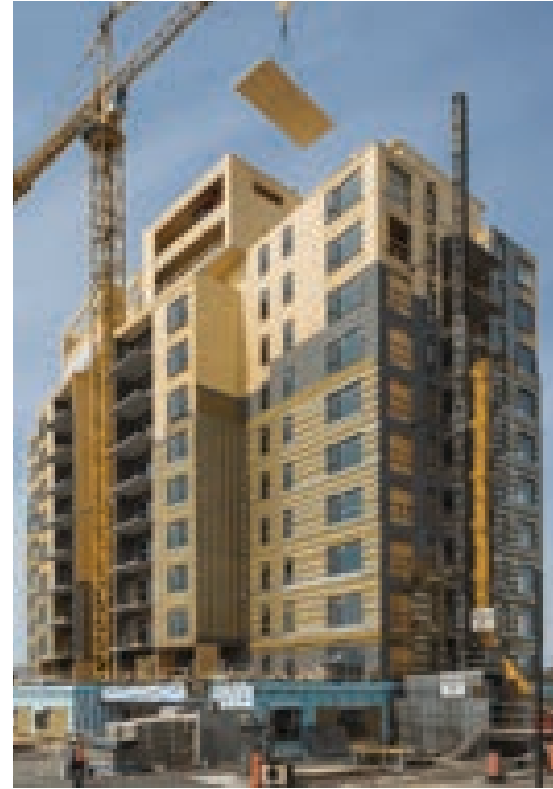
Structure = finish  
biophilia & natural patterns  
market differentiator



## Speed

Pre-fabrication of engineered wood  
composite & hybrid solutions  
speed on site







UBC Brock Commons







HoHo, Austria





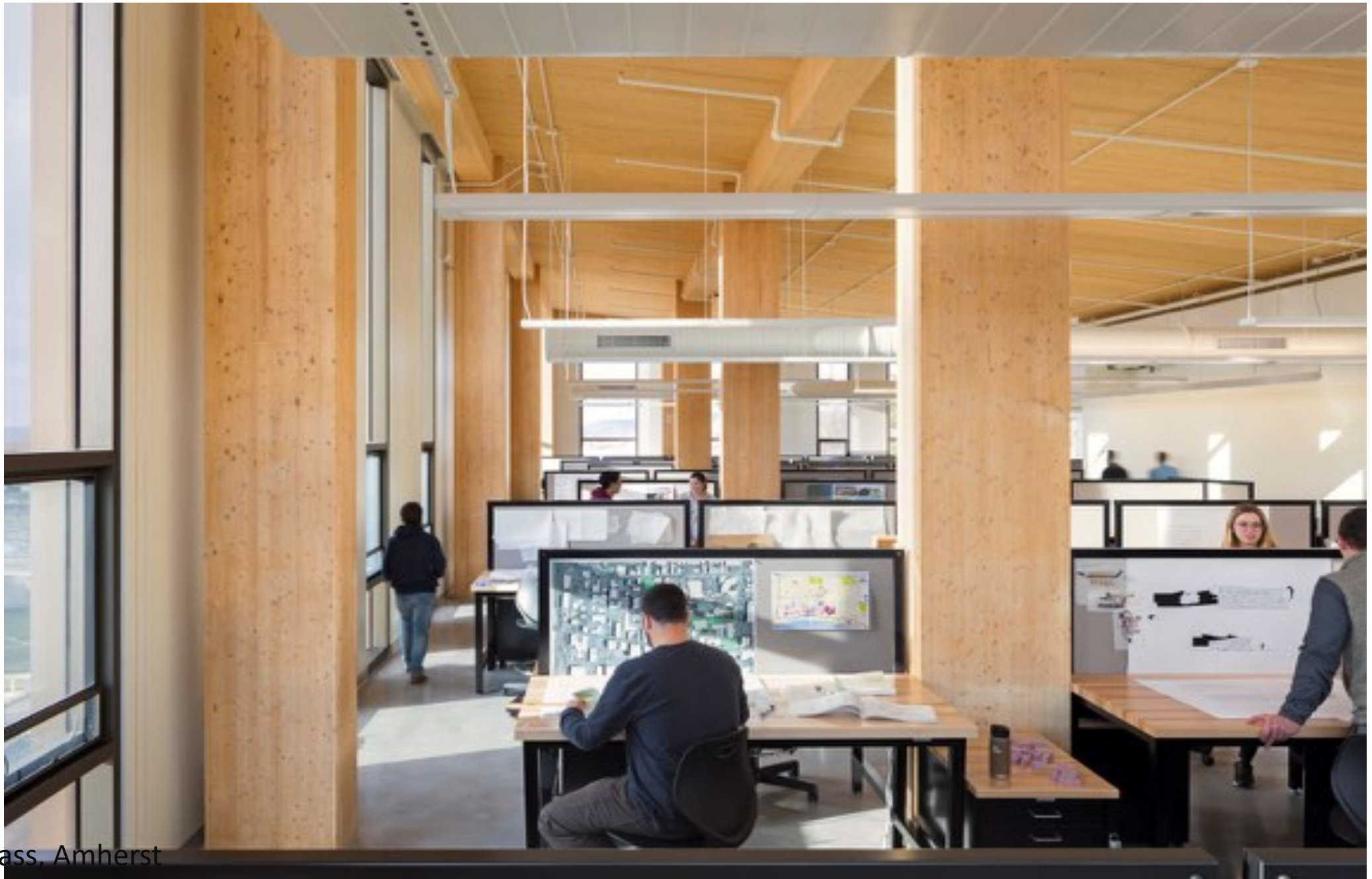
Albina Yards, Portland





T3, Minneapolis





U Mass, Amherst



# What is a Fire Resistance Rating (FRR)?

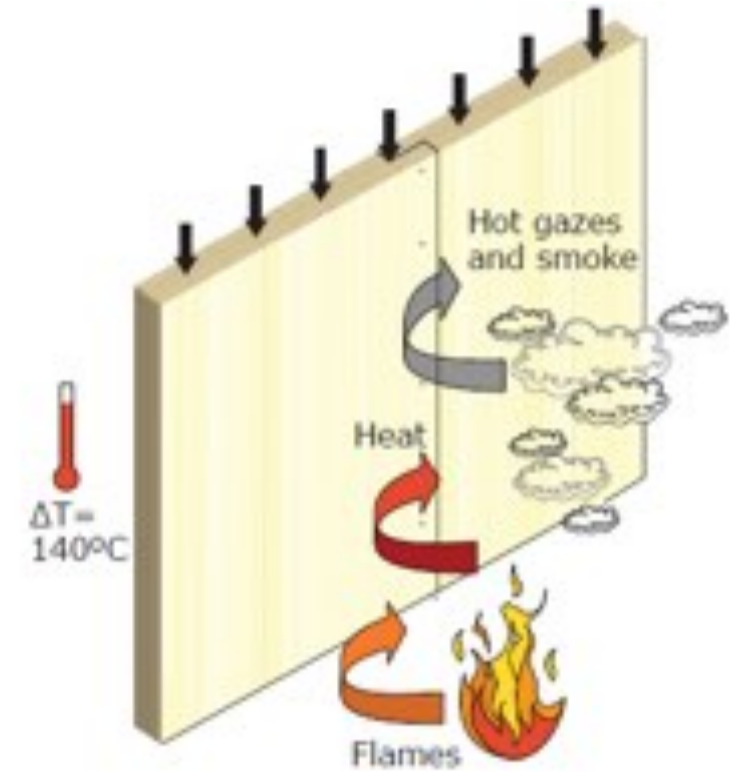


Structural resistance

(from "CLT Handbook, US Edition")



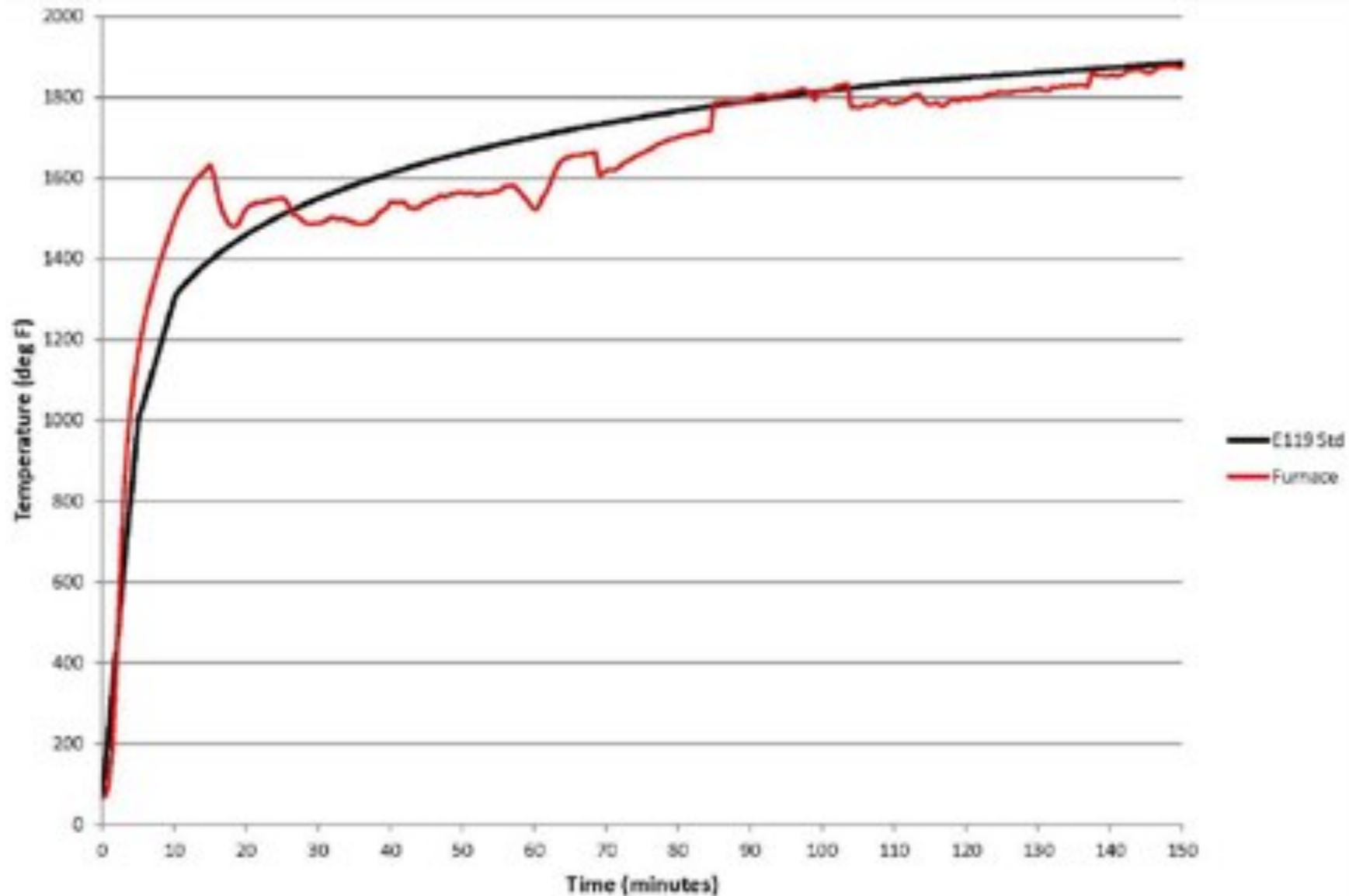
Integrity



Insulation

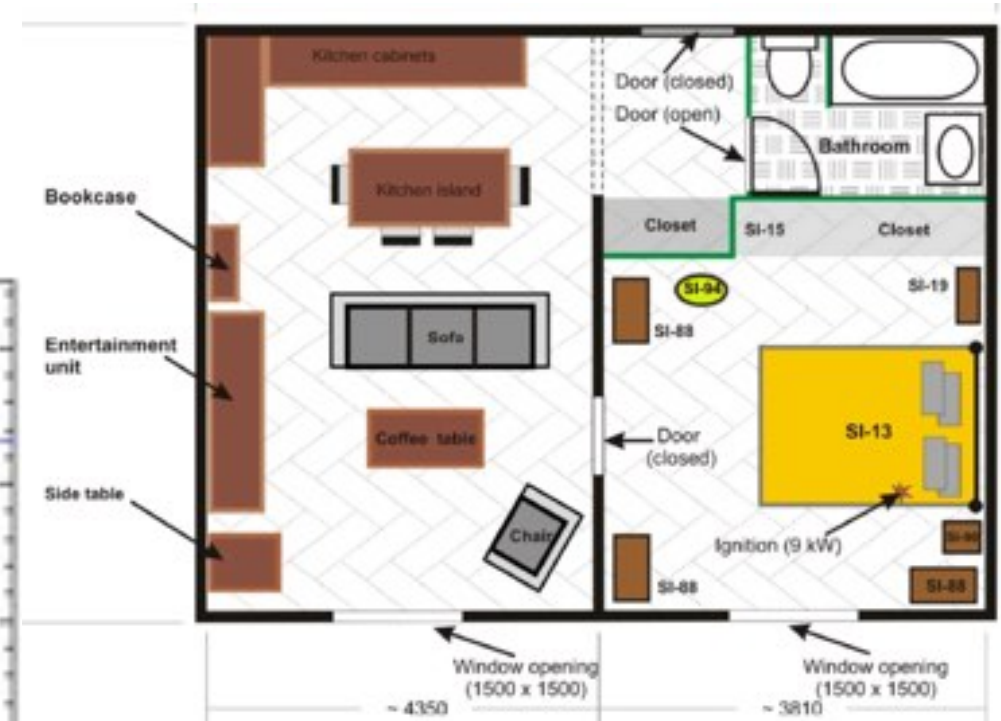
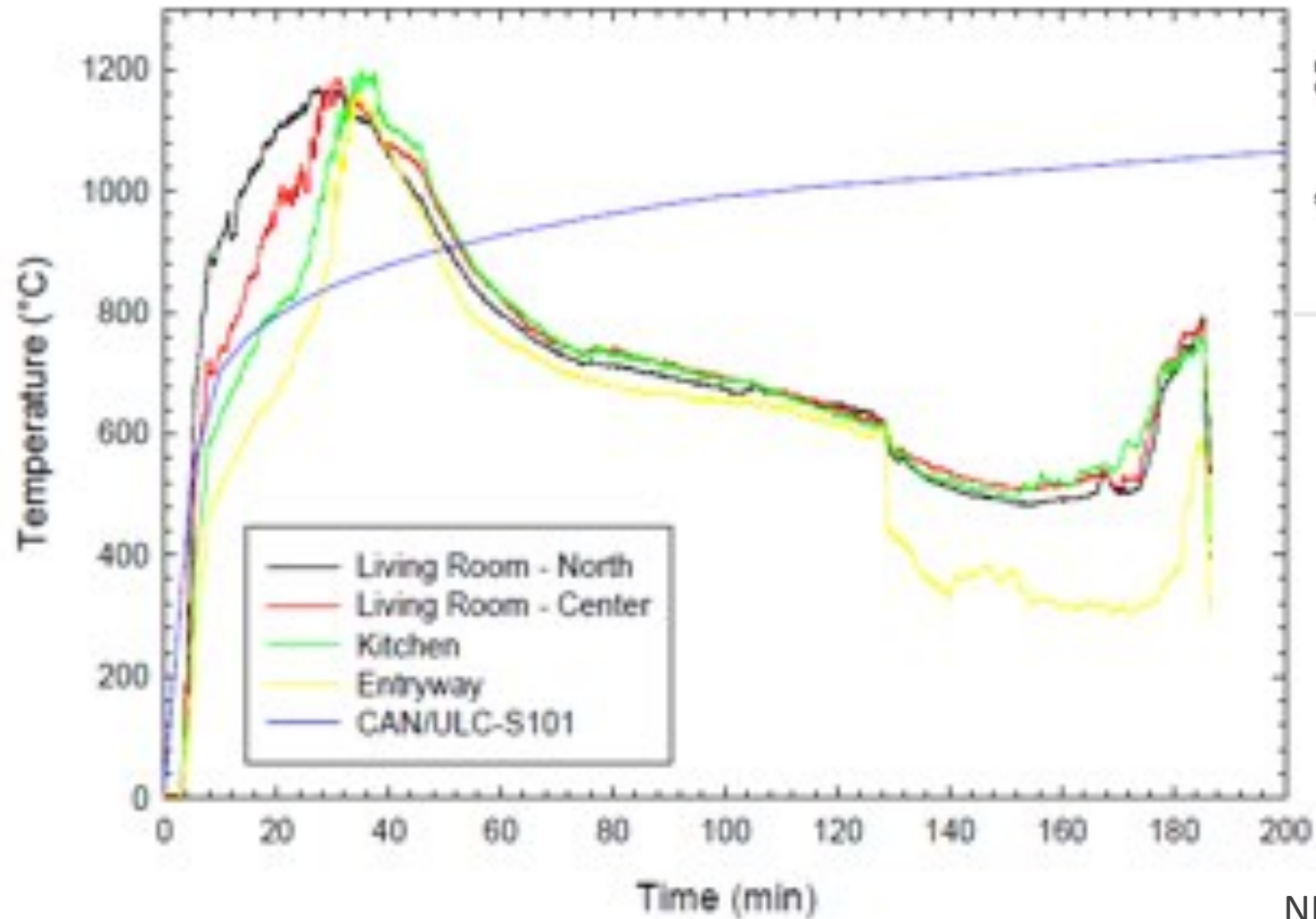


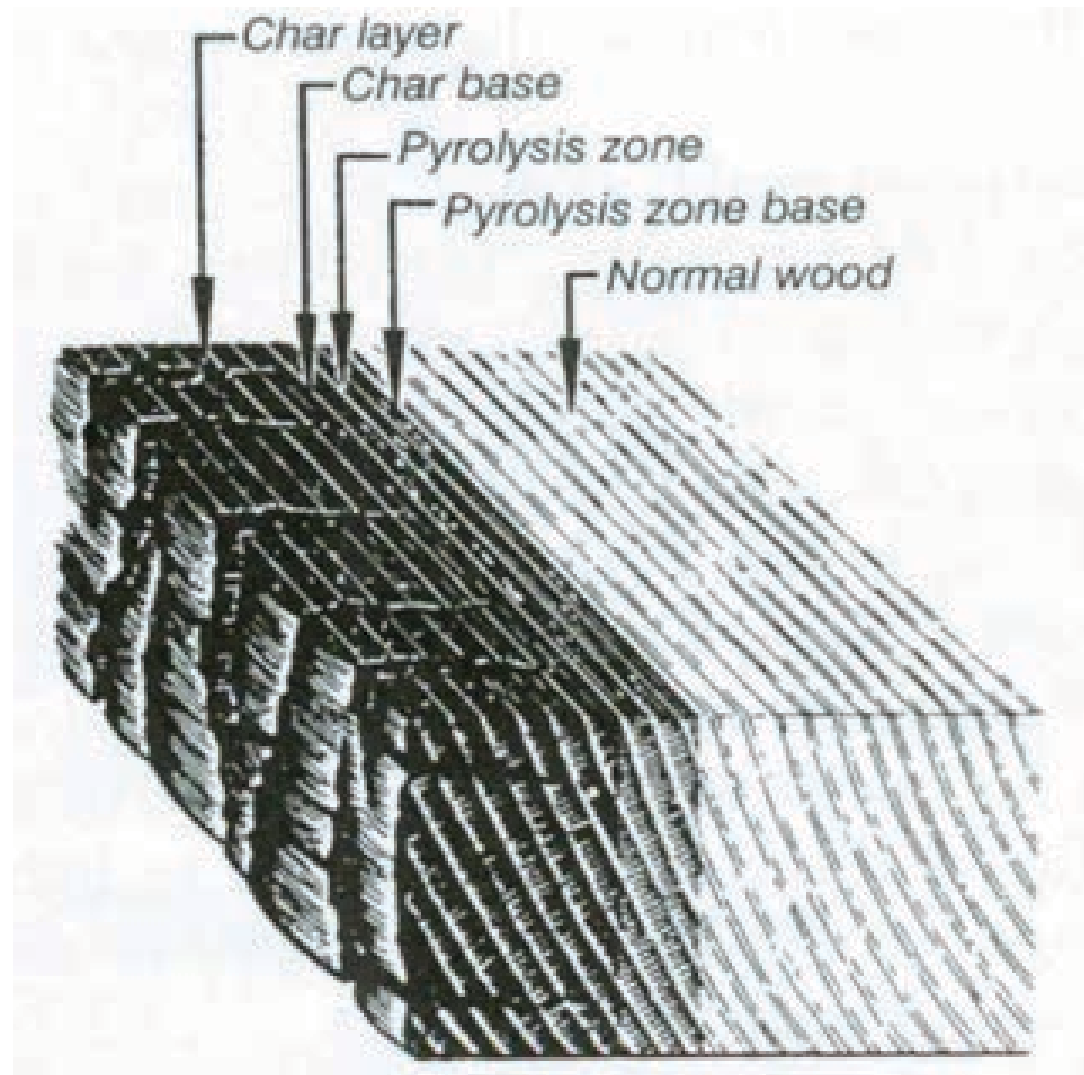
# What is a Fire Resistance Rating (FRR)?





# What is a fire ?





Schaffer, 1966, Forest Products Laboratory

$$a_{eff} = 1.2 \beta_t t^{0.813}$$

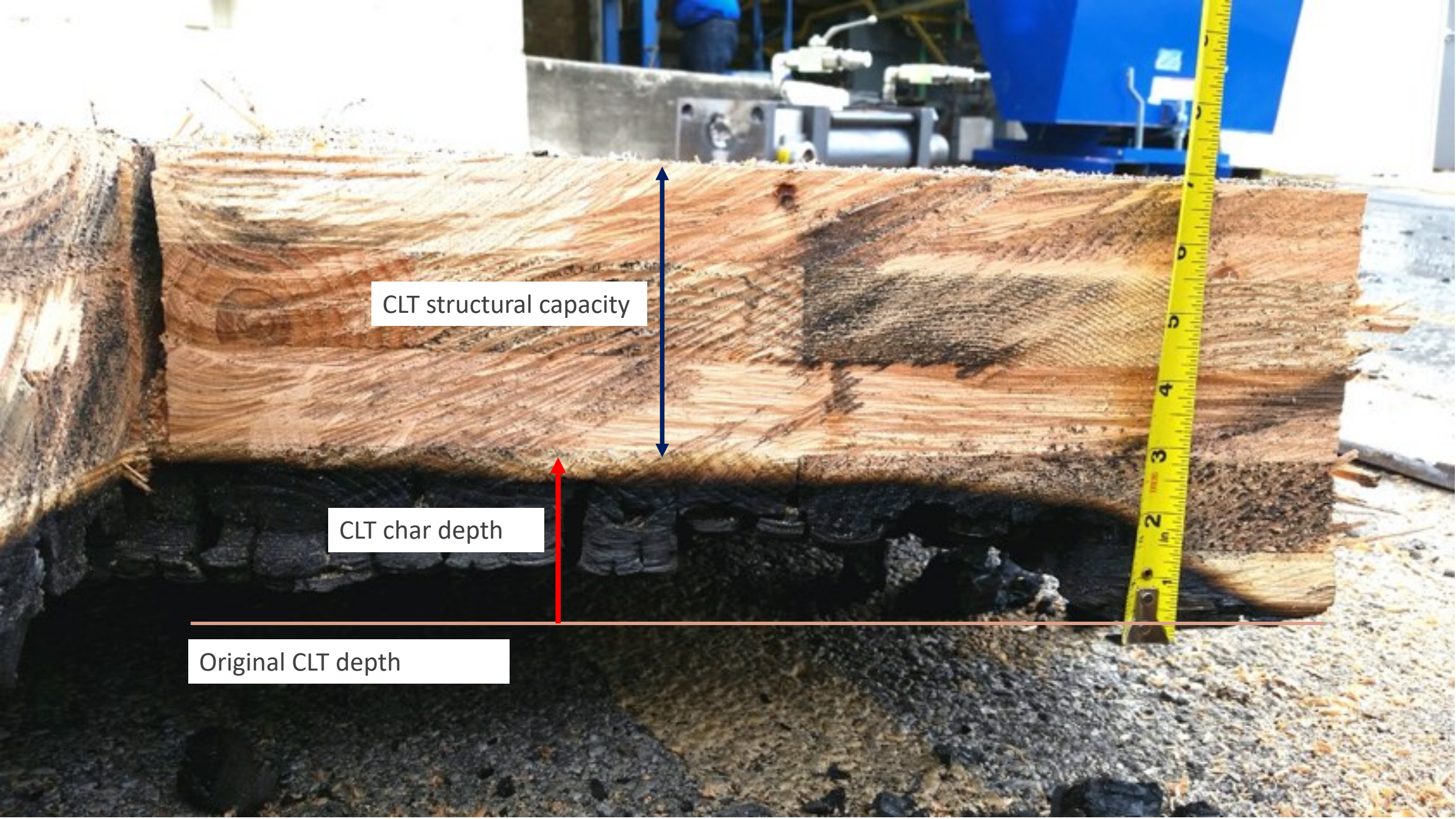












CLT structural capacity

CLT char depth

Original CLT depth



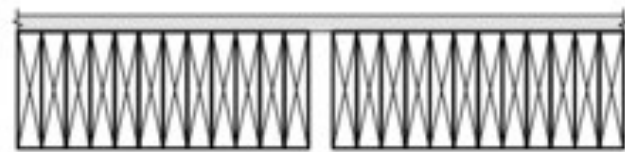








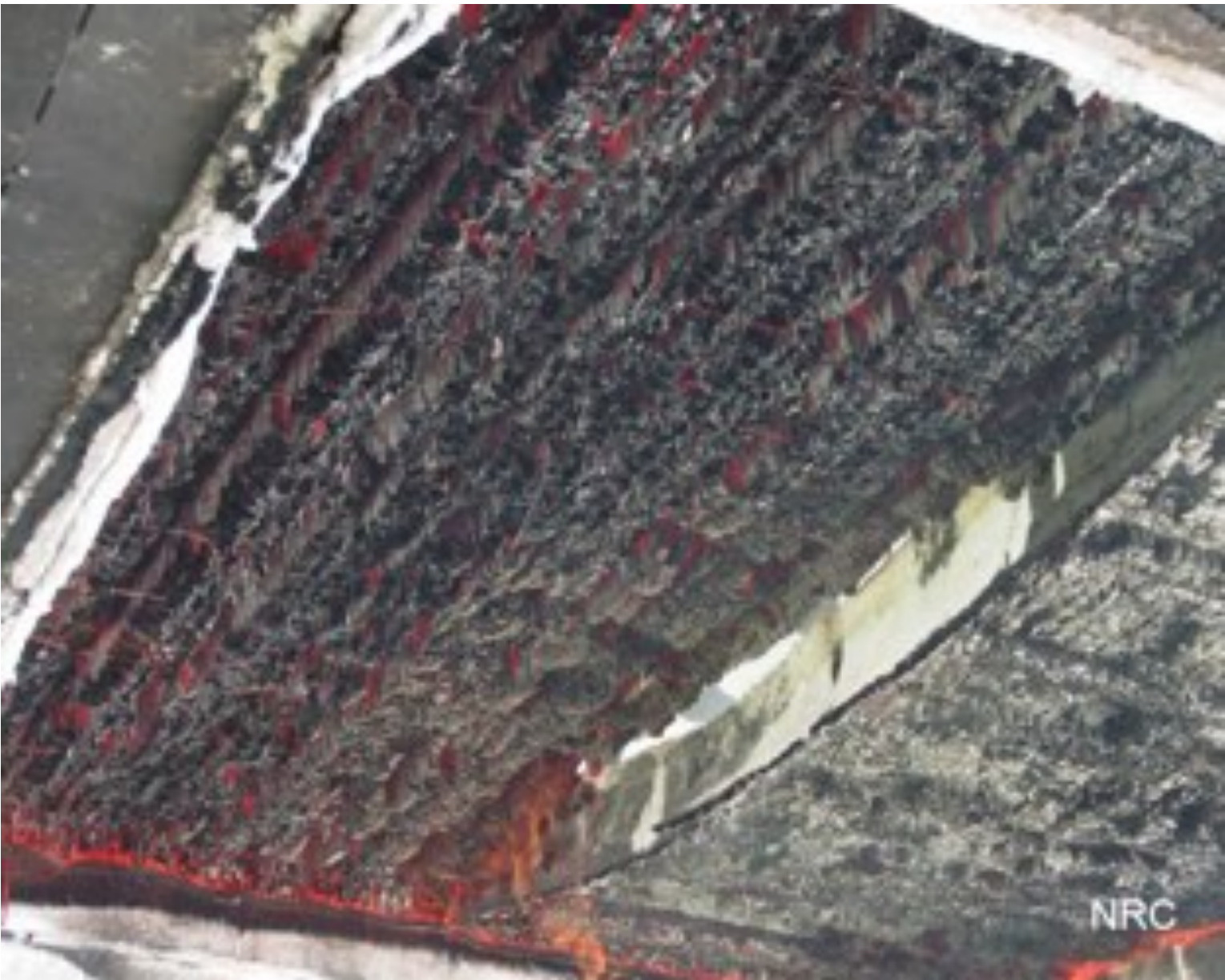




38 OR 76  
 (1 OR 2 LAMINATION)  
 GAP TO BE FILLED IN AFTER  
 BUILDING IS ENCLOSED.  
 GLUE OR PIN NAIL.



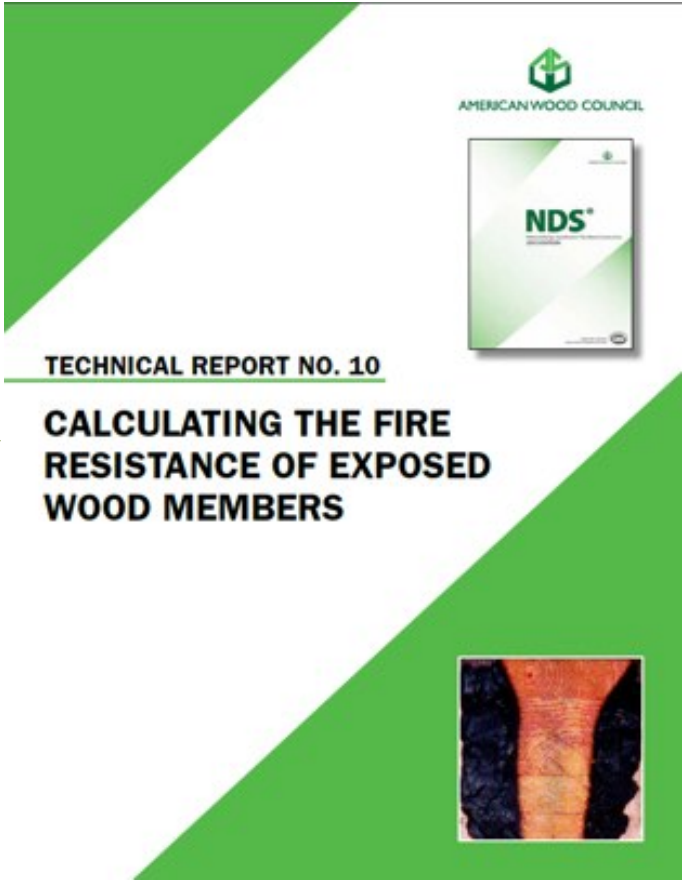
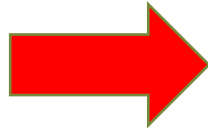
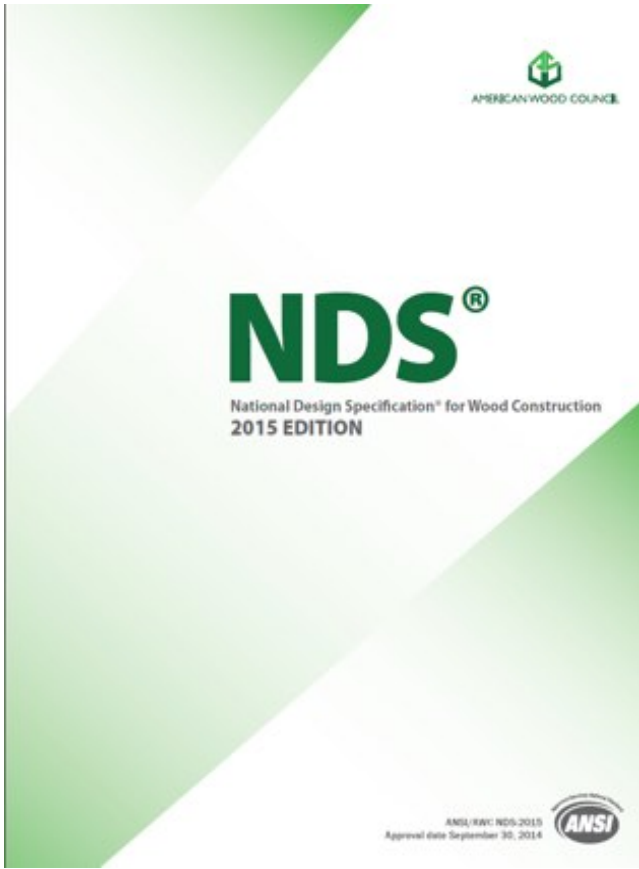
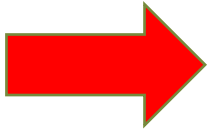




National Research Council, Canada

Tall Wood Building Institute





# Mass timber and the IBC



Simple Banking HQ, Portland



# IBC limits for mass timber construction

Non-combustible construction – Type I, II

Combustible construction – Type III, IV, V

Mass timber - Code compliant use in Types III, IV, V

Type IV – Heavy Timber:

- Up to 6 floors (office) 5 floors (resi)
- Additional floors with “podium construction”
- 85ft in building height



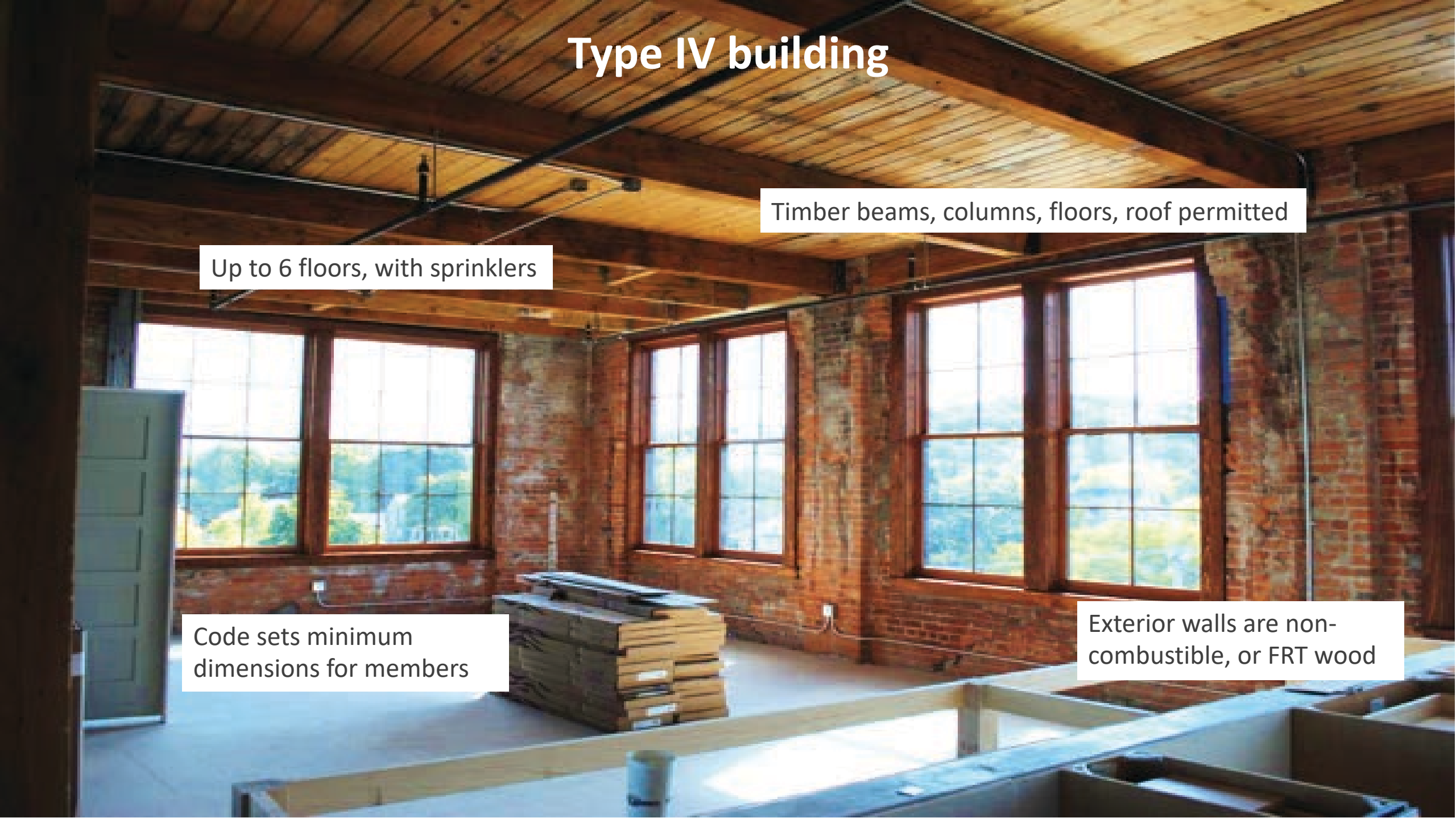
# Type IV building

Timber beams, columns, floors, roof permitted

Up to 6 floors, with sprinklers

Code sets minimum  
dimensions for members

Exterior walls are non-  
combustible, or FRT wood





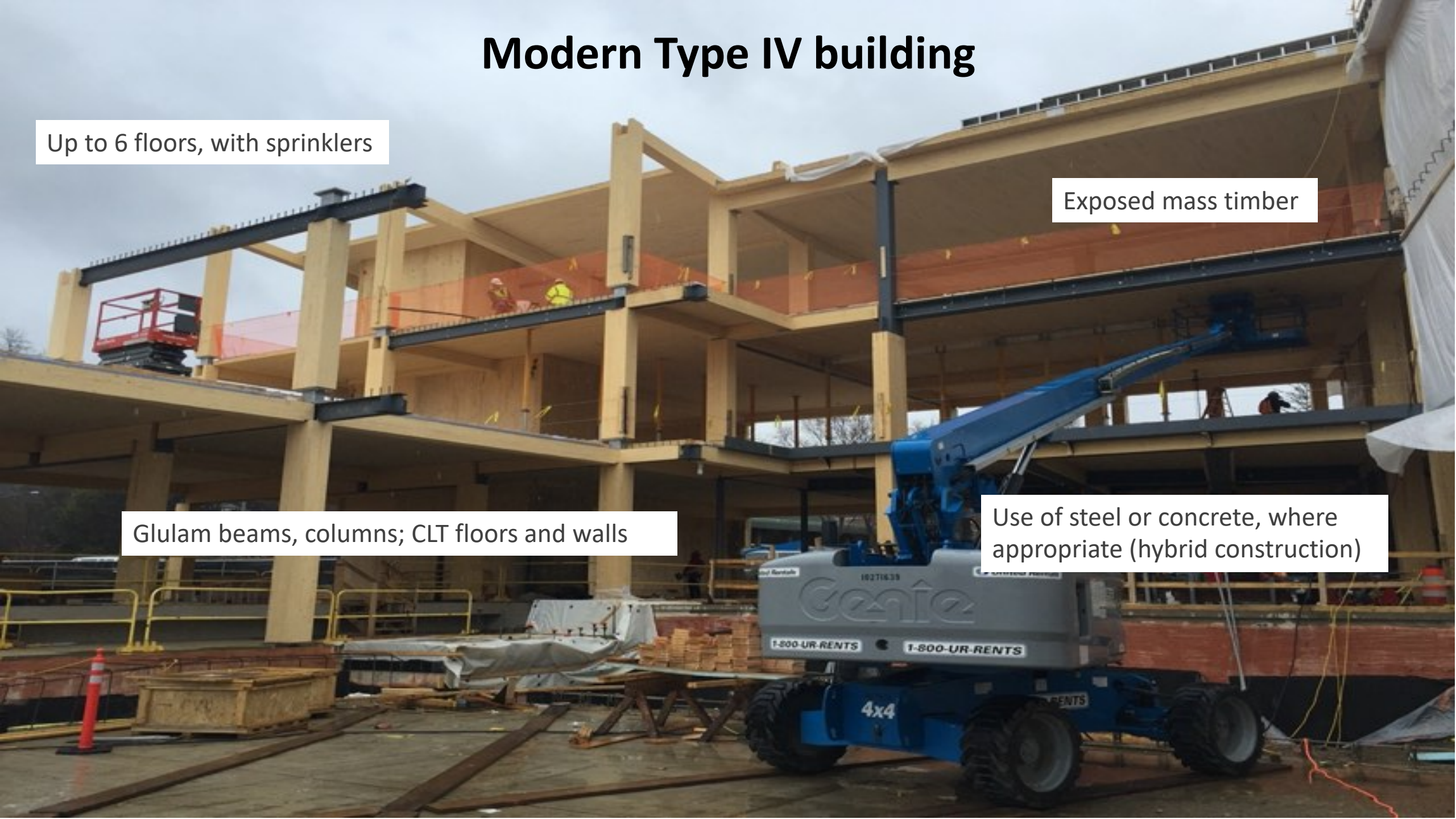
# Modern Type IV building

Up to 6 floors, with sprinklers

Exposed mass timber

Glulam beams, columns; CLT floors and walls

Use of steel or concrete, where appropriate (hybrid construction)



# IBC: Heavy timber = mass timber

TABLE 602.4  
WOOD MEMBER SIZE EQUIVALENCIES

MINIMUM NOMINAL SOLID SAWN SIZE		MINIMUM GLUED-LAMINATED NET SIZE		MINIMUM STRUCTURAL COMPOSITE LUMBER NET SIZE	
Width, inch	Depth, inch	Width, inch	Depth, inch	Width, inch	Depth, inch
8	8	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
6	10	5	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
6	8	5	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
6	6	5	6	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
4	6	3	6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

**Solid or laminated timber (Chapter 23) – LVL, glulam, CLT**

**Type IV – mass timber can be exposed (Chapter 8)**




# Mass timber construction -

**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		
Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	Section	0	0
602.4.6									
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)	1 <sup>1/2</sup> <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





# Detailing in mass timber buildings for fire safety



## Be careful of:

Concealed spaces within Type IV

4th floor and above:

- 2hr shafts connecting to 1hr or HT, for mass timber
- Assembly use – 4th floor limit





## Exterior walls:

- Can CLT be used in an exterior wall?
  - Chapter 6 – CLT can be used in Type IV (not Type III)
  - Chapter 14 – limits timber to 40ft, or 60ft with FRT, or pass NFPA 285
- Keep timber columns and beams out the exterior wall

























## **Fire resistance for glulam connectors:**

**Fire test reports – very few to choose from and only one for 2hrs (Framework connector)**

**Calculation methodology – see TR-10 (Part V, Example 9)**

**Cannot just add “char layer” to a concealed connector**

**Intumescent paint on steel connectors does not work**

**Gyp can work, if properly detailed**













**Beam**



**Beam + pipe**



**Beam + pipe and char**

**And there are also:**

**Joints between concrete slabs and CLT**

**Fire barrier or partition wall meeting glulam or CLT**

**Curtain wall edge details**

**Kitchen exhaust shafts**

**CLT encapsulation by gyp ceiling - edge details**

**and many more.....**





# > QUESTIONS?

This concludes The American Institute of  
Architects Continuing Education Systems Course

## Photo credits:

Lever Architecture, Hines, Waugh Thistleton Architects, DPR Construction, Luk Kramer, Moelven, Ivan Brodey, Shigeru Ban Architects, Nordic, Hacker Architects, Ivan Brodey, Alex Schreyer, KLH, Michael Green Architecture, Kattera, Voll Arkitekter, CREE, Fentress Architects, Miller Hull Architects, Kate Simonen, BVN, NRCC, Tall Wood Building Institute

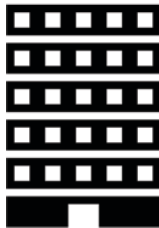
**Please contact me with any mass timber fire questions:**

**David Barber**

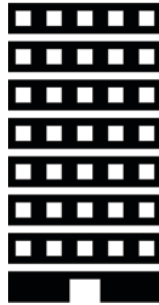
Arup, Washington DC

[david.barber@arup.com](mailto:david.barber@arup.com)

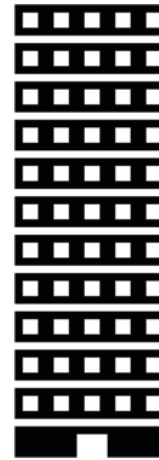




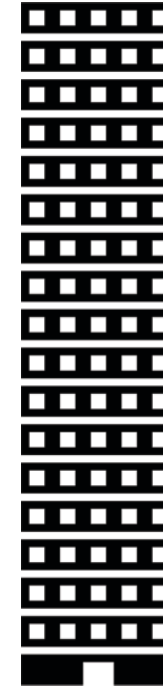
Type IV  
• Max 85ft  
• 6 floors (timber)  
• Timber fully exposed



Type IV-C  
• Max 85ft  
• 8 floors  
• Timber fully exposed  
• 2hr FRR



Type IV-B  
• Max 180ft  
• 12 floors  
• Timber partly exposed  
• Protected timber shafts  
• 2hr FRR



Type IV-A  
• Max 270ft  
• 18 floors  
• Timber fully protected  
• Concrete shafts  
• 3hr FRR



E119 test, CLT floor after 2hrs, with char fall-off



E119 test, CLT floor after 2hrs, with no char fall-off





Crielaard





