

# Mass Timber Shafts and Shaft Wall Solutions for Mass Timber Buildings

Presented by:

Alyson Blair (Holmes)

Matt Harwood (Holmes)

Chris Grosse (LEVER Architecture)



Holmes

LEVER

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

# Project Information

---

- Confidential Office Project in the Pacific Northwest
- 6 Stories Type III-A over Type I-A podium
- Team
  - Architect: LEVER
  - Structural Engineer: Holmes
  - Fire & Life Safety Code Consulting: Holmes

# Shaft Code Requirements

---

- IBC Section 713: Shaft Enclosures
- Shafts are constructed as fire barriers

**713.2 Construction.** Shaft enclosures shall be constructed as *fire barriers* in accordance with Section 707 or horizontal assemblies in accordance with Section 711, or both.

- Shaft fire resistance rating (independent of construction type)
  - 1 hr: < 4 stories
  - 2 hrs: 4 stories or more

# Shaft Code Requirements

- 713.5 Shaft continuity requirements per fire barrier requirements

**713.5 Continuity.** Shaft enclosures shall be constructed as *fire barriers* in accordance with Section 707 or *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both, and shall have continuity in accordance with Section 707.5 for *fire barriers* or Section 711.2.2 for *horizontal assemblies*, as applicable.

- 707.5 Fire barrier continuity requirements

**707.5 Continuity.** *Fire barriers* shall extend from the top of the foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below to the underside of the floor or roof sheathing, slab or deck above and shall be securely attached thereto. Such *fire barriers* shall be continuous through concealed space, such as the space above a suspended ceiling. Joints and voids at intersections shall comply with Sections 707.8 and 707.9

# Shaft Code Requirements

---

- 707.5.1 Supporting Construction: required to be the same fire resistance rating of the fire barrier being supported

**707.5.1 Supporting construction.** The supporting construction for a *fire barrier* shall be protected to afford the required *fire-resistance rating* of the *fire barrier* supported. Hollow vertical spaces within a *fire barrier* shall be fireblocked in accordance with Section 718.2 at every floor level.

# Shaft Code Requirements

Floor & secondary members FRR requirements per construction type

	Type I		Type II		Type III		Type IV				Type V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
FRR	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0

Shaft FRR (independent of construction type)

	< 4 stories	4 or more stories
FRR	1 hr	2 hr

# Shaft Code Requirements

Floor & secondary members FRR requirements per construction type

	Type I		Type II		Type III		Type IV				Type V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
FRR	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0

Shaft FRR (independent of construction type)

	< 4 stories	4 or more stories
FRR	1 hr	2 hr

# Building Overview

270'x140' 6 storey all mass timber superstructure

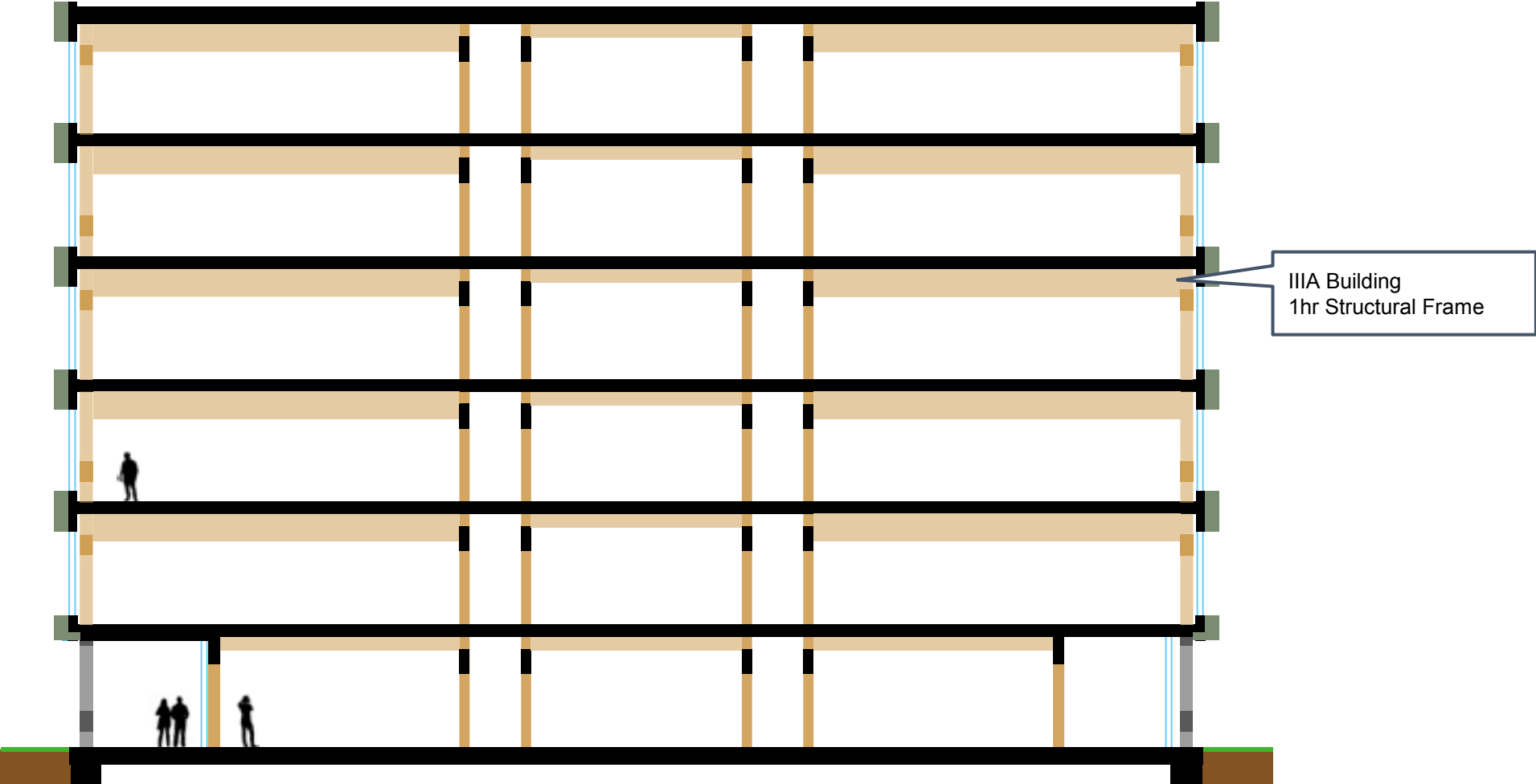
Structural System:

- Number of innovative structural solutions outside of design codes
- Long-span composite (CLT/GLT) floor cassettes (requires testing)
- Perimeter lateral & gravity structure (requires testing)
- Internal CLT shear walls with BRB hold-downs (relies on previous testing)

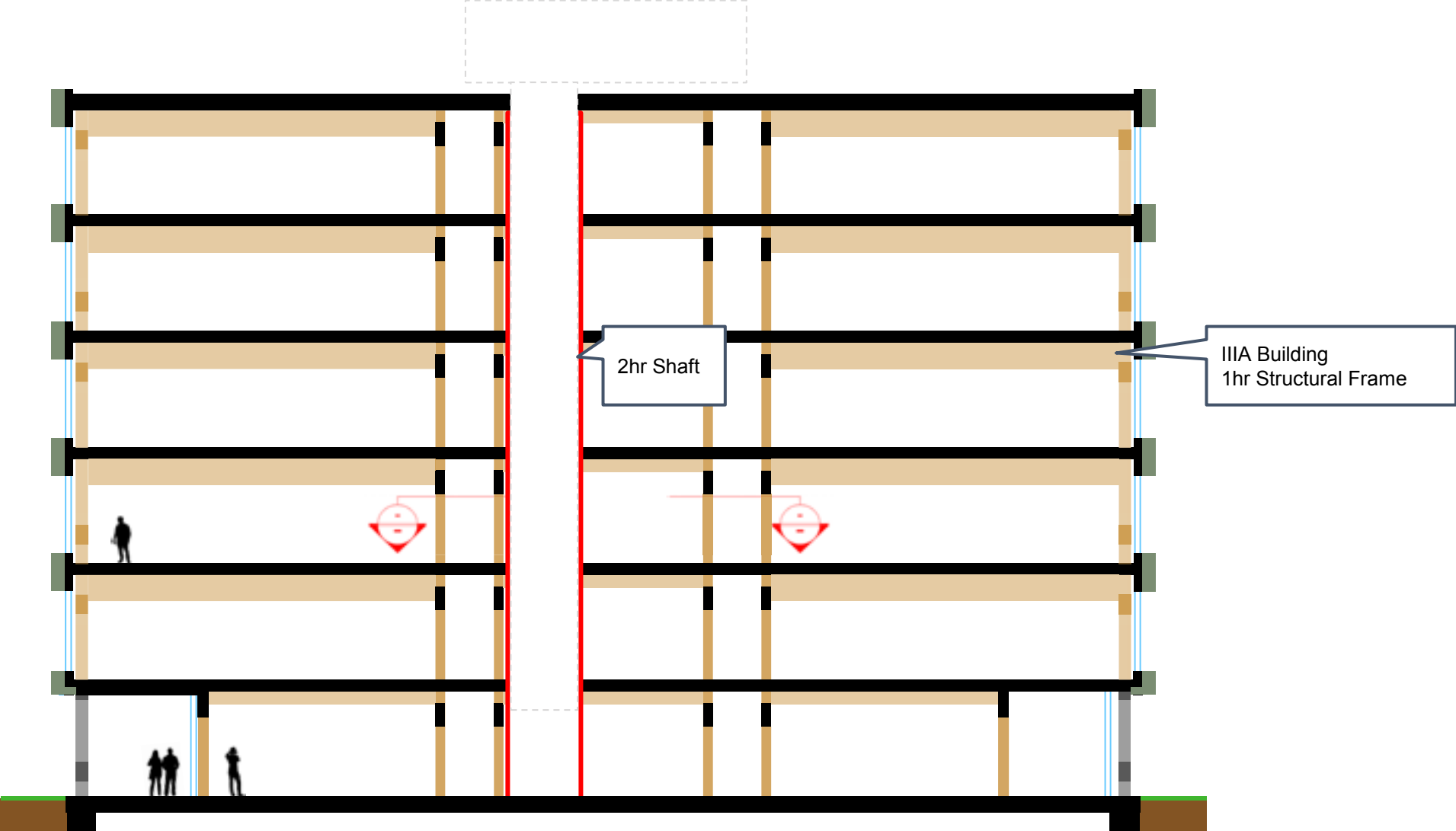




# Shaft Schematic Approaches



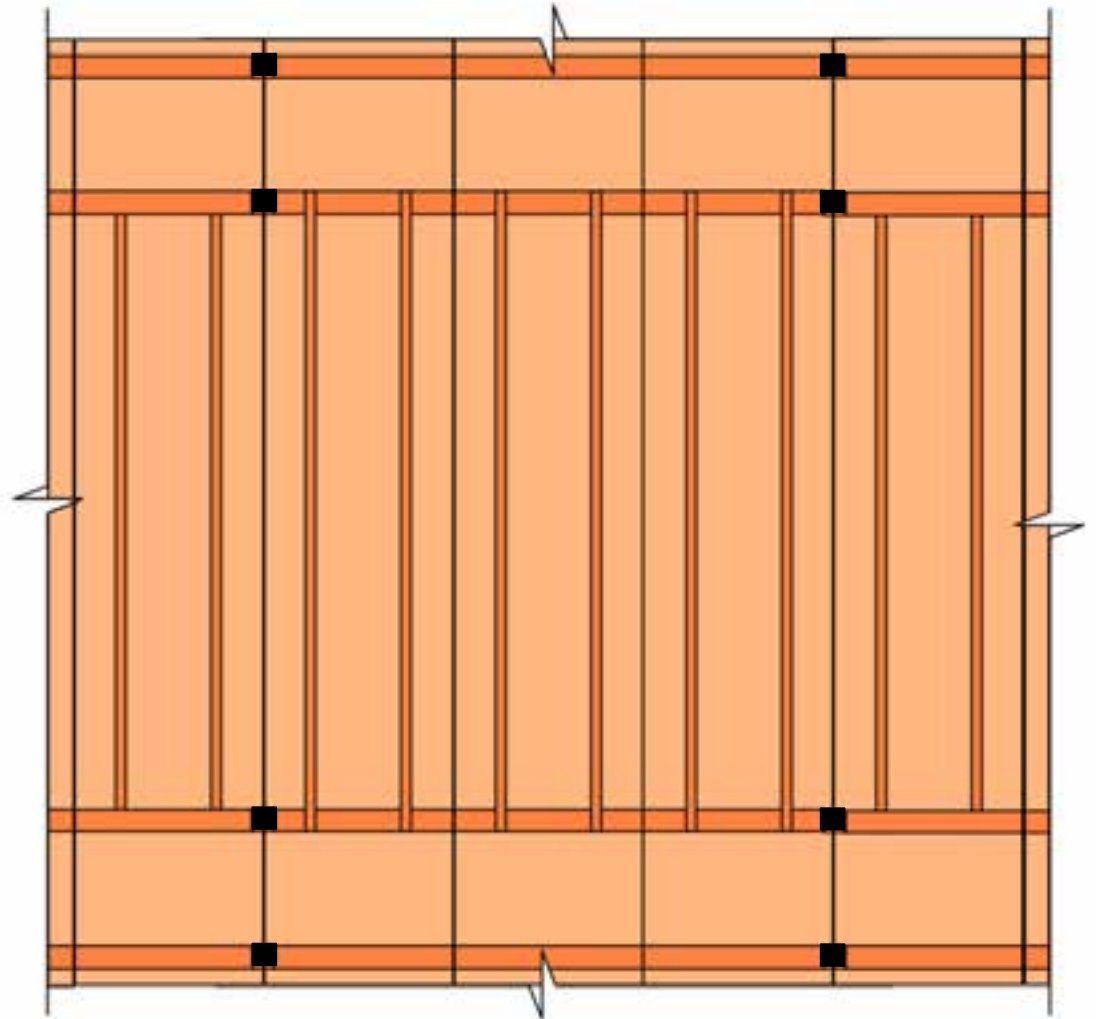
# Shaft Schematic Approaches



# Shaft Schematic Approaches

## General Structural Gravity System:

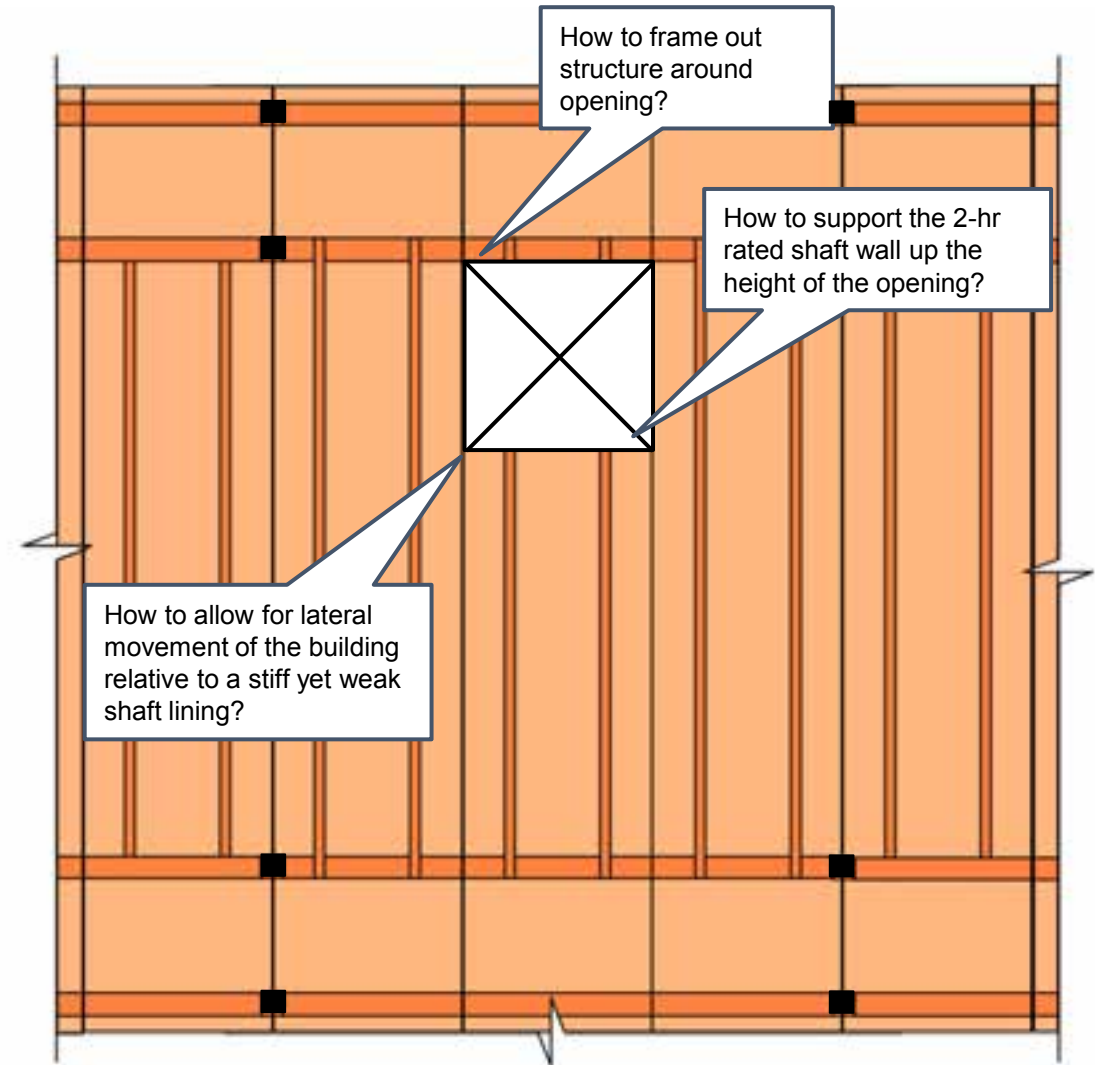
- Columns
- Girders spanning east-west
- Mass Timber Double T Cassettes spanning north-south



# Shaft Schematic Approaches

## Particular shaft difficulties

- This project uses an exterior distributed lateral system, therefore no internal shear cores to frame out shaft openings
- All shaft openings must accommodate lateral movement without attracting lateral load
- Intent is to avoid cracking of brittle materials during a serviceability level event
- Exposed cassette soffit makes framing out openings difficult



# Shaft Schematic Approaches

Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes		
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral						
1a	Typ Shear /Grav Core	2Hr	Self	Self	1Hr	Shaft	Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform-framed wood construction	Typical construction., simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.			
1b	Isolated Shear /Grav Core						Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core, seismic gap may be large			
1c	Isolated Shear Core						Framed around shaft	Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap, shaft likely not strong enough			
1d	Tied-in Shaft						Tied into shaft	Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in-plane to not attract load & crack	Option 1 - Initial Design		
1e	Tied-in Grav Core				Shaft	Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls		Typical construction., simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design			
2a	Typ Partition Framing				Floor	Floor	2Hr	Framed around shaft	Tied into shaft	Typ light-framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing								Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per above but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements, however requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project	Option 3 - Final Design	

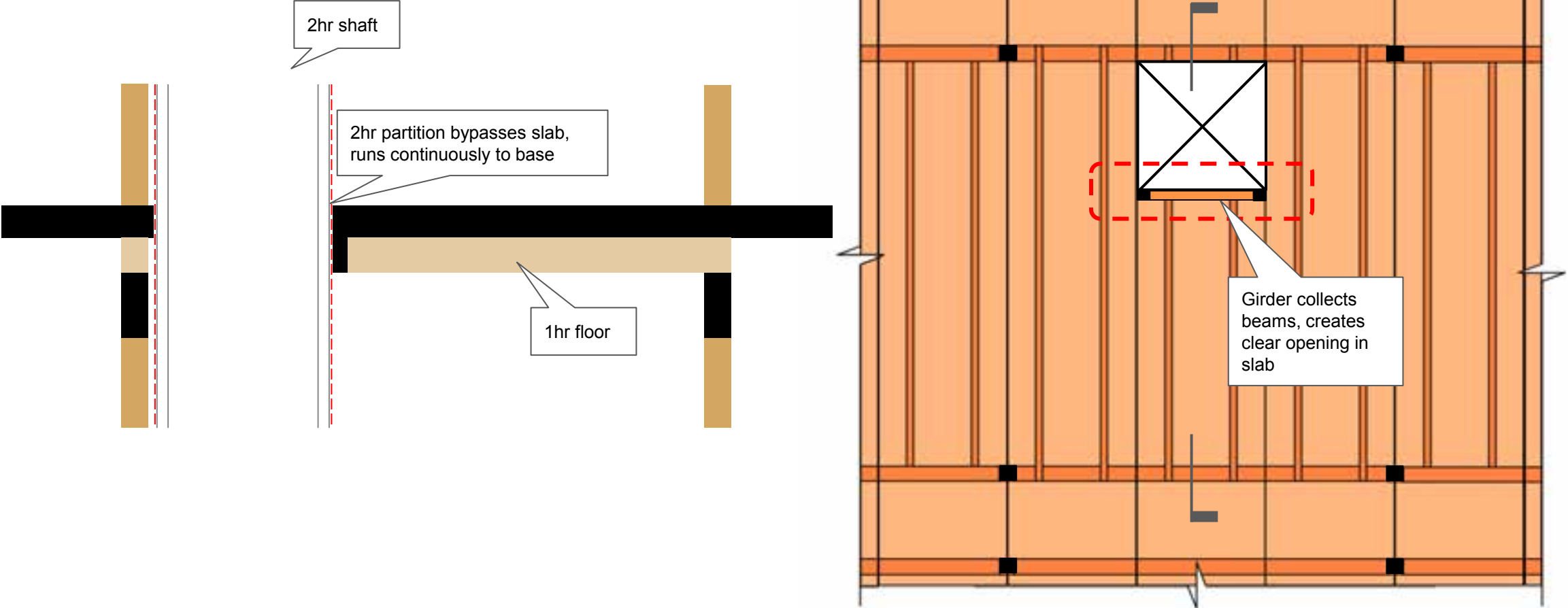
# Shaft Schematic Approaches

Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral				
1a	Typ Shear / Grav Core	2Hr	Self	Self	1Hr	Framed around shaft	Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform-framed wood construction	Typical construction., simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.	
1b	Isolated Shear / Grav Core							CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core. seismic gap may be large	
1c	Isolated Shear Core							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap, shaft likely not strong enough	
1d	Tied-in Shaft	2Hr	Floor	Floor	1Hr	Framed around shaft	Tied into shaft	Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in-plane to not attract load & crack	Option 1 - Initial Design
1e	Tied-in Grav Core							Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction., simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	Typ Partition Framing	2Hr	Floor	Floor	1Hr	Framed around shaft	Tied into shaft	Typ light-framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing							Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per IBC, but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements. However requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project	

# Shaft Schematic Approaches

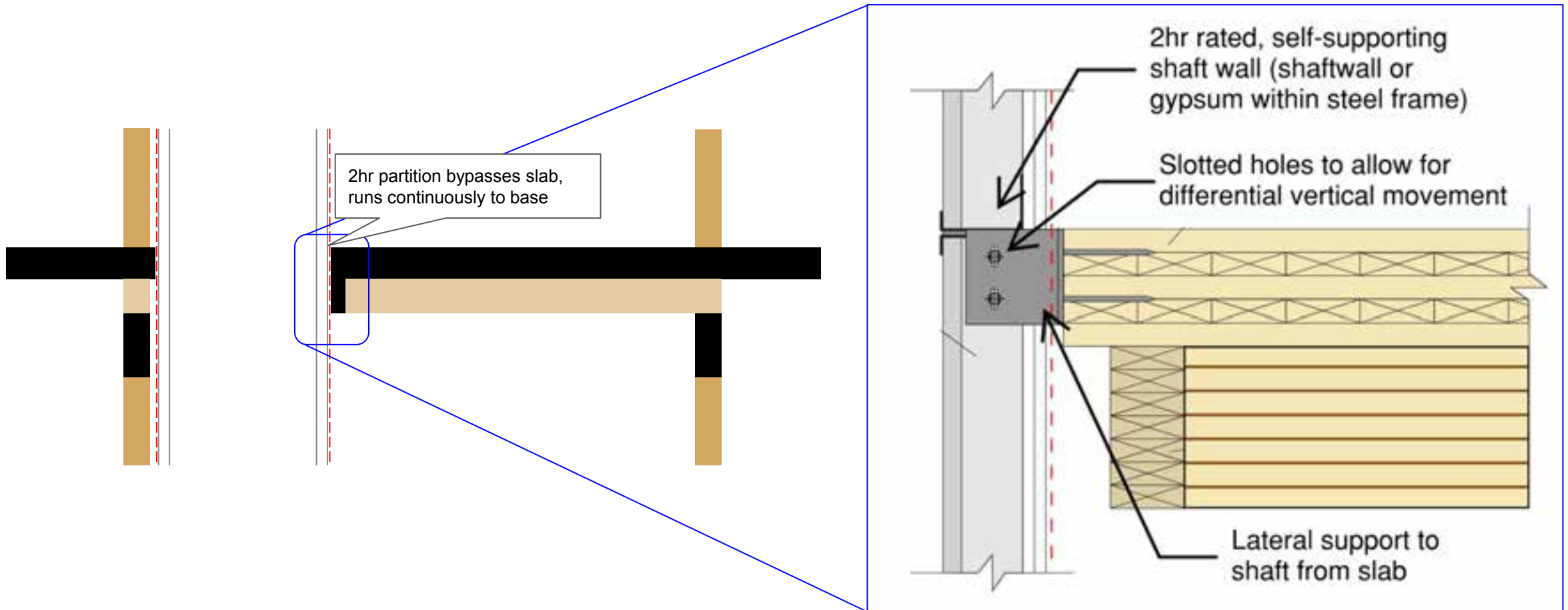
Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes	
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral					
1a	Typ Shear /Grav Core							Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform-framed wood construction	Typical construction, simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.	
1b	Isolated Shear /Grav Core			Self				Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core, seismic gap may be large	
1c	Isolated Shear Core		Self		1Hr	Framed around shaft			Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap; shaft likely not strong enough	
1d	Tied-in Shaft	2Hr							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in-plane to not attract load & crack	Option 1 - Initial Design
1e	Tied-in Grav Core			Floor				Tied into shaft	Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction, simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	Typ Partition Framing					Framed around shaft			Typ light framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing		Floor	Floor	2Hr				Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per above but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements, however requires add'l bays of 2hr structure in project	Option 3 - Final Design

# 1: Floor Framed Around Shaft Opening

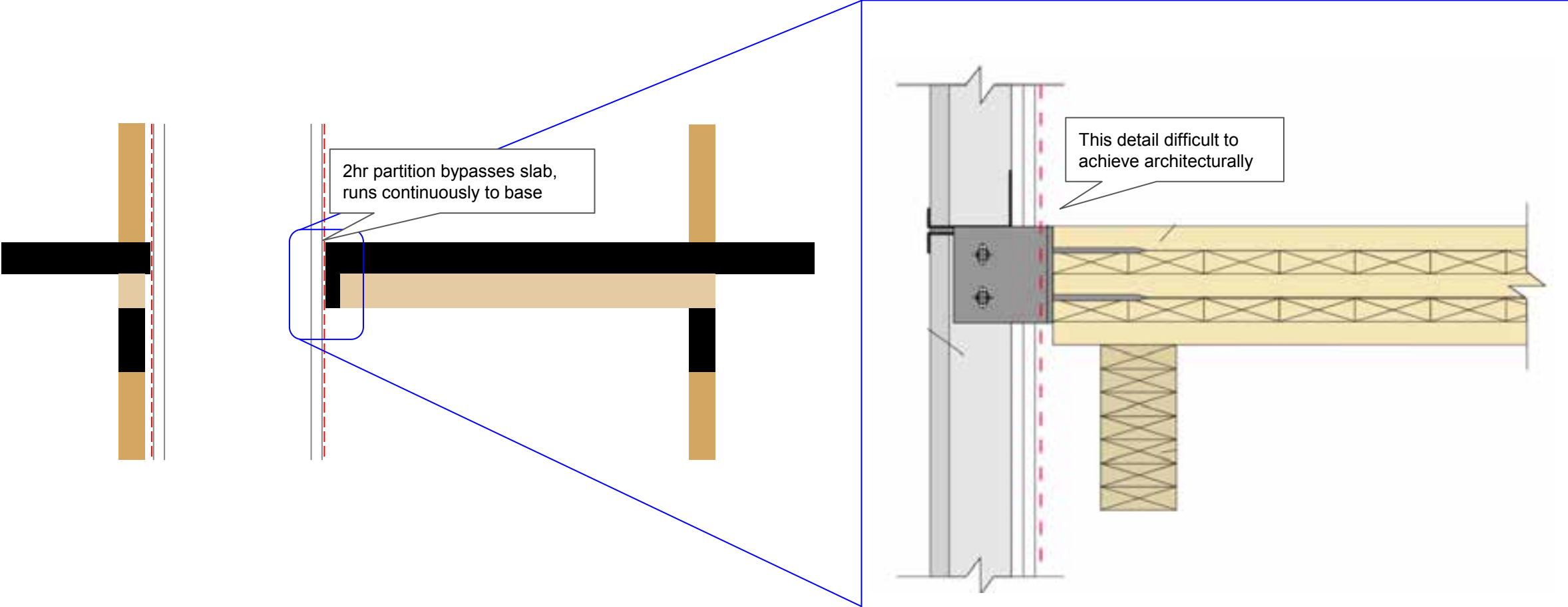




# 1: Floor Framed Around Shaft Opening



# 1: Floor Framed Around Shaft Opening



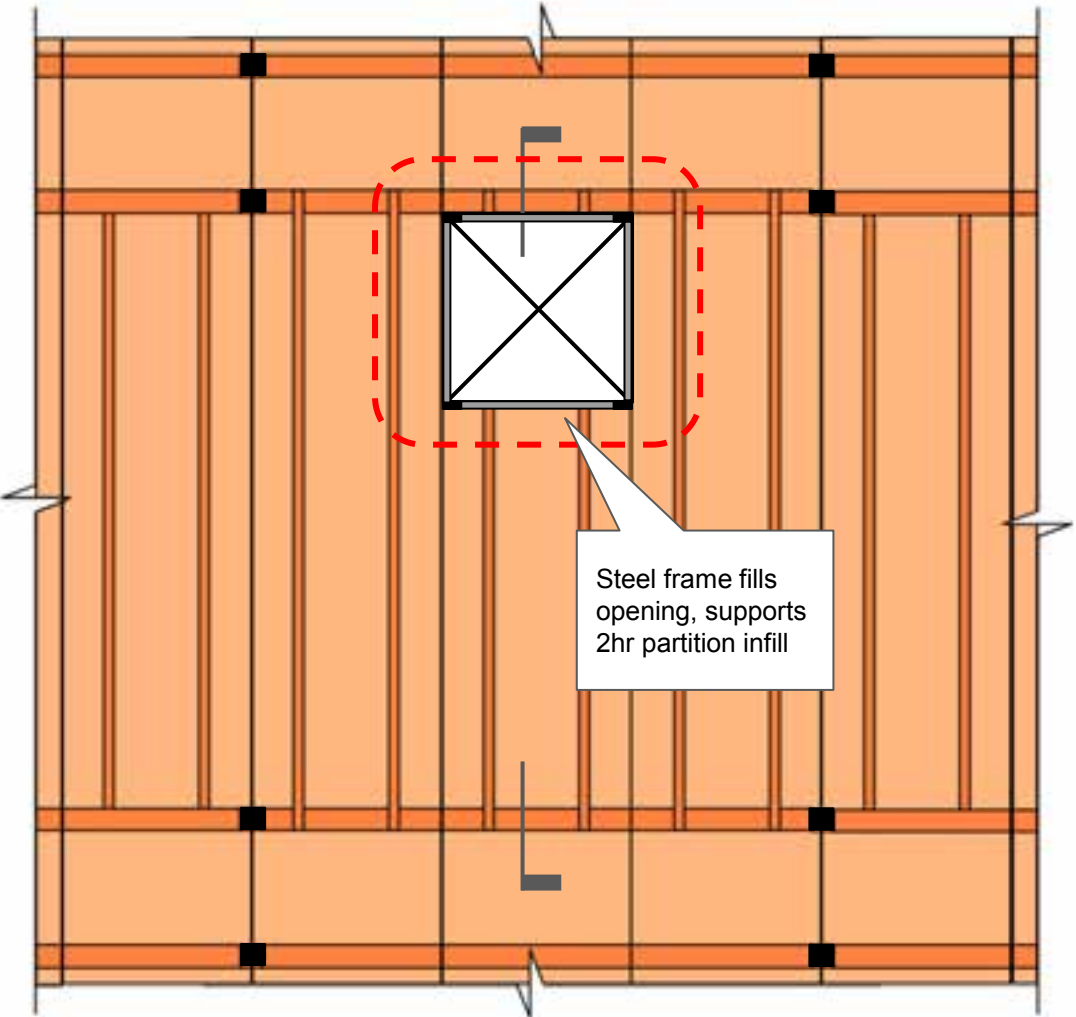
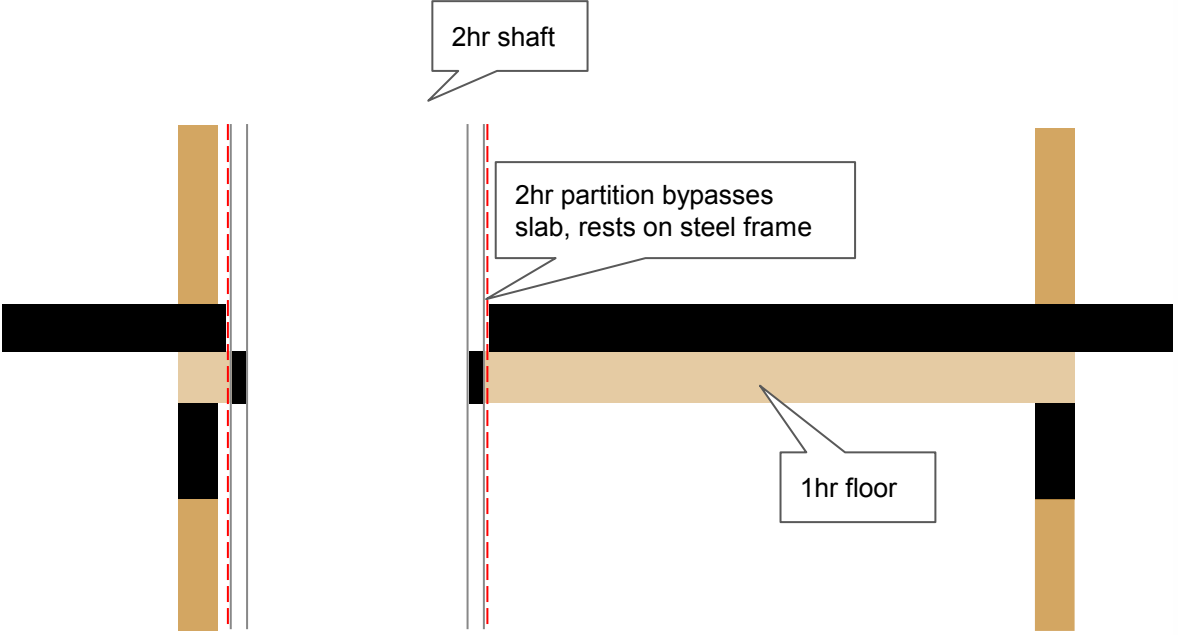
# Shaft Schematic Approaches

Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes	
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral					
1a	Typ Shear / Grav Core							Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform framed wood construction	Typical construction., simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.	
1b	Isolated Shear / Grav Core			Self				Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core, seismic gap may be large	
1c	Isolated Shear Core		Self		1Hr	Framed around shaft			Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap, shaft likely not strong enough	
1d	Tied-in Shaft	2Hr							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in-plane to resist load	Option 1 - Initial Design
1e	Tied-in Grav Core			Floor		Shaft		Tied into shaft	Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction., simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	Typ Partition Framing		Floor	Floor			Framed around shaft		Typ light-framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing		Floor	Floor	2Hr				Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per IBC, but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements. However requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project	Option 3 - Final Design

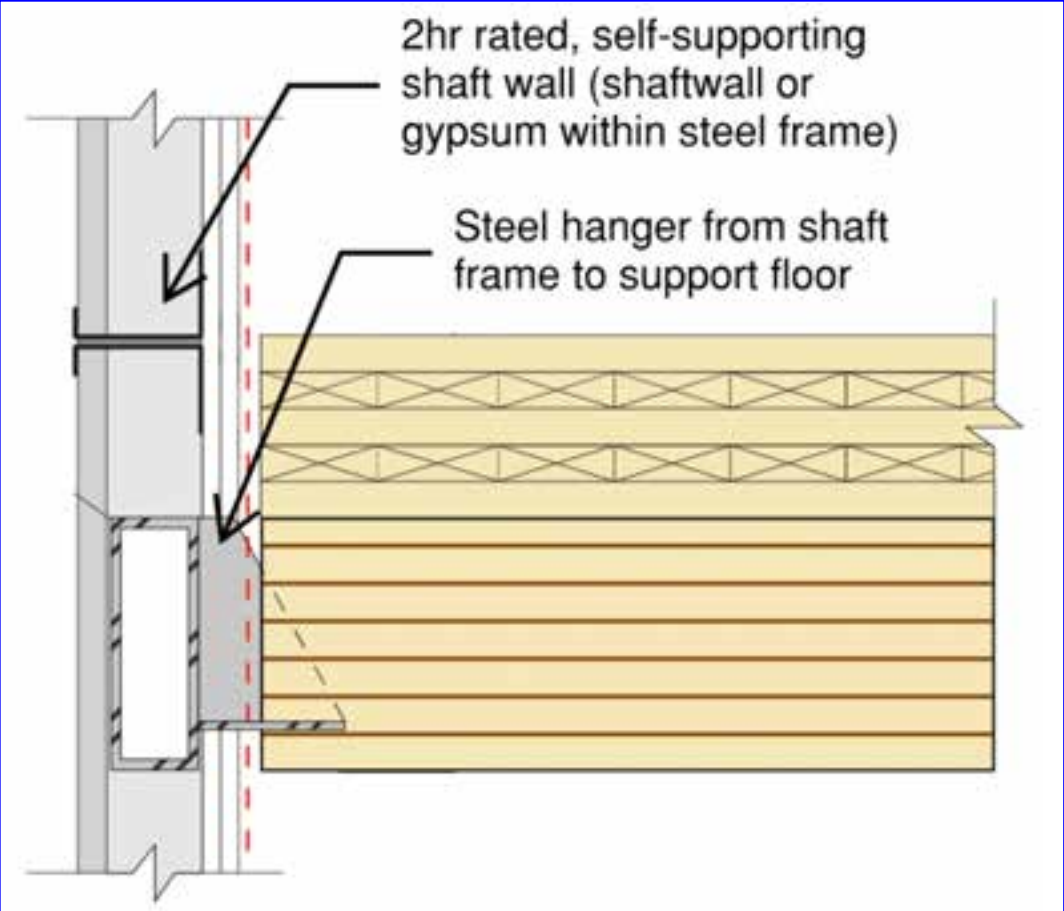
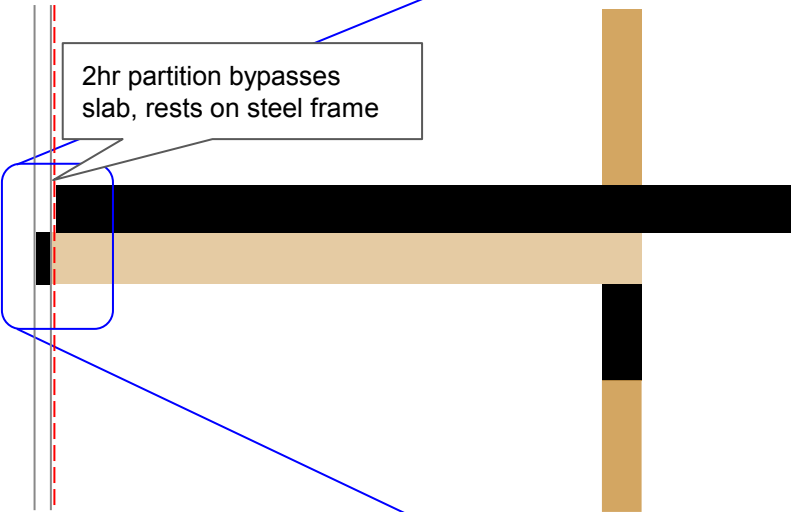
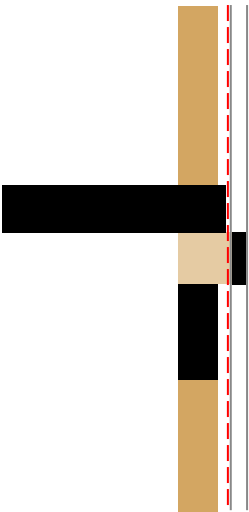
# Shaft Schematic Approaches

Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral				
1a	Typ Shear /Grav Core	2Hr	Self	Self	1Hr	Framed around shaft	Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform-framed wood construction	Typical construction., simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.	
1b	Isolated Shear /Grav Core						Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core; seismic gap may be large	
1c	Isolated Shear Core							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b.	Still requires seismic gap. shaft likely not strong enough	
1d	Tied-in Shaft							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap; shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in plane to not attract load & crack	Option 1 - Initial Design
1e	Tied-in Grav Core			Floor		Shaft	Tied into shaft	Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction., simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	Typ Partition Framing	Floor	Floor	Floor	2Hr	Framed around shaft		Typ light-framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing							Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per above but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements, however requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project	Option 3 - Final Design

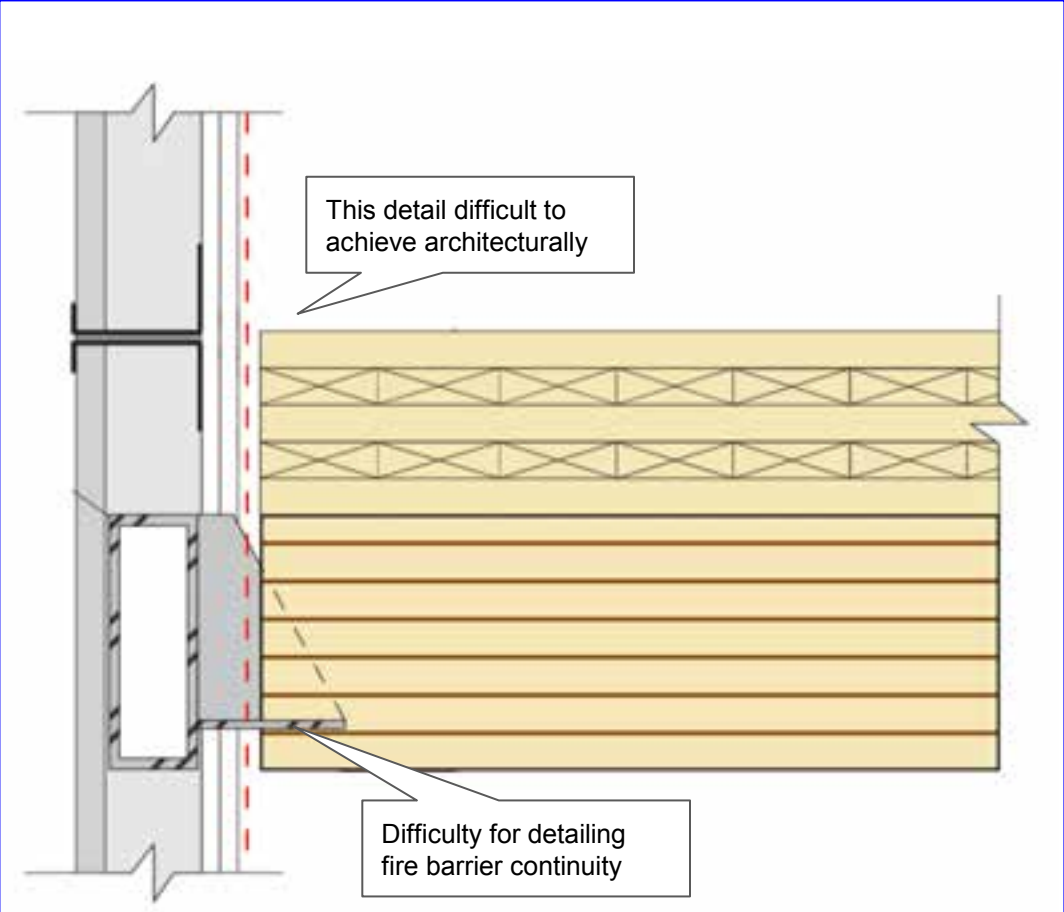
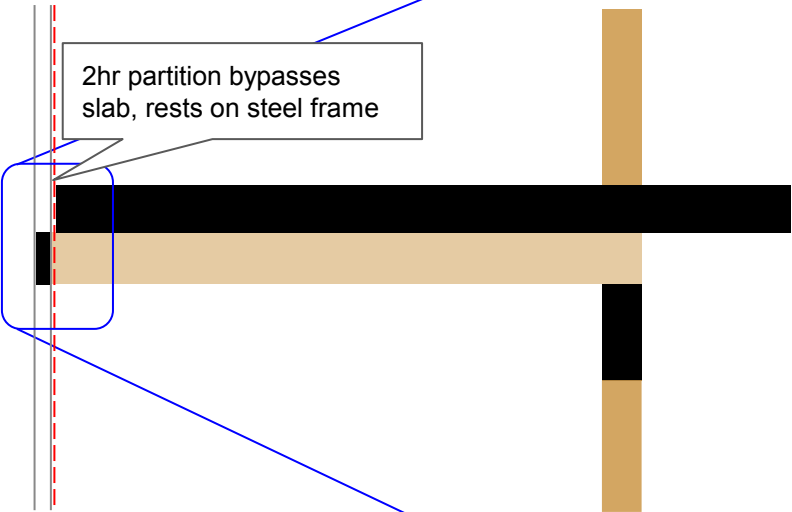
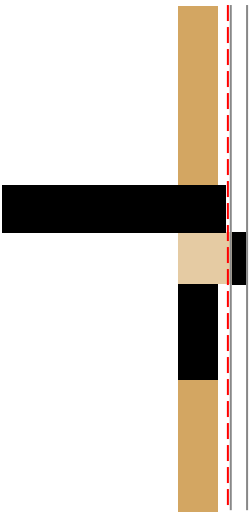
# 2: Floor Supported by Shaft



# 2: Floor Supported by Shaft



# 2: Floor Supported by Shaft



# Shaft Schematic Approaches

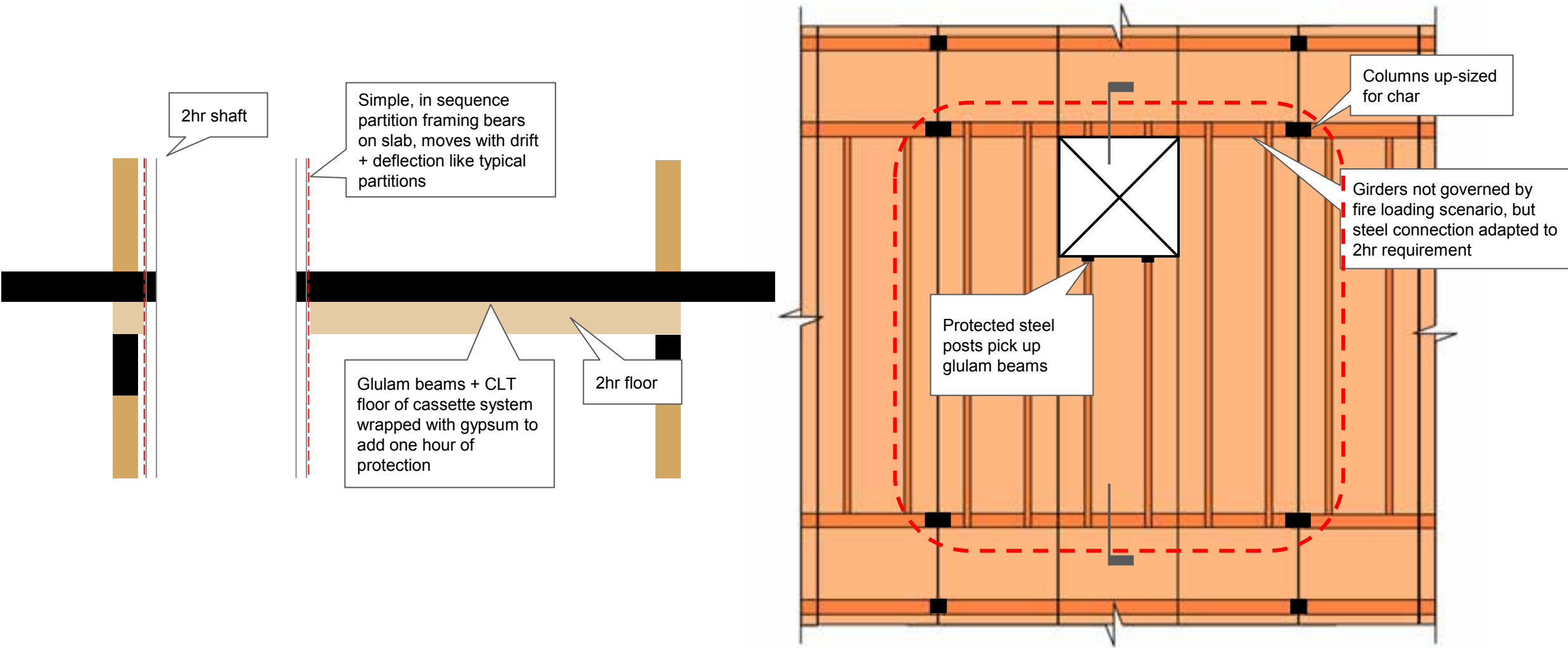
Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes	
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral					
1a	Typ Shear / Grav Core							Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform framed wood construction	Typical construction, simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.	
1b	Isolated Shear / Grav Core			Self				Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core, seismic gap may be large	
1c	Isolated Shear Core		Self		1Hr	Framed around shaft			Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap, shaft likely not strong enough	
1d	Tied-in Shaft	2Hr							Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in.	Option 1 - Initial Design
1e	Tied-in Grav Core								Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction, simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail.	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	2hr Partition Framing								Typical wood framed partition on 2hr floor	Per code, but complies with IRC.	Satisfies all requirements, however requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project.	Option 3 - Final Design



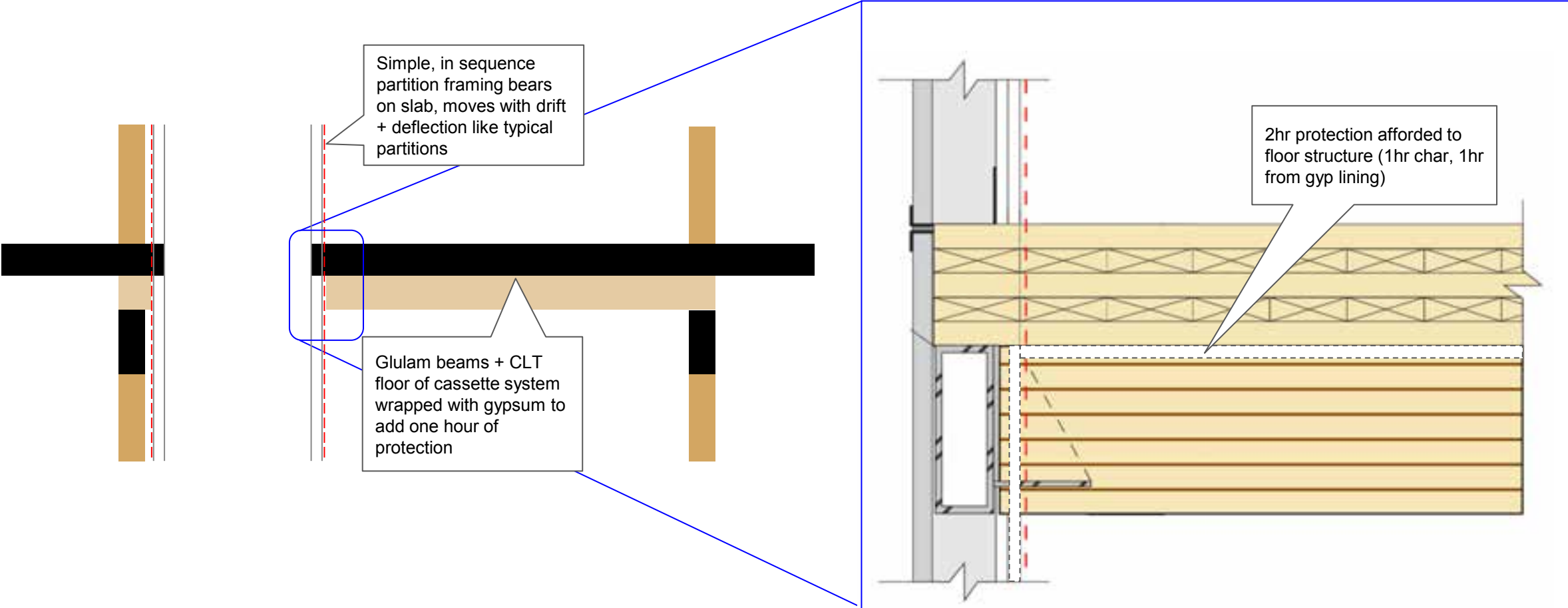
# Shaft Schematic Approaches

Number	Name	Shaft			Floor			Example	Reason to use	Reason to not use	Notes	
		Rating	Vertical	Lateral	Rating	Vertical	Lateral					
1a	Typ Shear /Grav Core	2Hr	Self	Self	1Hr	Shaft	Tied into shaft	CMU core, platform-framed wood construction	Typical construction, simple detailing	Core not strong enough to resist loads attracted. Could detail to yield but may crack at SLE. Poor seismic performance.		
1b	Isolated Shear /Grav Core						Isolated from shaft	CMU core	Stops core attracting seismic load	Tricky detailing to slip floor relative to shaft, negates benefit of CMU core; seismic gap may be large		
1c	Isolated Shear Core						Framed around shaft	Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Simpler detailing than 1b	Still requires seismic gap, shaft likely not strong enough		
1d	Tied-in Shaft						Floor	Shaftlined core w/ steel frame	Doesn't require seismic gap, shaft strength not required	Detailing would be difficult. Shaft needs to be slipped in-plane to not attract load & crack	Option 1 - Initial Design	
1e	Tied-in Grav Core							Shaft	Sim to platform framing but with 'flexible' walls	Typical construction, simple detailing	Vertical load down shaft needs to be resisted at transfer slab level. Also shaft can't sit on floor which is preferred detail	Option 2 - Second Design
2a	Typ Partition Framing							Framed around shaft	Typ light-framed partition on 1hr floor	Often used on projects, similar to typ partition framing	1hr structure supporting 2hr shaft doesn't comply with IBC	
2b	2hr Partition Framing	Floor	Floor	2Hr	shaft	Typ light-framed partition on 2hr floor	Per above but complies with IBC	Satisfies all requirements, however requires addn'l bays of 2hr structure in project	Option 3 - Final Design			

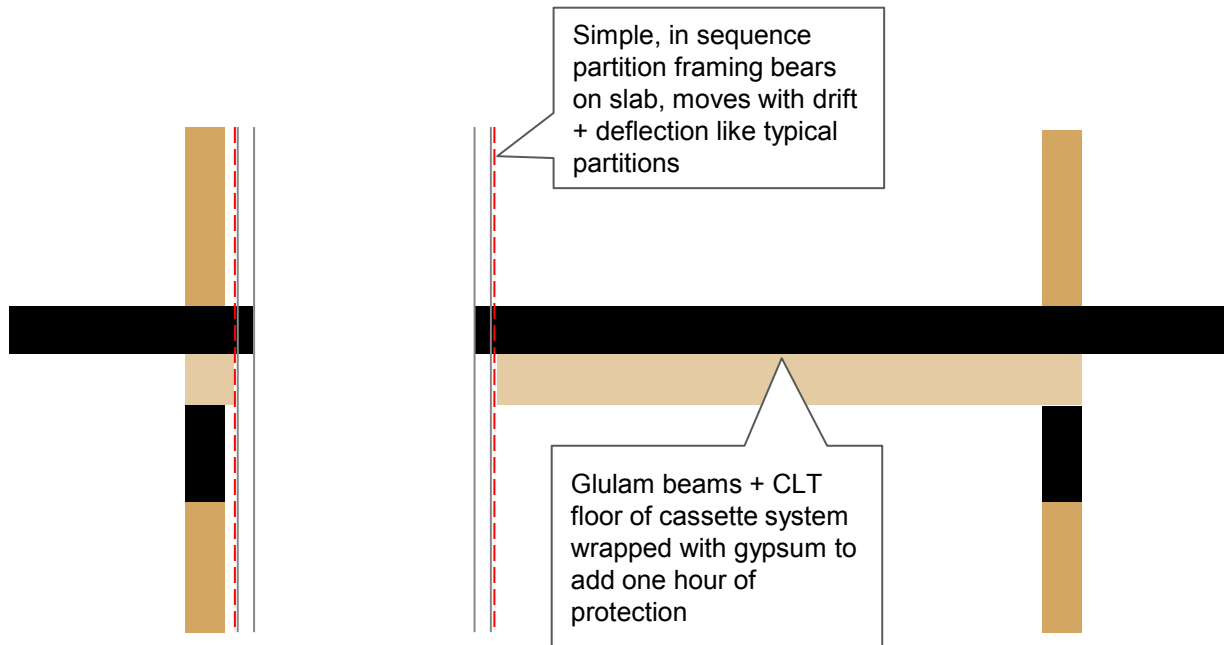
# 3: Shaft Supported by Floor



# 3: Shaft Supported by Floor



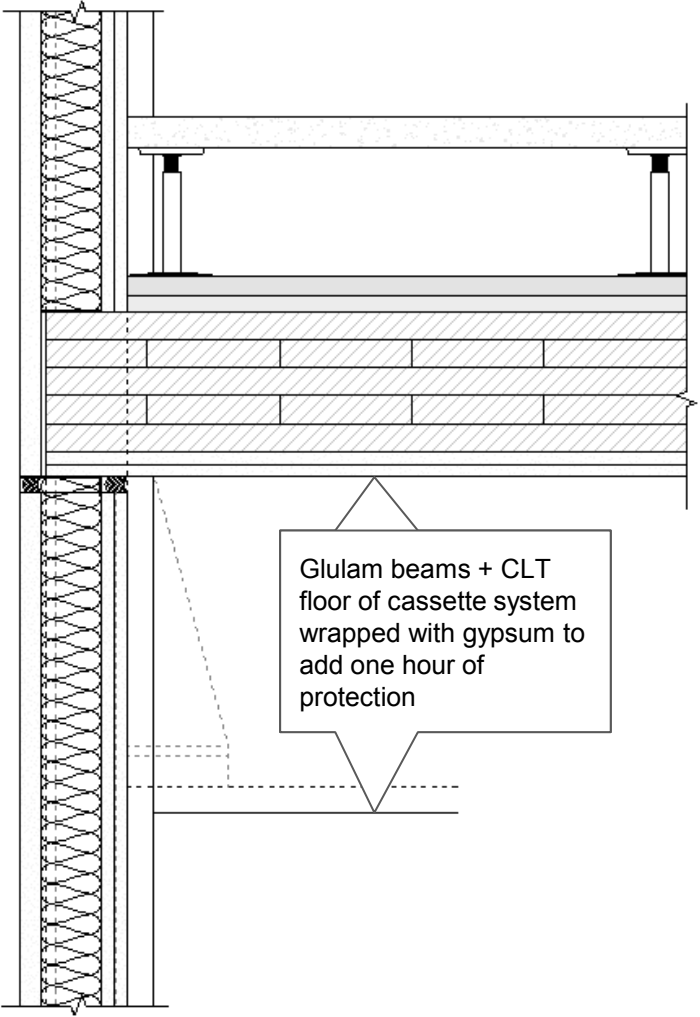
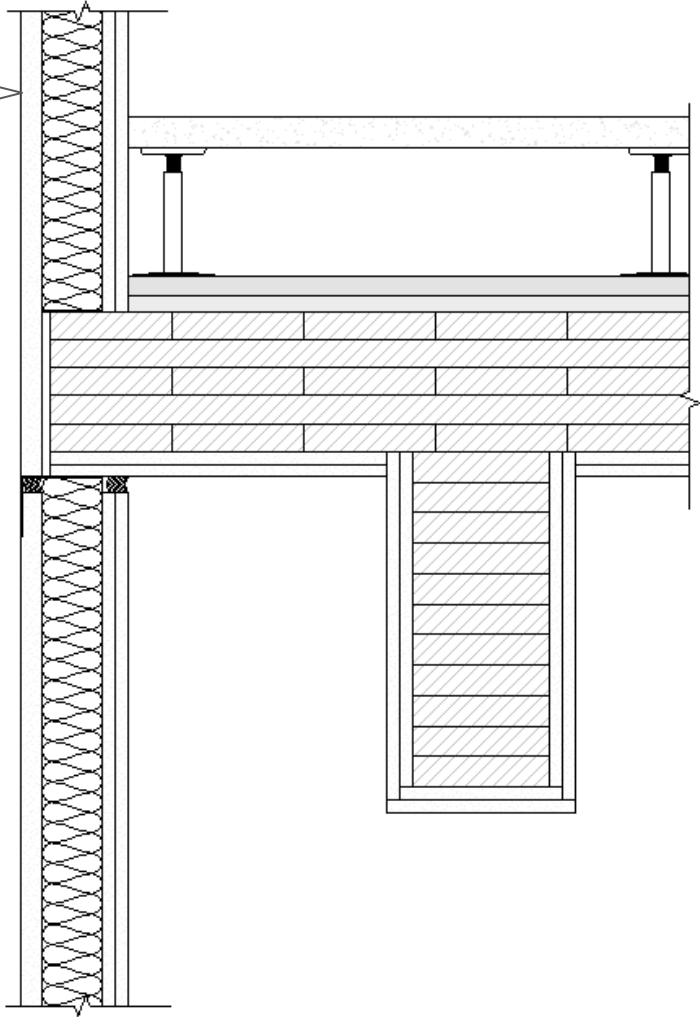
# 3: Shaft Supported by Floor



2hr Structure Impacts		
Element	1hr	2hr
CLT Deck & GLT Ribs	Unwrapped	(2) layers $\frac{5}{8}$ " gyp added
GLT Girders	Unwrapped	Unwrapped
GLT Girder - Column Connection	Embedded bearing pl w/ 1.8" blocking for char protection	Embedded bearing pl w/ 1.8" gyp for insulation protection
GLT Column Size (at base)	14.25x18"	14.25x25.5"

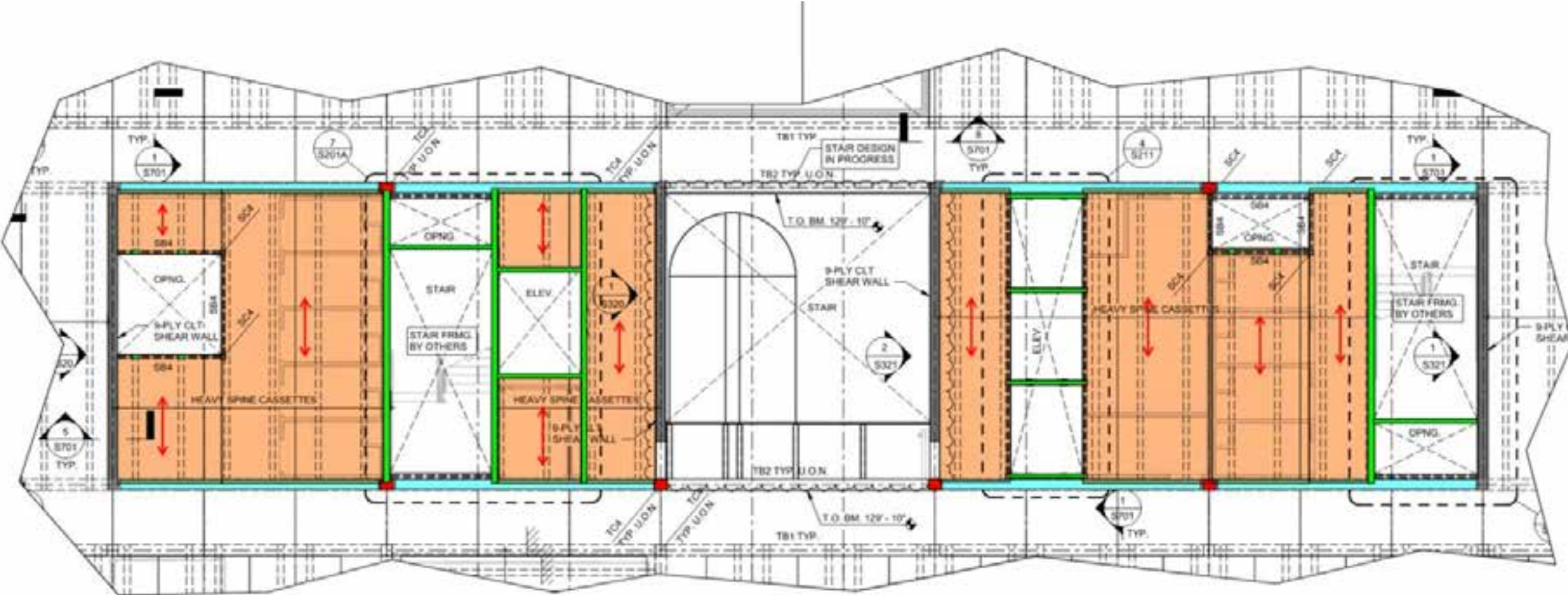
# Detailing

Simple, in sequence partition framing bears on slab, moves with drift + deflection like typical partitions



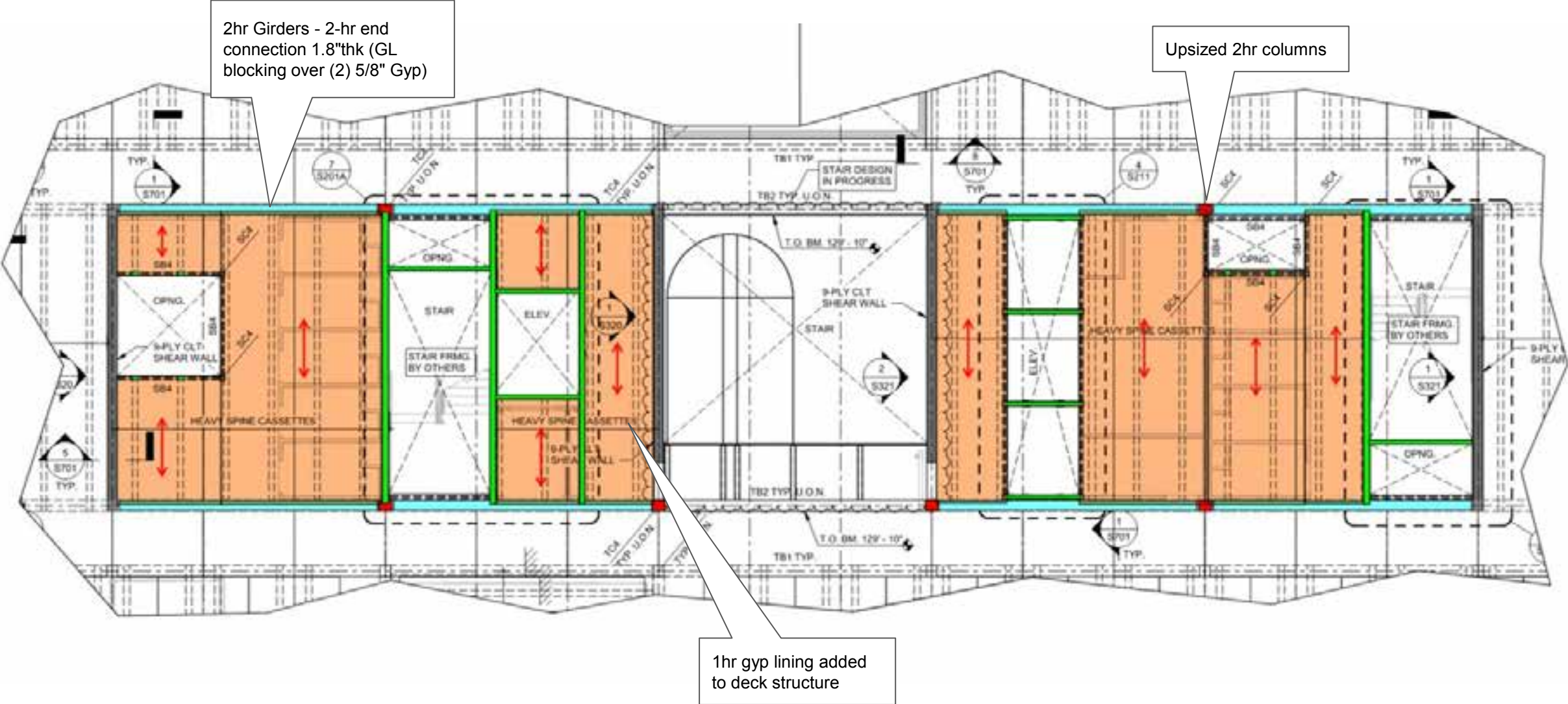
Glulam beams + CLT floor of cassette system wrapped with gypsum to add one hour of protection

# Framing Variations

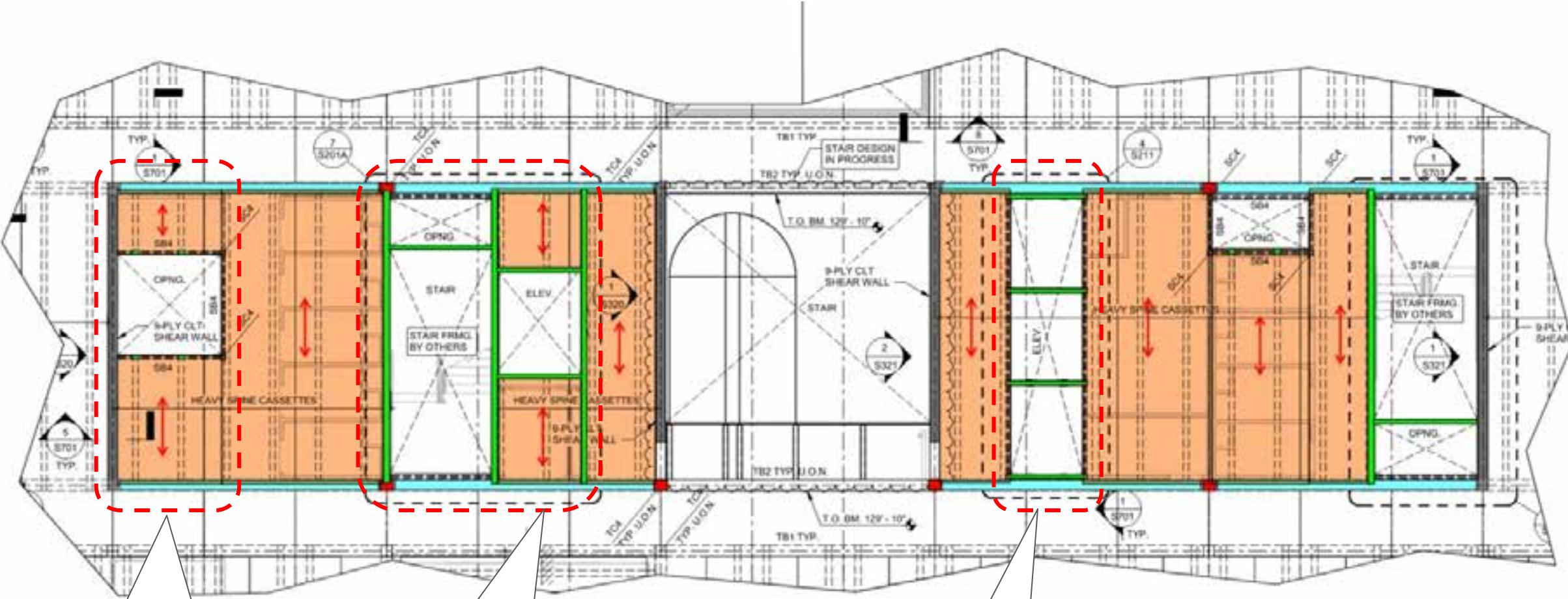




# Framing Variations



# Framing Variations



Floor supported on steel posts, posts track down to ground floor concrete transfer slab

Floor supported on steel beams which frame out opening. Transfer slab inefficient due to openings

Elevator shaft walls supported by 2hr rated floor



# ➤ QUESTIONS?

This concludes The American  
Institute of Architects Continuing  
Education Systems Course

**Alyson Blair, P.E.**  
Holmes US  
alyson.blair@holmes.us

**Matt Harwood**  
Holmes US  
matt.harwood@holmes.us

**Chris Grosse, AIA**  
LEVER Architecture  
chris@leverarchitecture.com