

PHILADELPHIA

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# Enclosure Design for Mass Timber Buildings

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a third party and is not funded by WoodWorks  
or the Softwood Lumber Board.*



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## Course Description

Larger and taller mass timber buildings are becoming common in North America. These buildings typically utilize CLT or NLT panels, glulam beams and columns, and new engineered timber components to meet the structural and fire requirements associated with greater heights. With these larger wood structures and heavier timber components comes the need for efficient building enclosure assemblies that can be installed quickly on tight sites and are in many cases new and unique to the industry. Prefabricated building enclosure elements are now also commonly used. This presentation shares guidance on building enclosure design and detailing best practices for mass timber buildings. It includes case studies and lessons learned from the design, construction, and monitoring of enclosures for recently completed projects.



## Learning Objectives


At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Review building science fundamentals and building enclosure design considerations for mass timber buildings.
- Discuss common details used for mass timber wall and roof enclosure assemblies.
- Highlight the potential for increased construction efficiency through the use of prefabricated enclosure assemblies.
- Referencing case studies and details from recently completed mass timber projects, demonstrate lessons learned and best practices associated with enclosure assemblies.

# OUTLINE

1. Building enclosure design + mass timber
2. Lessons learned
3. Case Study – Wood Innovation Center
4. Case Study – Brock Commons
5. What's Next?

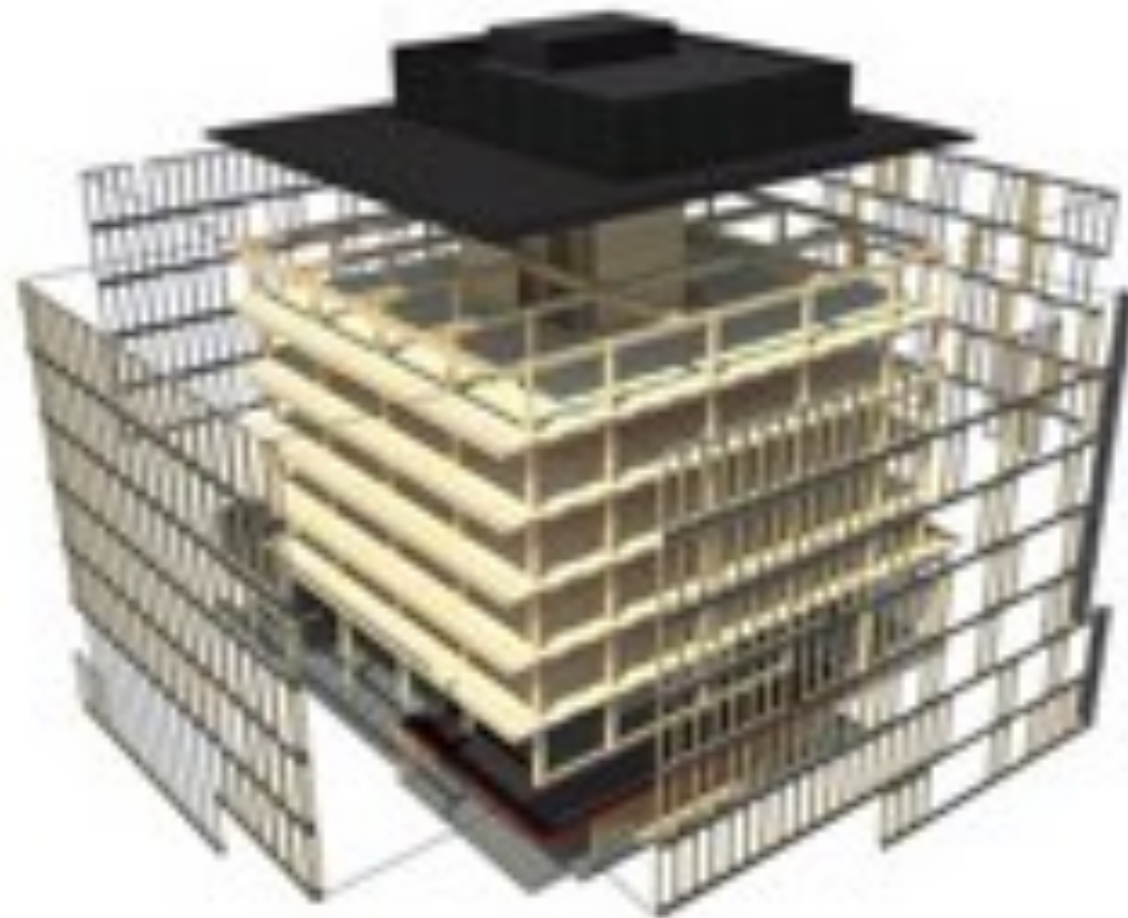


An aerial photograph of a city street scene, showing a mix of urban architecture. On the left, there's a large, light-colored building with a flat roof. To the right, a taller building with a green roof is visible. The street is lined with trees and other smaller structures. The overall scene is a typical urban environment.

# Building Enclosure Design & Constructability



Structure



**The Building Enclosure**





# Tall Wood Structures

- Fast
- Sensitive to moisture
- Greater movement – shrinkage
- Code Challenges?
- Mixed steel, concrete, and wood
- Not the same as stick-built
- Not the same as high-rise



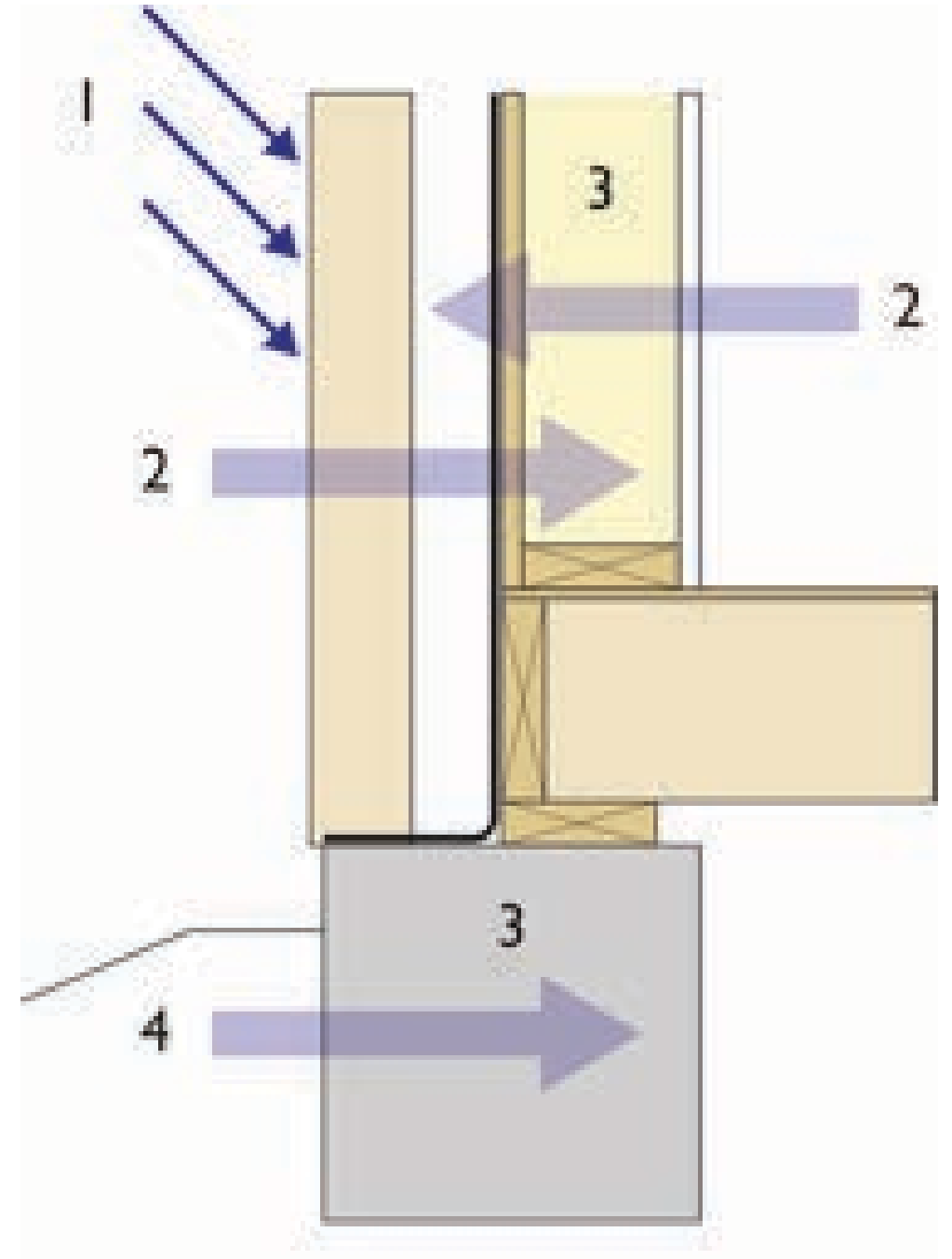
# Tall Wood Building Enclosures

- Need for speed
- Protect wood structure from inclement weather
- Robust materials and systems, high-rise appropriate
- Tolerant of movement
- Thermally efficient



# Water Management - Wetting

- 1. Precipitation
- 2. Vapor / air movement
- 3. Construction moisture
- 4. Groundwater



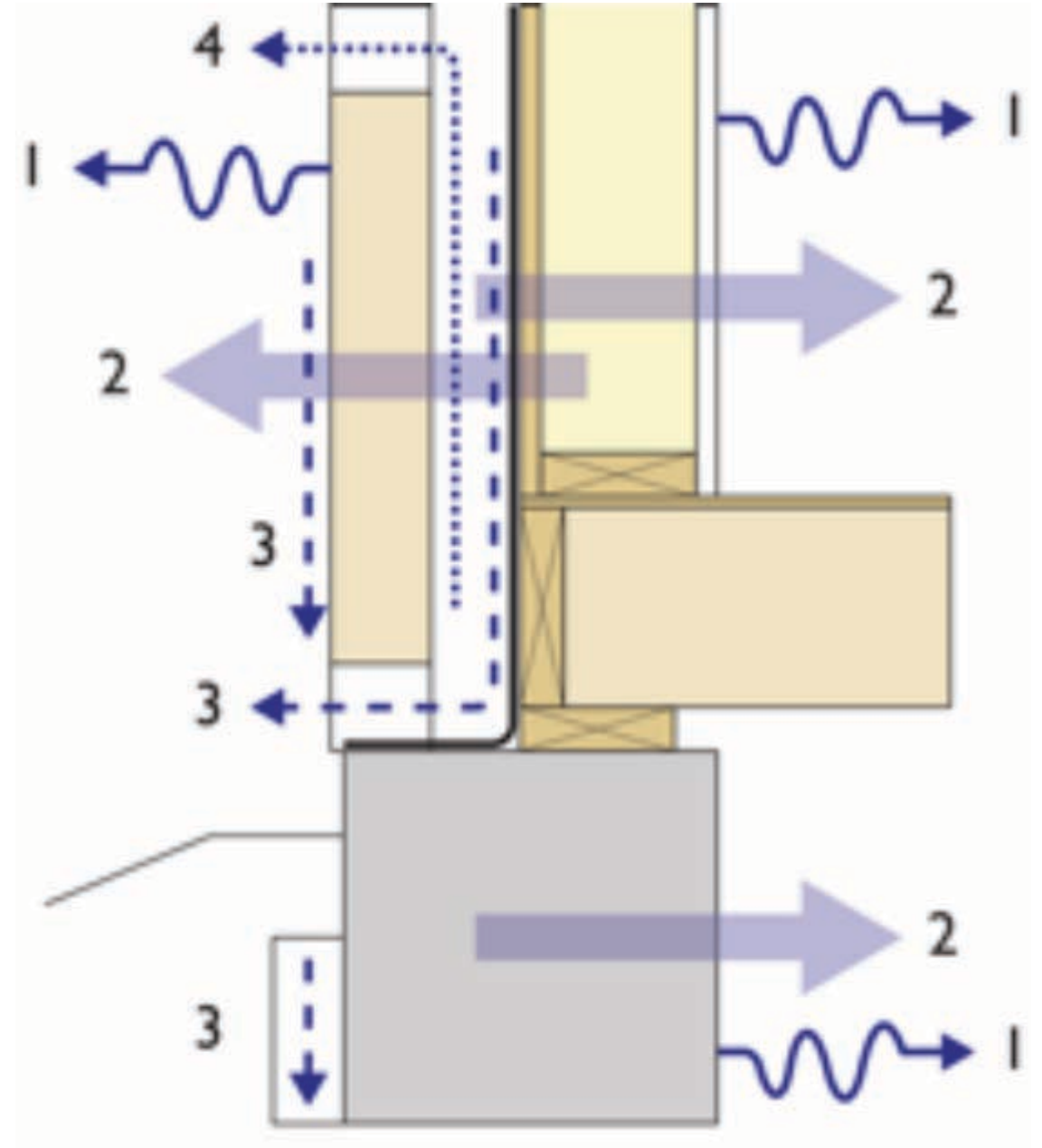
## Water Management - Drying

1. Evaporation

2. Vapor / air movement

3. Drainage

4. Ventilation drying

















# Ronald McDonald House – Vancouver, BC





# Ronald McDonald House – Vancouver, BC





**First Tech Credit Union – Hillboro, OR**





Carbon 12 – Portland, OR









# Lessons Learned











## Lessons Learned - Roofs

- Protect large wood roofs from rain – but not too late
- Mechanical drying of wetted roofs is slow & causes costly construction delays













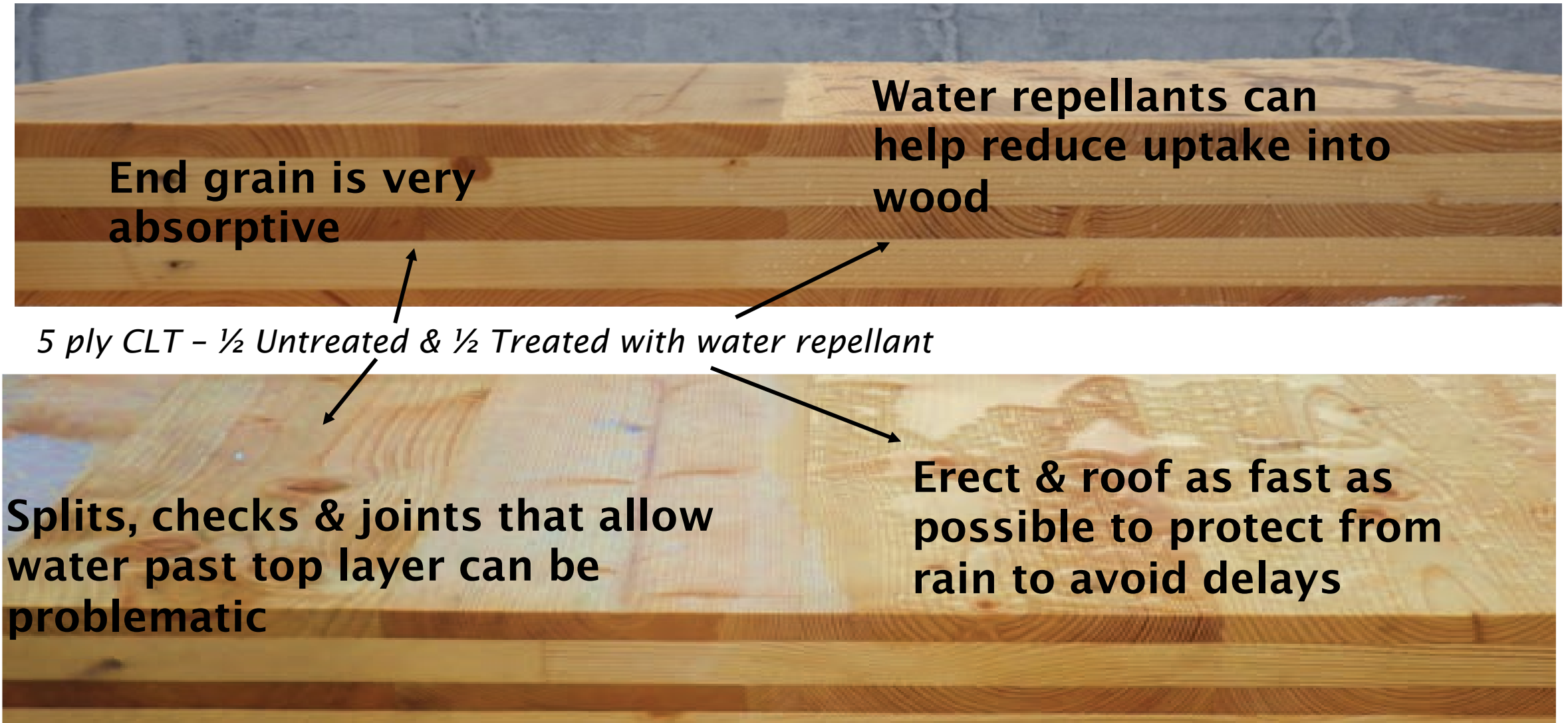








## Industry Lessons - Protection





# **NAIL- LAMINATED TIMBER**

**U.S. DESIGN &  
CONSTRUCTION  
GUIDE v1.0**









# Moisture Management Planning

- Both factory or in-field options
- End grain has most risk – consider covering joints
- Consider moisture load associated with wet concrete toppings – either structural or acoustic
  - Acoustic mat or top coating membrane recommended
  - Ensure wood is dry prior to concrete placement
- Field of panel is lowest risk – consider climate and seasons

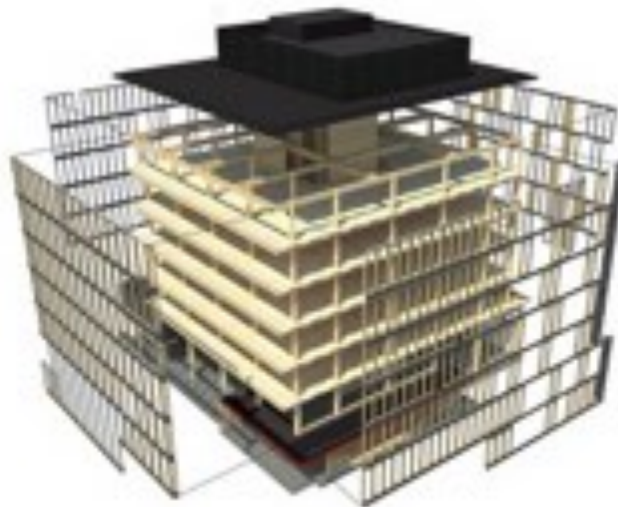
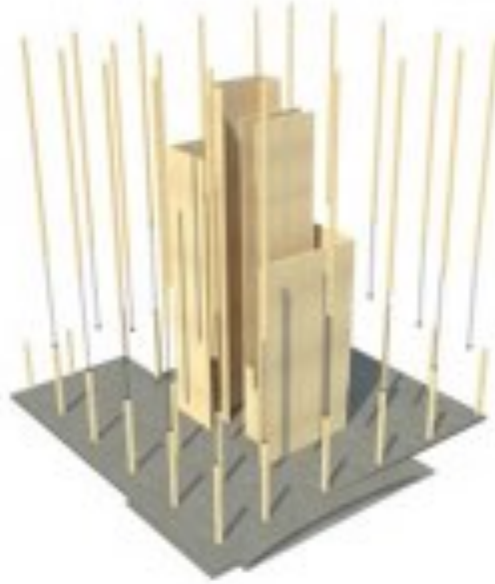


# Wood Innovation Center





# WIDC – Structure & Enclosure Systems



# Wood Innovation Design Center

- 6 'tall' levels (equivalent to 8 levels, 98' tall)
- CLT shear walls, glulam columns with glulam beams and staggered CLT floor & roof structure
- Thermal performance design targets
  - R-40 roof
  - R-25 walls
  - R-5 wood curtainwall glazing
- Pre-fabricated design for infill walls and wood curtain wall

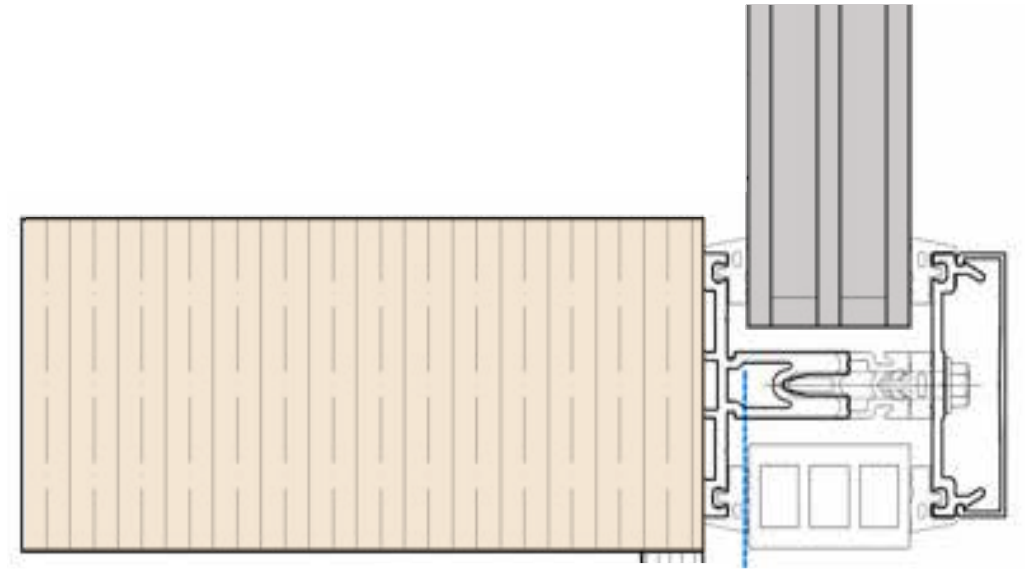


*Michael Green Architecture (MGA) –  
Contractor: PCL Construction*

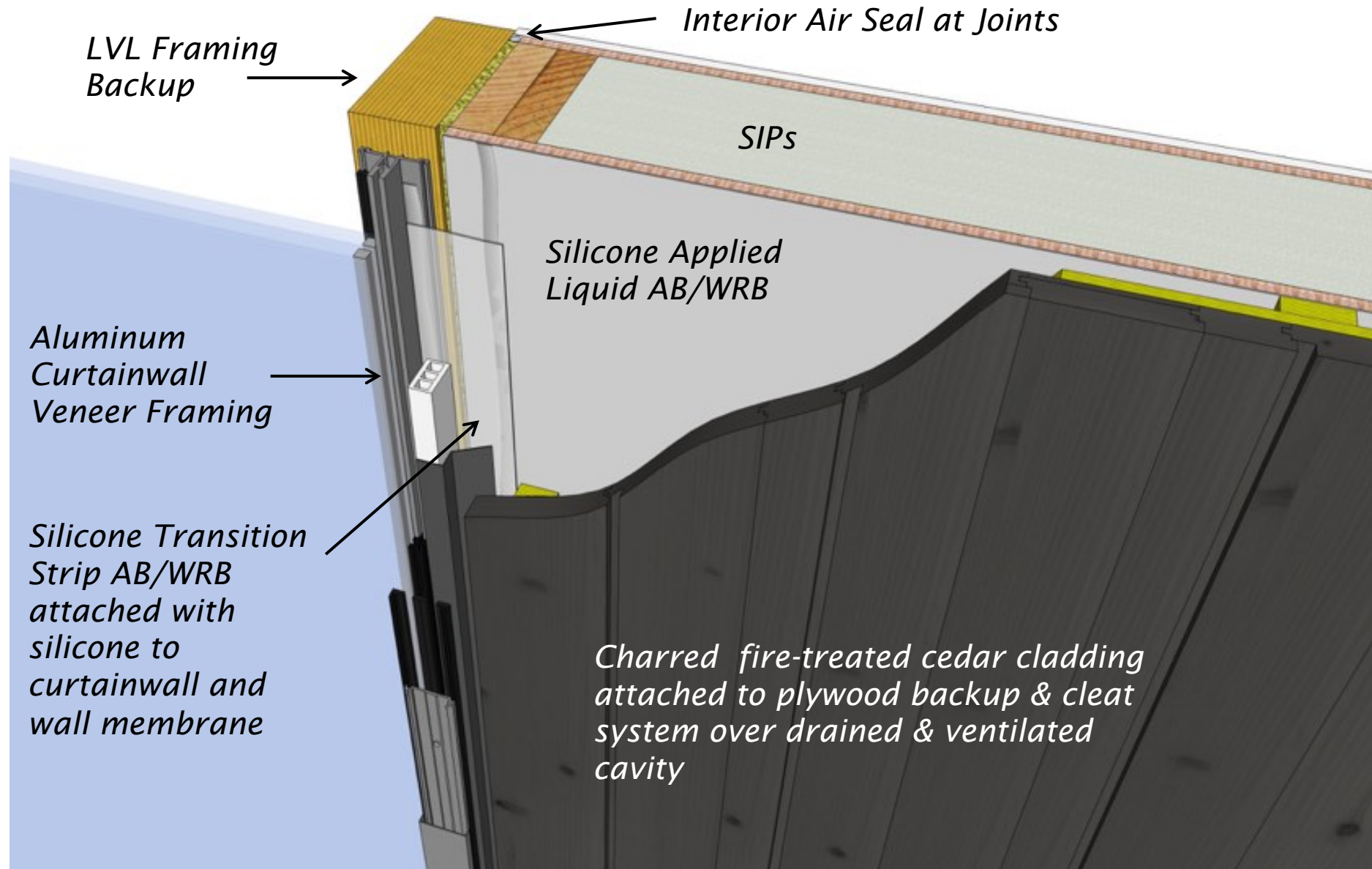


# Stick-Built Wood Veneer Curtainwall

- Aluminum veneer curtainwall framing over LVL mullions - installed as individual window units, ground bearing
- Stick built/site glazed with triple glazed IGUs, argon filled, dual low-e coatings (U-0.15)
- R-5 (U-0.20) overall thermal performance



# Curtainwall to SIPs Interface









# Charred Fire-Treated Cedar Cladding Panels

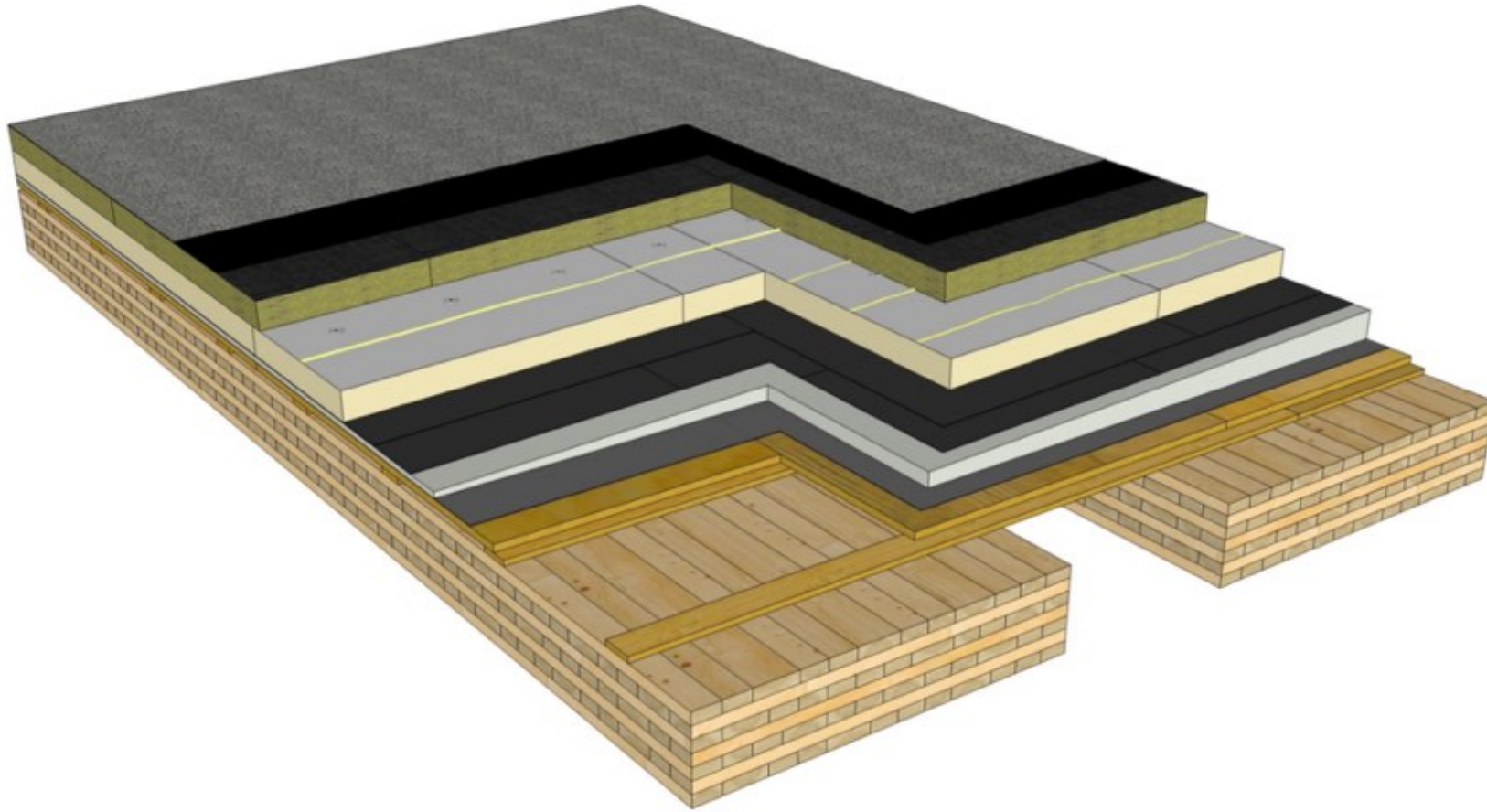


*John Boys, Nicola Log-works*





# Conventional Roof Assembly





# Conventional Roof Assembly



# Wood Innovation Design Center





## WIDC – Summary

- Durable and energy efficient
- High performance materials and systems
- Small panel pre-fabrication
- Required full exterior access during construction
- Scaffolding, exterior sealants and transition details



A low-angle photograph of a modern building's glass facade, showing a series of dark, rectangular window frames receding into the distance. In the background, a large construction crane with a lattice boom is visible against a clear sky. The text "Brock Commons" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

# Brock Commons





# Initial Challenges

- Vancouver = Temperate rainforest
- How to protect mass timber from rain during construction in any season?
- Enclosure must keep up with pace of structure
- How to enclose & seal the walls quickly and not be slowed by inclement weather?





## UBC Brock Commons- What Wasn't Feasible





# Unitized Curtain Wall Option

## Problem: Cost, Schedule, Energy



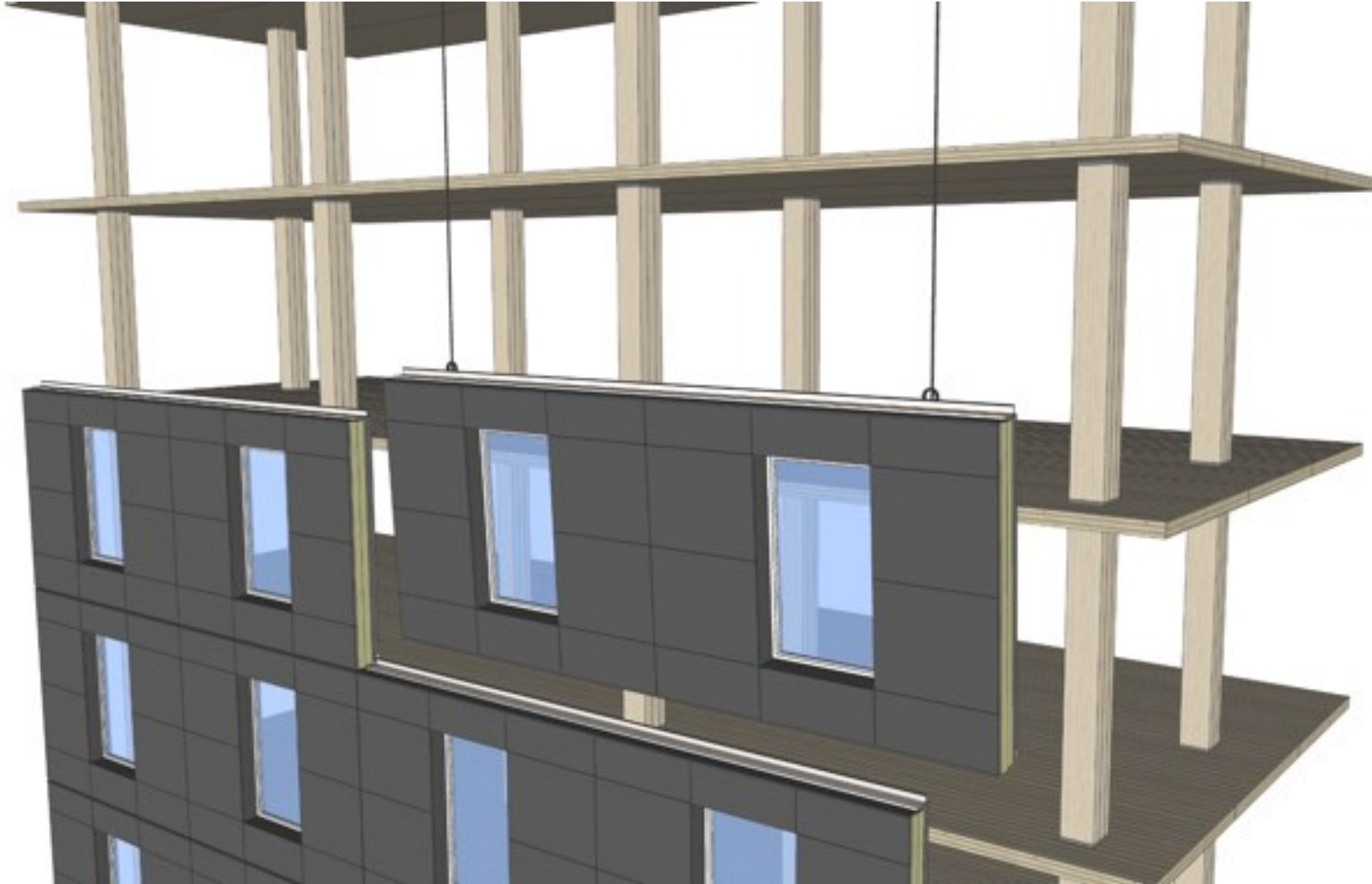


# Small Panel Prefabrication Wall – Precedents

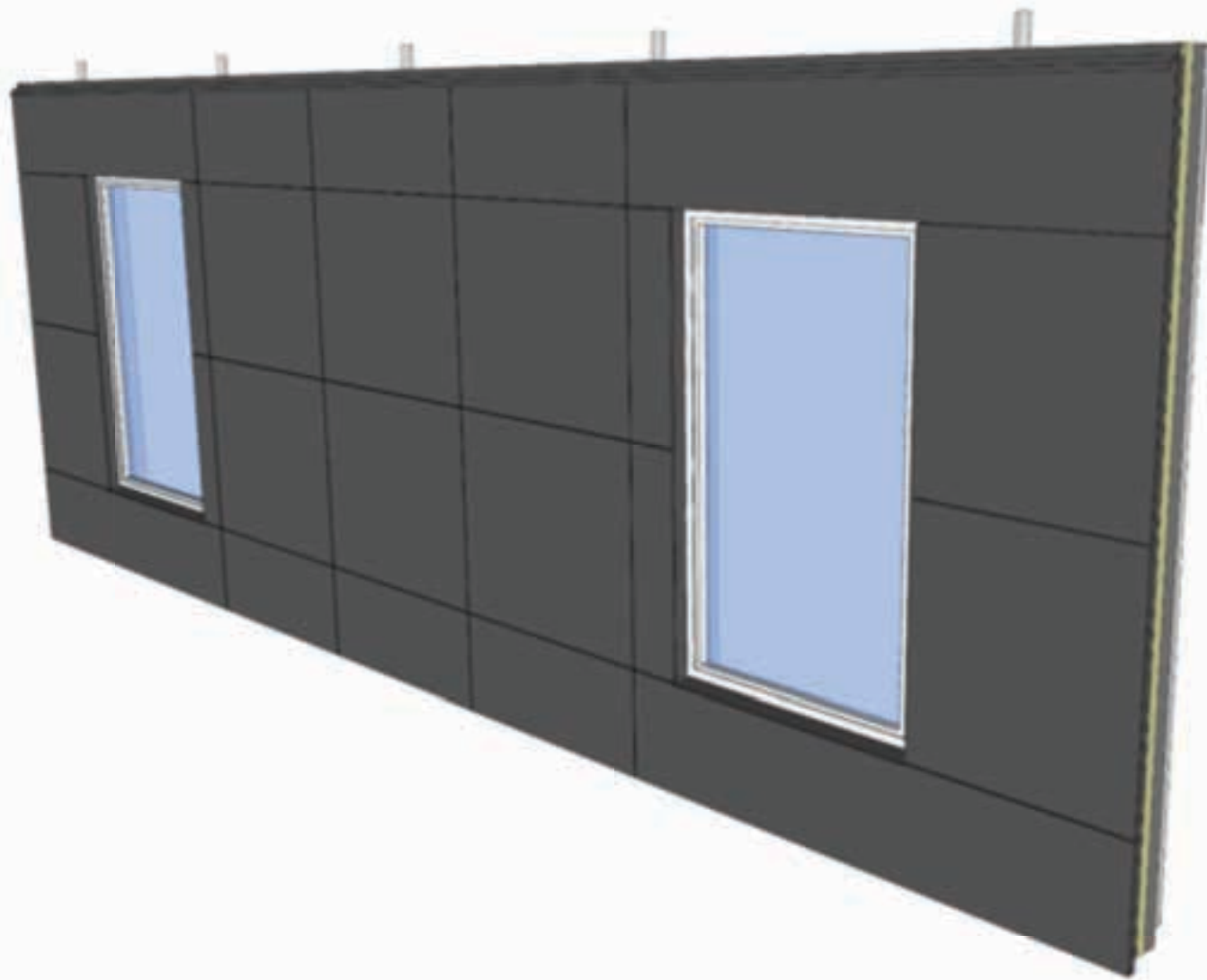
## Problem: Schedule

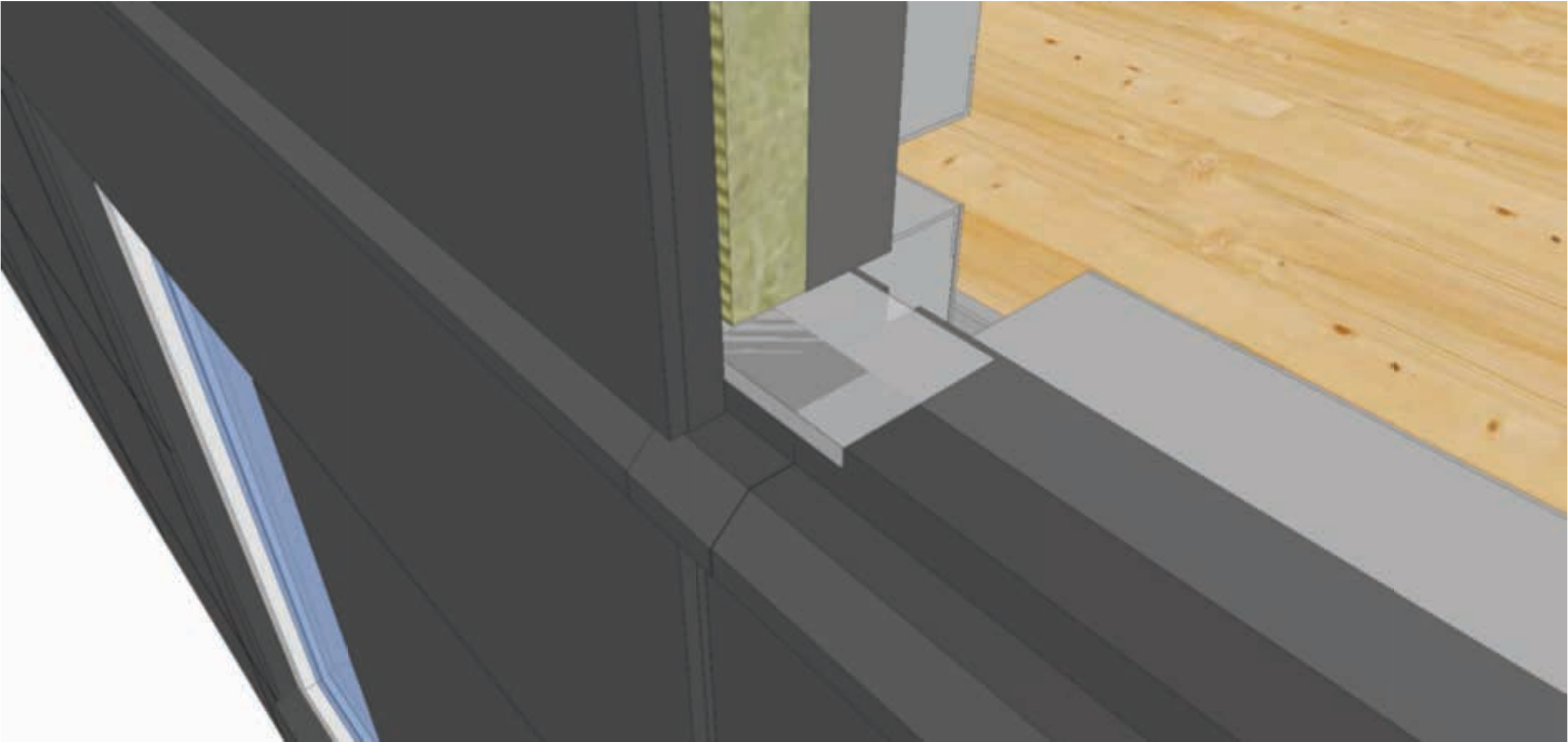


## Tall Wood Prefabrication Option – Large Panel with Pre-installed Windows

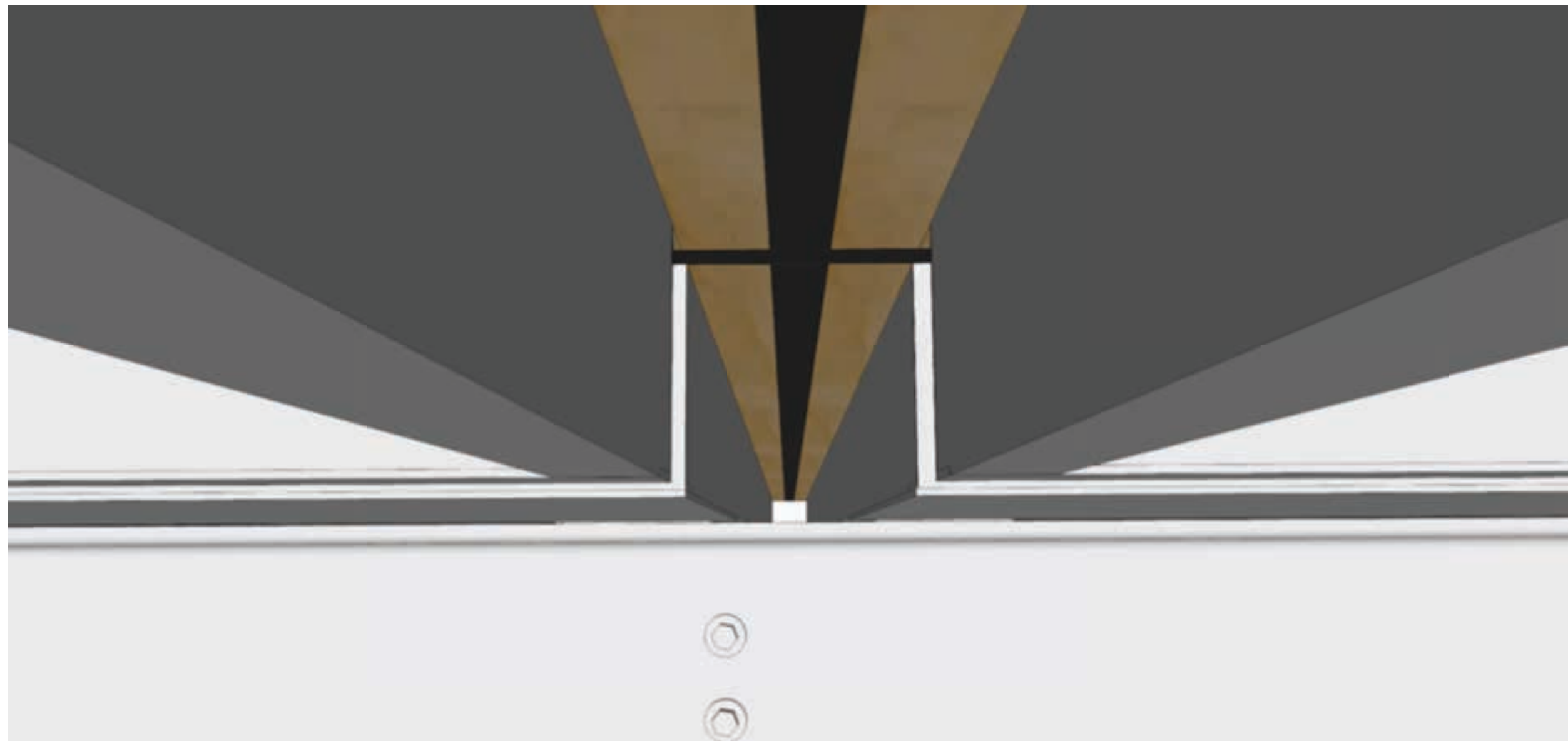


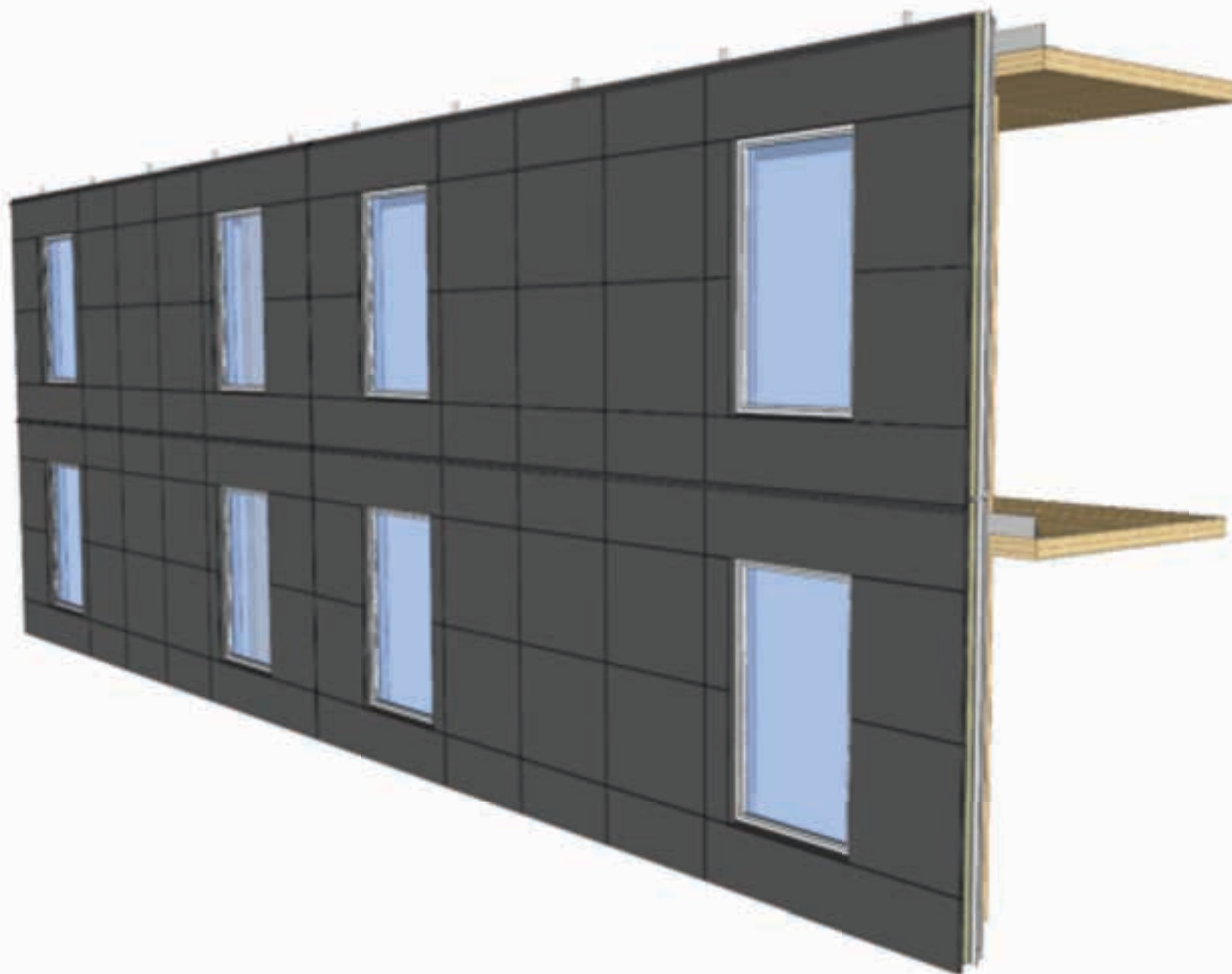




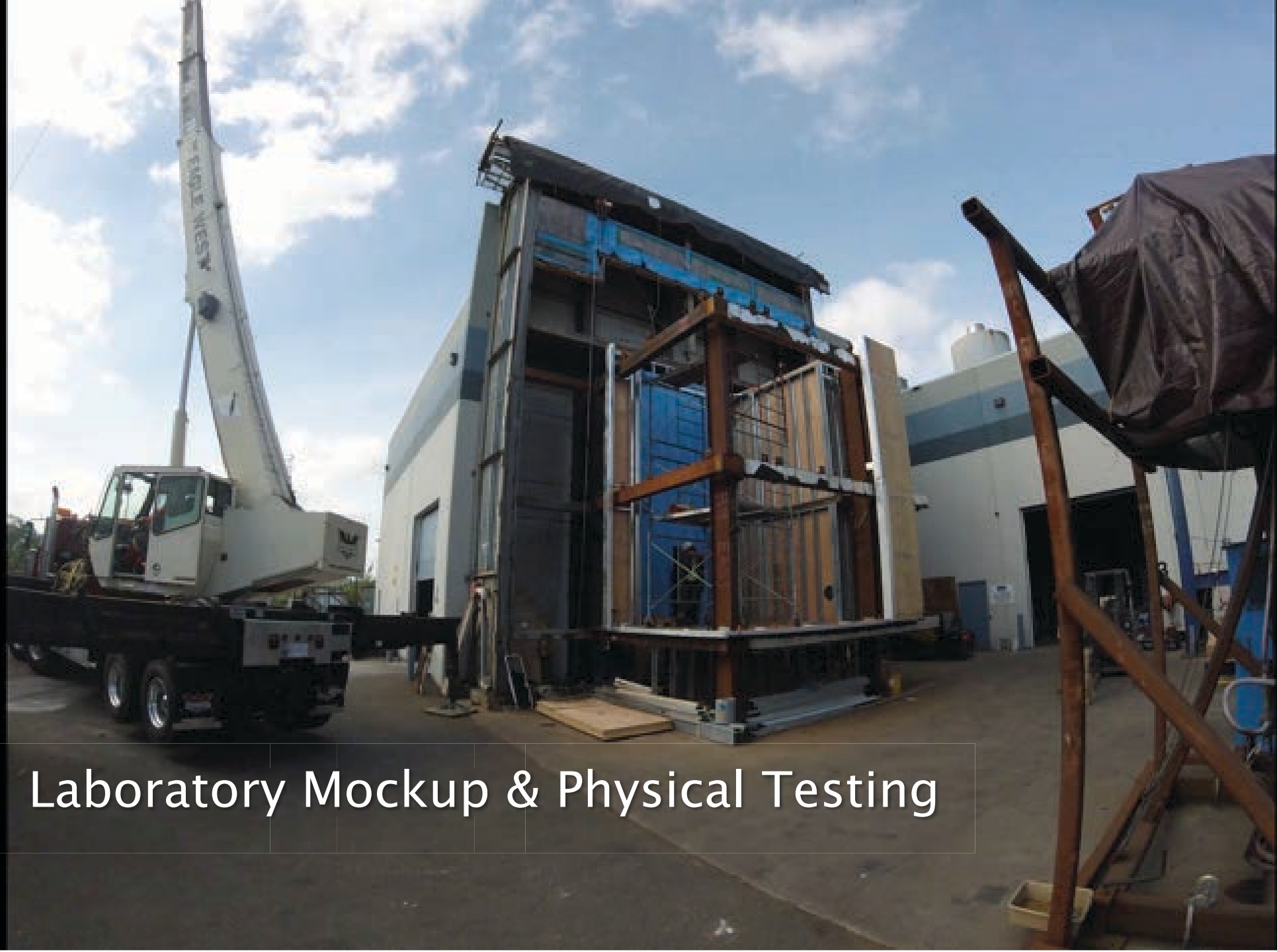




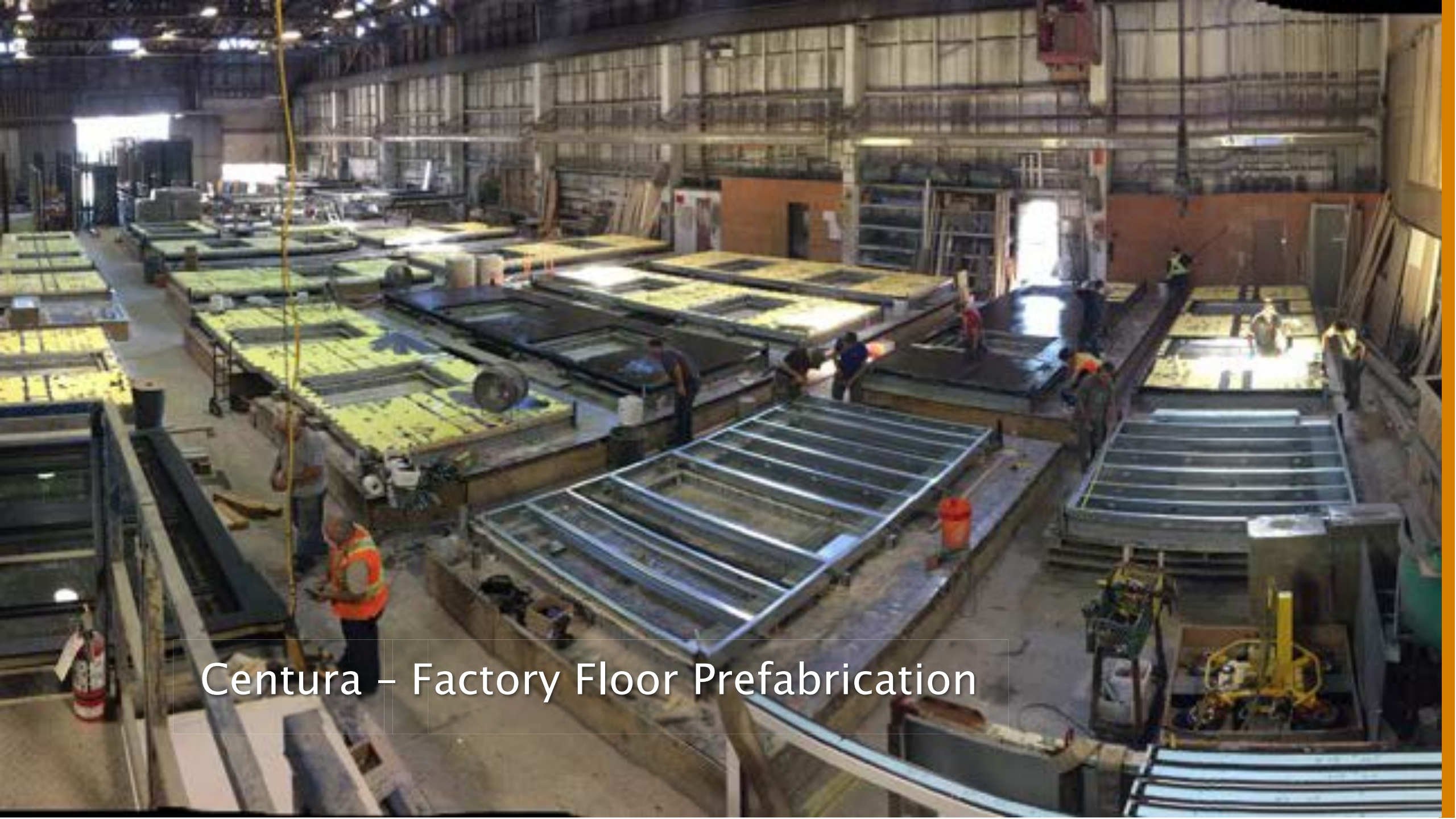








Laboratory Mockup & Physical Testing



Centura – Factory Floor Prefabrication





Site Installation – at Pace with Structure – 1 floors/day



WEEK: 1 

TIMELAPSE 

**UBC**  
BROCK COMMONS

**WOOD**   
CONSTRUCTION

STARTS 

**JUNE/6**

WOOD 











**What's Next?**











# Discussion + Questions

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Learn more at  
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This concludes the American Institute of  
Architects Continuing Education System Course

