A New Path Forward for Tall Wood Construction: Code Provisions and Design Steps

Presented by Laura Cullen, EIT
Regional Director
GA, MS

WoodWorks
December 6, 2022

The seminar will begin at 3:00 PM EST

The Canyons, Kaiser+Path, photo Jeremy Bittermann

Exploring Tall Wood:
New Code Provisions for Tall Timber Structures

Image: Hickok Cole

The What, Why and How of Tall Mass Timber

Photo: Michael Green Architecture

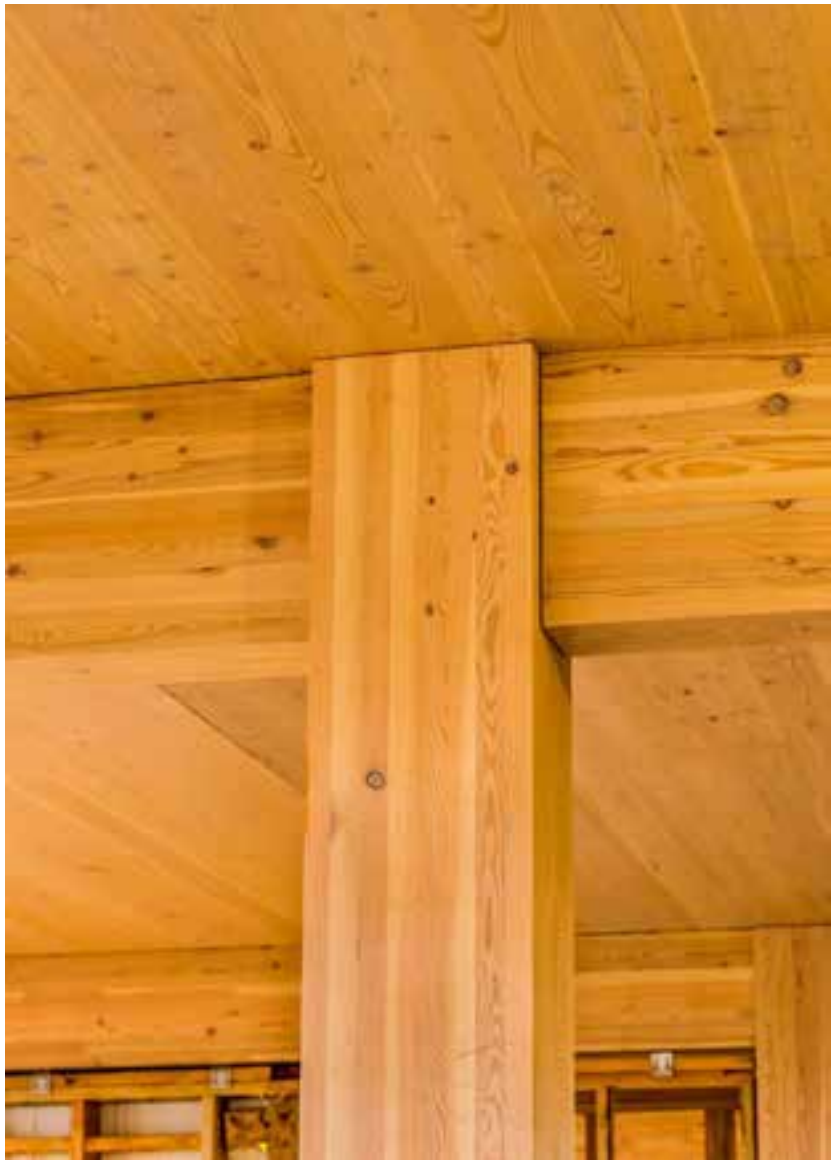
TALL MASS TIMBER ASSESSING THE WHAT

Brock Commons, Vancouver, BC | Architect: Acton Ostry | Image Courtesy naturallywood

Photos: Michael Elkan | Naturally Wood | UBC

BROCK COMMONS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

18 STORIES | 174 FT



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

CARBON12, PORTLAND, OR

8 STORIES | 85 FT

INTRO, CLEVELAND

9 Stories | 115 ft

8 Timber Over 1 Podium

512,000 SF

297 Apartments, Mixed-Use

Photo: Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, Purple Film | Architect: Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture

INTRO, CLEVELAND

9 Stories | 115 ft

8 Timber Over 1 Podium

Type IV-B

Variance to expose ~50% ceilings

Photo: Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, Image Fiction | Architect: Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

Photo: Korb & Associates Architects |
Architect: Korb & Associates Architects

493,000 SF

259 APARTMENTS, MIXED-USE

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

Tallest Mass Timber Building in the World

Photo: CD Smith Construction |
Architect: Korb & Associates Architects

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

25 STORIES

19 TIMBER OVER 6 PODIUM, 284 FT

Photo: Korb & Associates Architects | Architect: Korb & Associates Architects

80 M ST, WASHINGTON, DC

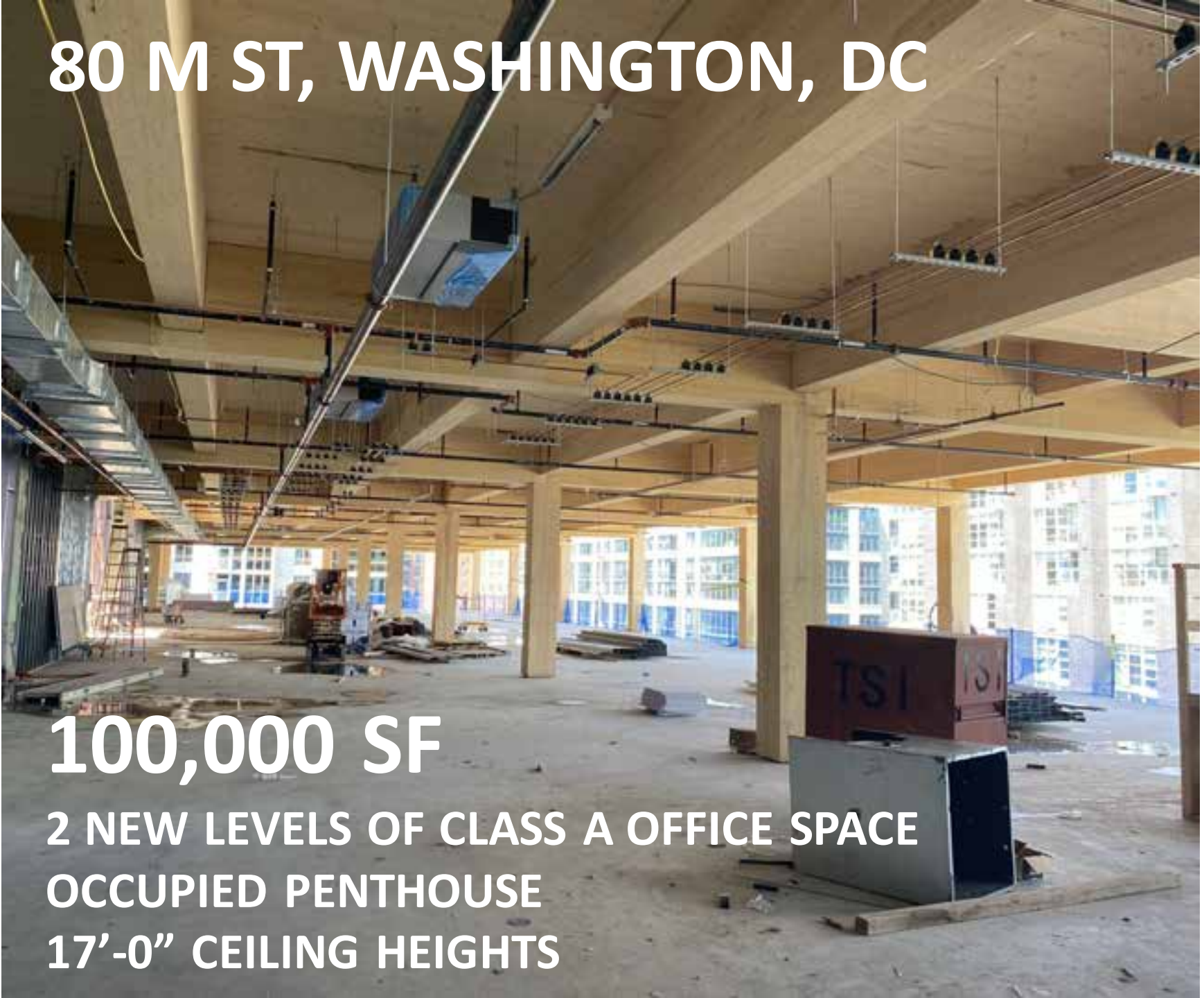
Photo: Hickok Cole | Architect: Hickok Cole

80 M ST, WASHINGTON, DC

3 STORY VERTICAL ADDITION
7 STORY EXISTING BUILDING

Photo: WoodWorks | Architect: Hickok Cole

80 M ST, WASHINGTON, DC



100,000 SF

2 NEW LEVELS OF CLASS A OFFICE SPACE
OCCUPIED PENTHOUSE
17’-0” CEILING HEIGHTS

TALL MASS TIMBER UNDERSTANDING THE WHY

Brock Commons, Vancouver, BC | Architect: Acton Ostry | Image Courtesy naturallywood

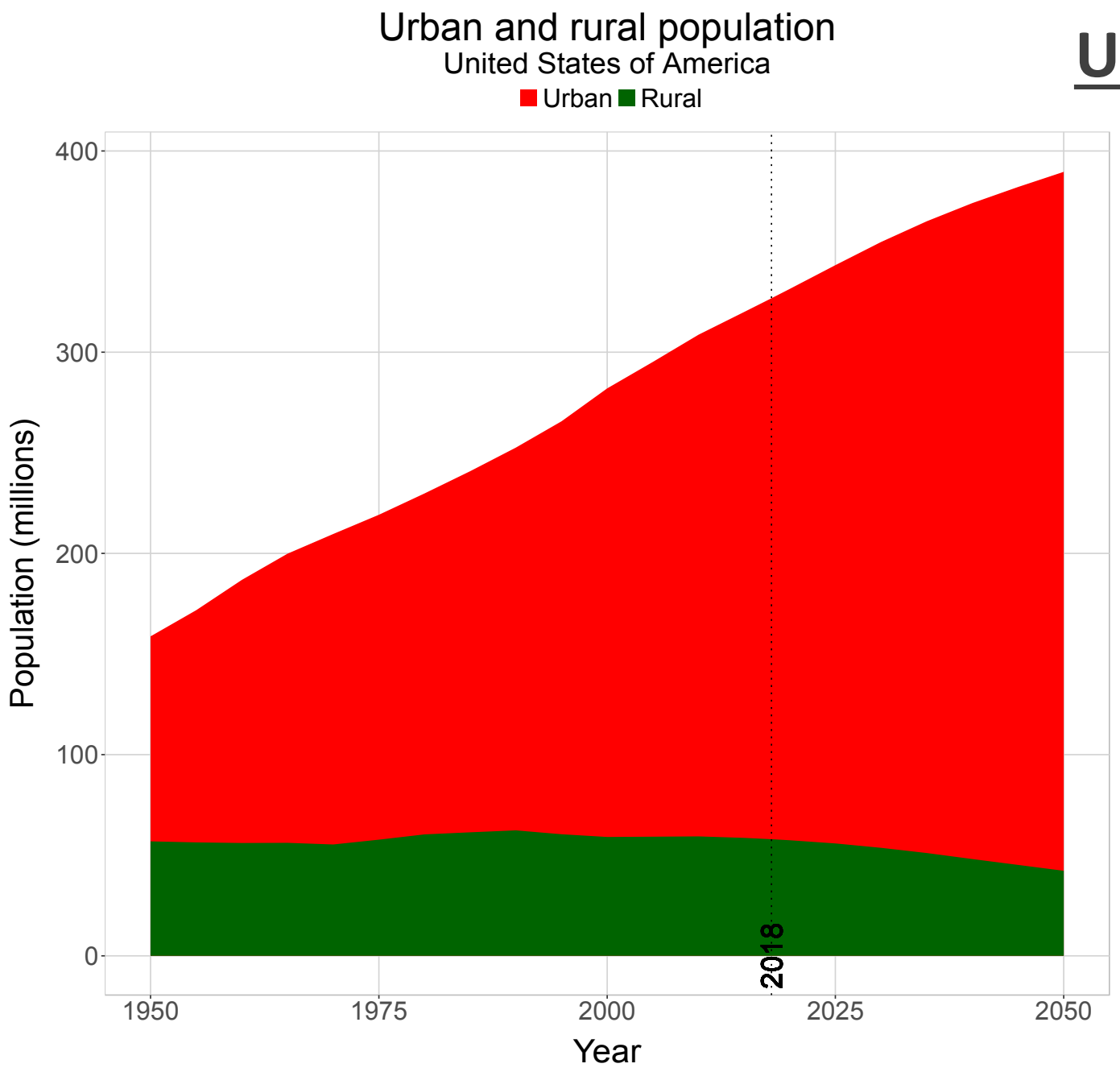
Global Population Increase

2050 = 11.2 billion people

2019 = 7.7 billion people

Source: https://ourworldindata.org/future-population-growth

US URBAN POPULATION BOOM



	URBAN	RURAL
2019	271.4 M	57.7 M
2030	301 M	53.7 M
2050	347.3 M	42.2 M

New Buildings & Greenhouse Gasses

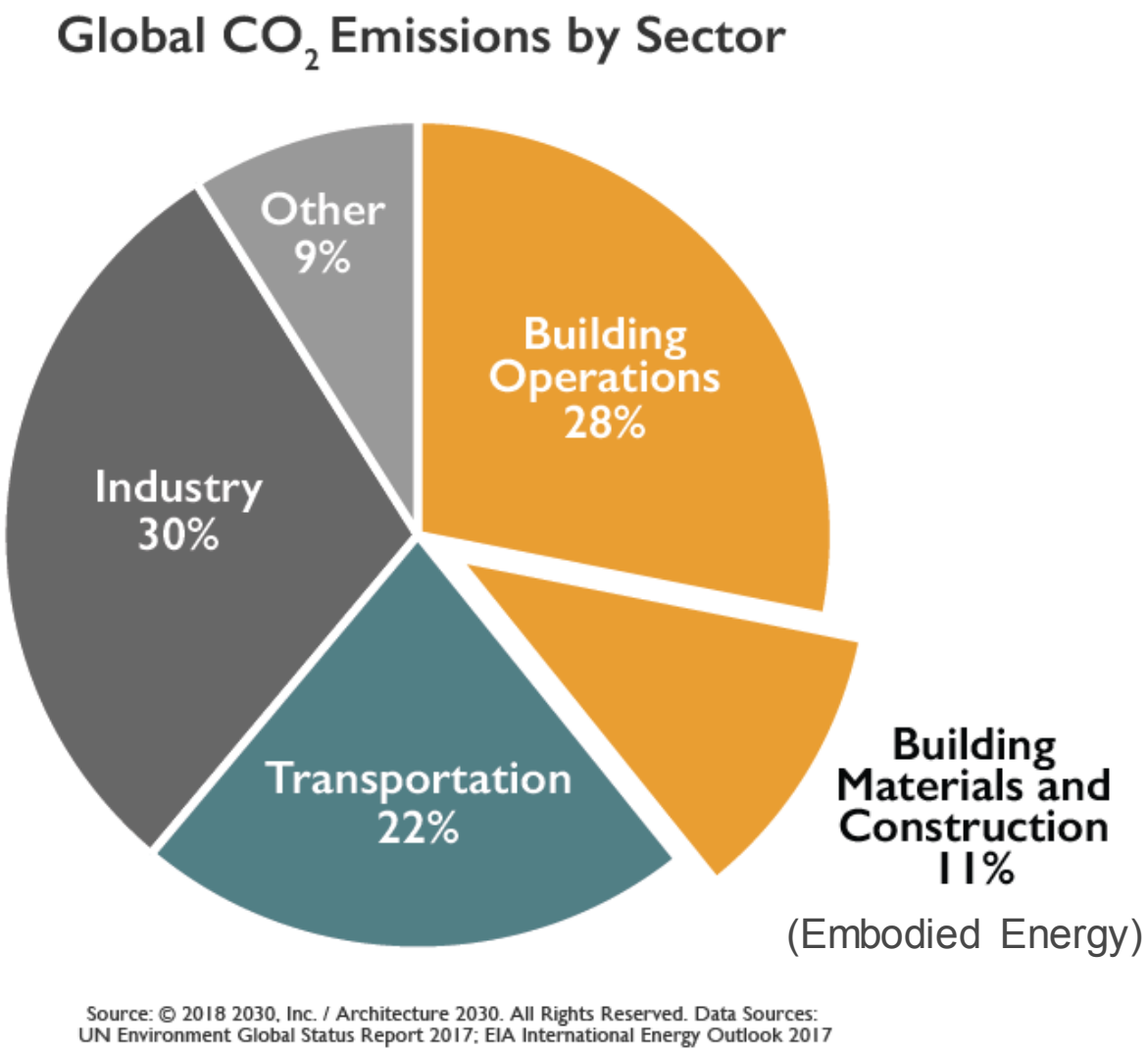


Image: Architecture 2030

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

Embodied Energy (11%): Concrete, iron + steel produce approximately 9% of this (Architecture 2030)

Carbon Storage

Wood ≈ 50% Carbon (dry weight)

Image: Kaiser + Path

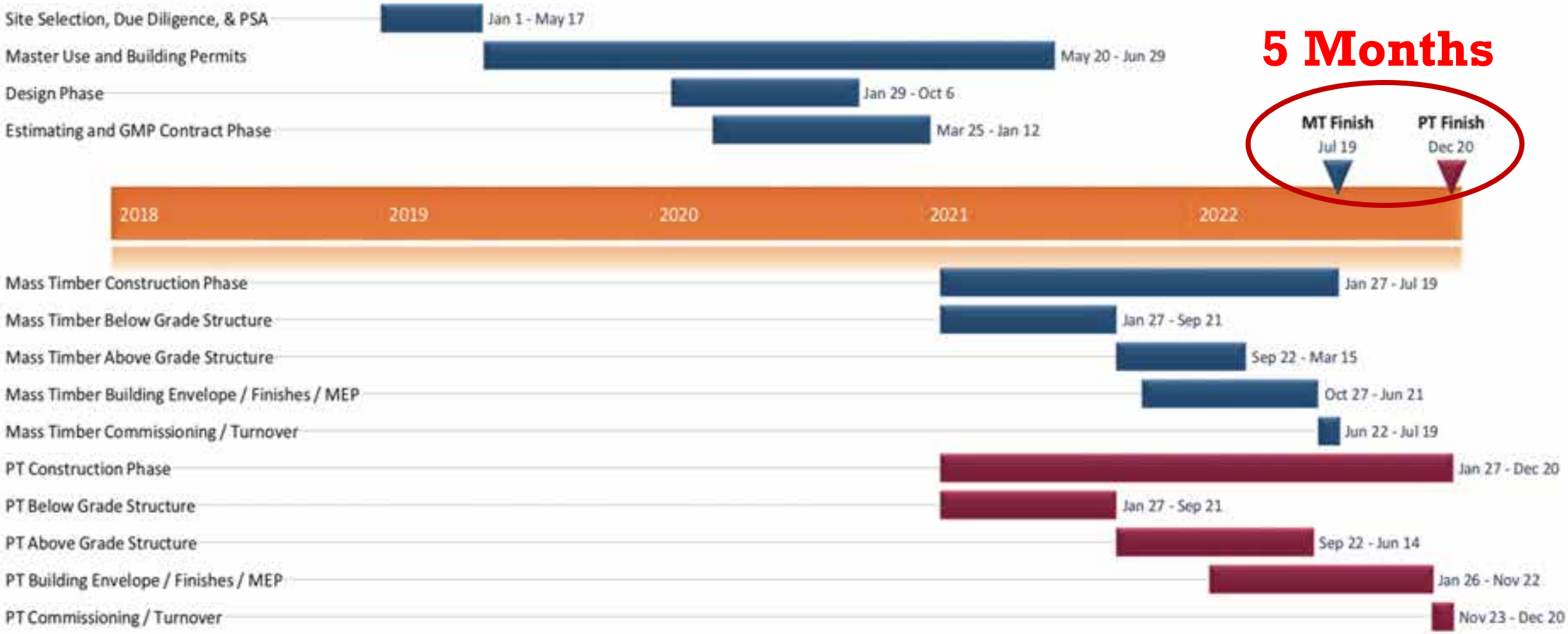
Image: Lever Architecture

Biophilic Design, Connection to Forests

George Fox University – Canyon Commons
Hacker | Photo: Jeremy Bittermann

Construction Impacts: Labor Availability

Construction Impacts: Schedule



Seattle Mass Timber Tower Study, Source: DLR Group | Fast + Epp | Swinerton Builders

Tall Mass Timber: Structural Warmth is a Value-Add

TMBR (unbuilt) Minneapolis, MN | Images: D/O Architects

TALL MASS TIMBER DEMONSTRATING THE HOW

Brock Commons, Vancouver, BC | Architect: Acton Ostry | Image Courtesy naturallywood

Glue Laminated Timber (Glulam)
Beams & columns

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)
Solid sawn laminations

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)
SCL laminations

Photo: Freres Lumber

Photo: StructureCraft

Photo: LendLease

Photo: LEVER Architecture

Dowel-Laminated Timber (DLT)

Photo: StructureCraft

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)

Photo: Think Wood

Glue-Laminated Timber (GLT)

Plank orientation

Photo: StructureCraft

Photo: StructureCraft

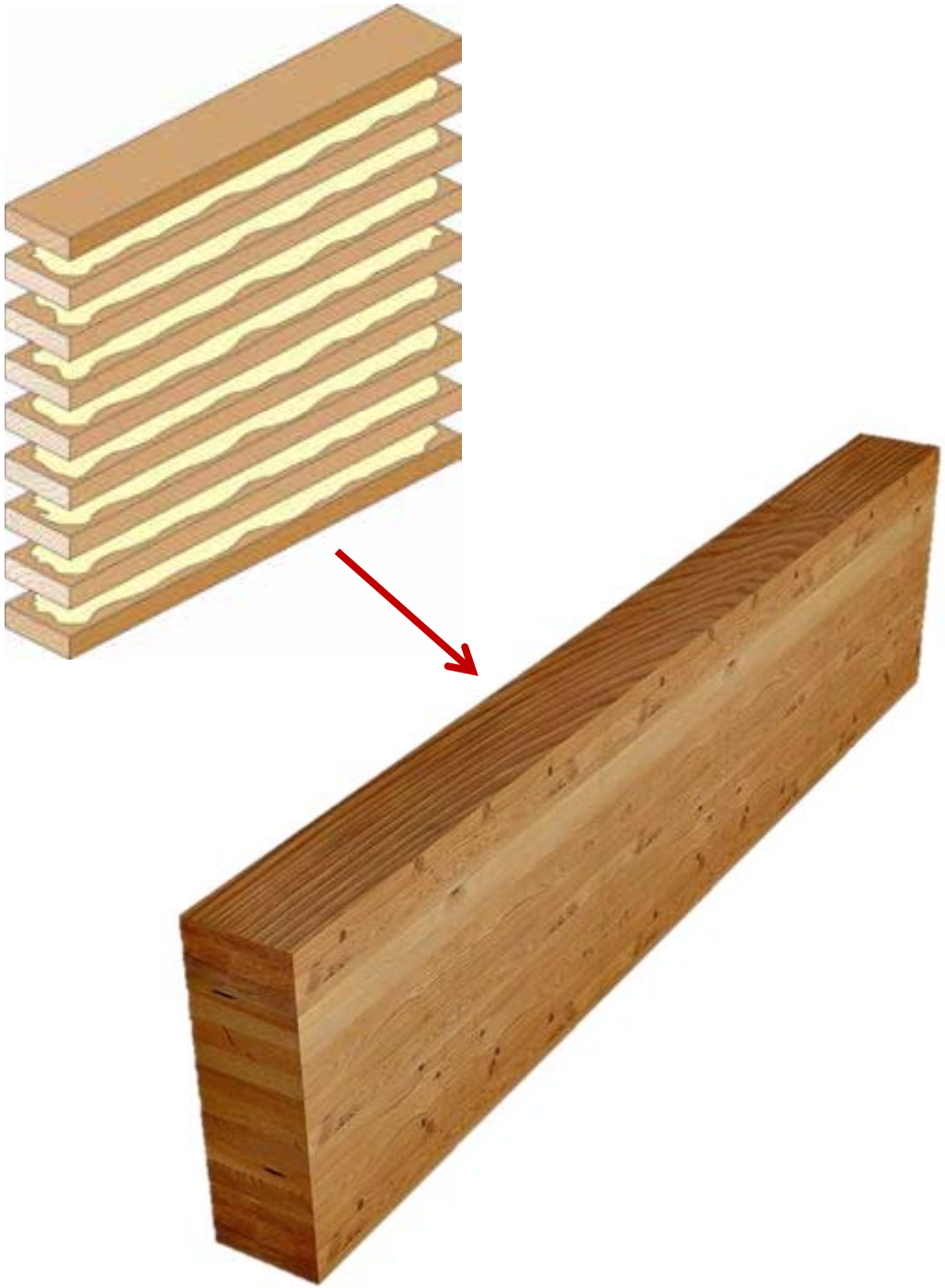
Photo: Ema Peter

Photo: Manasc Isaac Architects/Fast + Epp

Glue Laminated Timber (GLT)

Glue Laminated Timber (GLT)

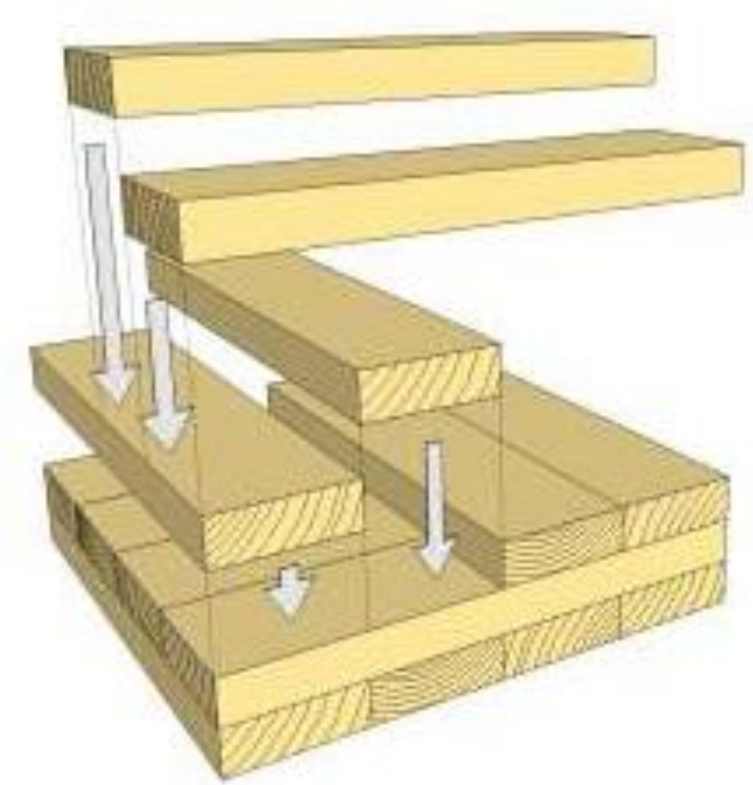
Photo: Manasc Isaac Architects/Fast + Epp

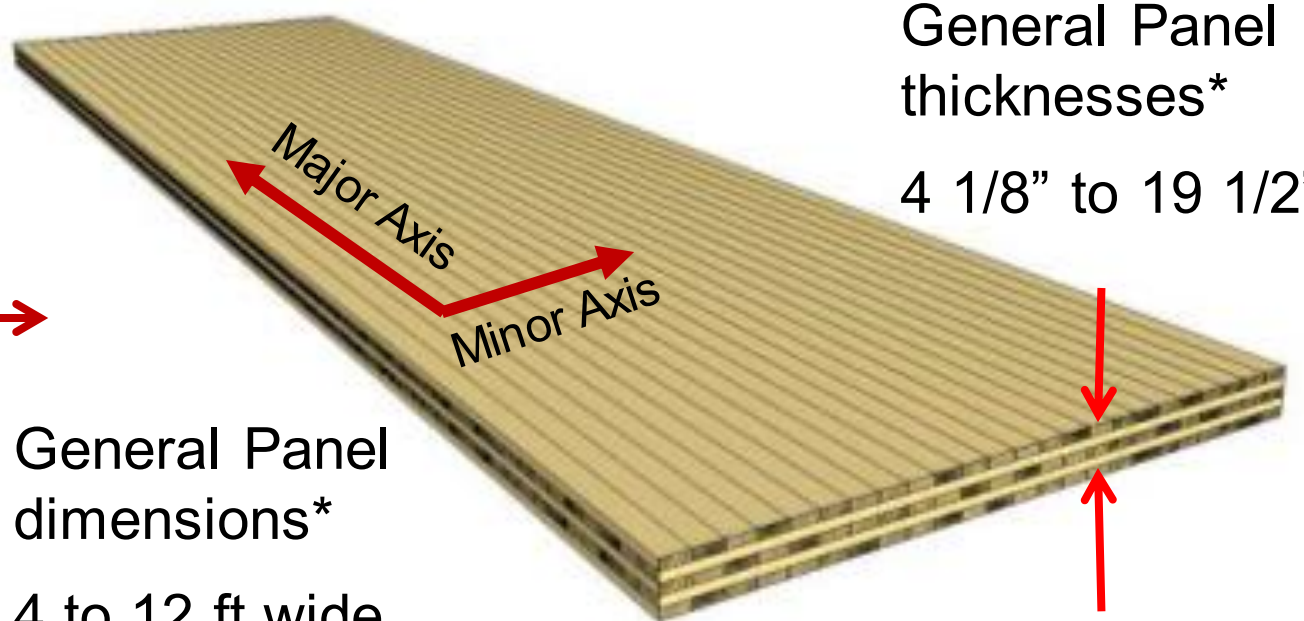


Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)

With solid sawn laminations





General Panel thicknesses*

4 1/8” to 19 1/2”

General Panel dimensions*

4 to 12 ft wide

24 to 64 ft long

*Consult with manufacturers for available panel sizes

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)

With SCL laminations

Photos: Freres Lumber

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)

Photo: StructureCraft

Photo: Think Wood

Dowel-Laminated Timber (DLT)

Photo: StructureCraft

Other Mass Timber Product Options

Glue Laminated Timber
GLT

Laminated Veneer Lumber
LVL

Parallel Strand Lumber
PSL

Laminated Strand Lumber
LSL

Timber-Concrete Composite
TCC

Decking

Photos: StructureCraft

Photo: Ema Peter

STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS | POST, BEAM + PLATE

Photo: Seagate Structures

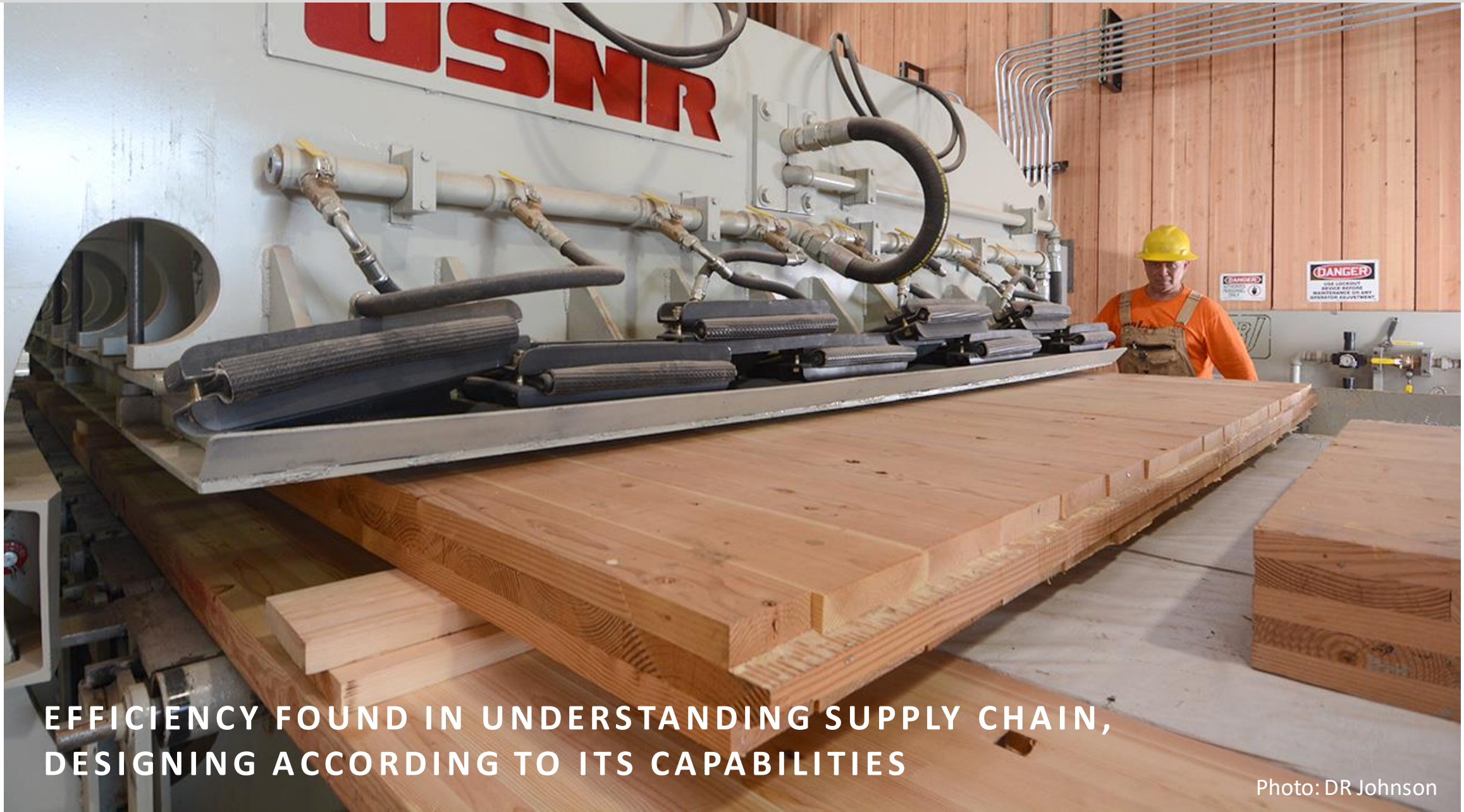
Photo: Lendlease

STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS | HYBRID LIGHT-FRAME + MASS TIMBER

Photo: TimberLab

STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS | HYBRID STEEL + MASS TIMBER

Know The Supply Chain



EFFICIENCY FOUND IN UNDERSTANDING SUPPLY CHAIN, DESIGNING ACCORDING TO ITS CAPABILITIES

Photo: DR Johnson

TALL WOOD IN THE CODE

2018 IBC and All Previous Editions:

- Prescriptive Code Limit - 6 stories (B occupancy) or 85 feet
- Over 6 Stories - Alternate Means and Methods Request (AMMR) through performance based design
- Based on the 1910 Heights and Areas Act

Photo: Alex Schreyer

Photo: Blaine Brownell

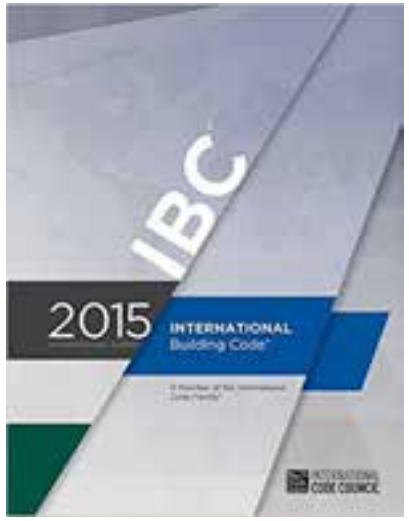
Photo: Christian Columbres

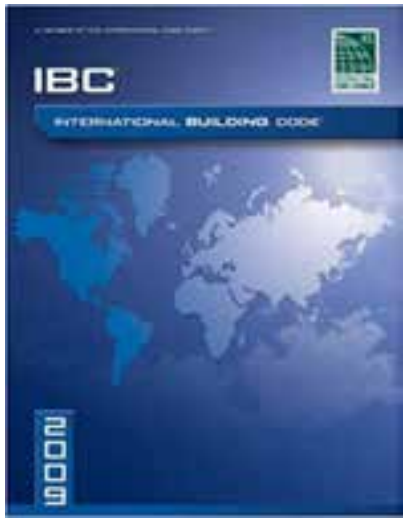
ICE Block I, RMW Architecture & Interiors, Buehler Engineering, Bernard André Photography

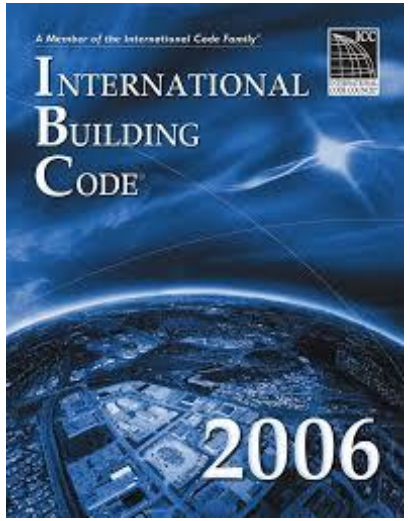
Photo: Swinerton

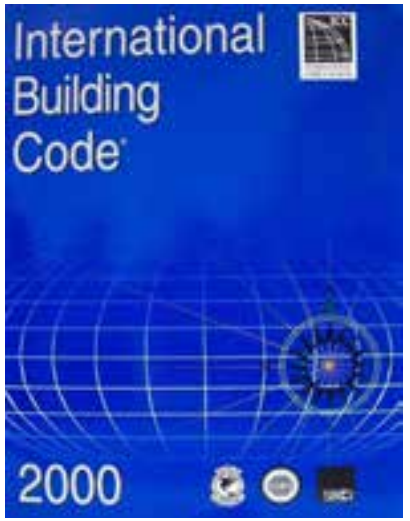
ICC INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

3 YEAR CODE CYCLE









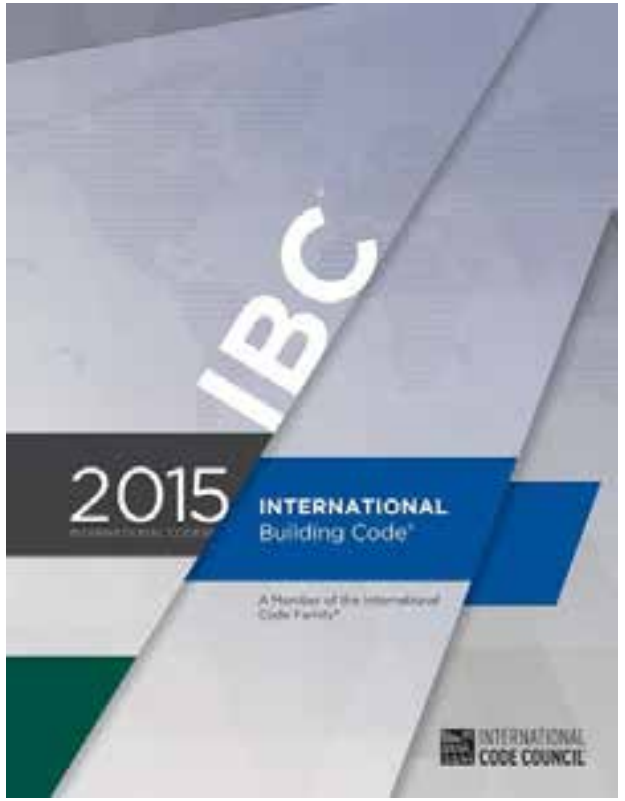
Source: ICC

U.S. TALL WOOD
DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

Seen as the catalyst for the mass timber revolution, CLT first recognized in US codes in the 2015 IBC

[BS] CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER. A prefabricated engineered wood product consisting of not less than three layers of solid-sawn lumber or *structural composite lumber* where the adjacent layers are cross oriented and bonded with structural adhesive to form a solid wood element.

2303.1.4 Structural glued cross-laminated timber. Cross-laminated timbers shall be manufactured and identified in accordance with ANSI/APA PRG 320.



U.S. TALL WOOD
DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

Interest in tall wood projects in the US was rapidly increasing. Some building officials were reluctant to approved proposed plans, primarily due to lack of code direction and precedent

Empire State Bulding, New York City, New York, 1931

Photo: Seagate Mass Timber Inc
Pollux Chang photographer

U.S. TALL WOOD
DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

In December 2015, the ICC Board established the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings. Objectives:

1. Explore the building science of tall wood buildings
2. Investigate the feasibility, and
3. Take action on developing code changes for tall wood buildings.

U.S. BUILDING CODES

Tall Wood Ad Hoc Committee

Tests on exposed mass timber, gypsum-covered mass timber; normal sprinkler protection, delayed sprinkler protection

Majority of flames seen are from contents, not structure

Photo: LendLease

Photo: LendLease

Photo: LendLease

Photo: LendLease

TALL WOOD APPROVED!

Unofficial results posted Dec 19, 2018

Final votes ratified Jan 31, 2019

AWC: Tall Mass Timber code changes get final approval

Dec 19, 2018

LEESBURG, VA. – The International Code Council (ICC) has released the unofficial voting results on code change proposals considered in 2018, including passage of the entire package of 14 tall mass timber code change proposals. The proposals create three new types of construction (Types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C), which set fire safety requirements, and allowable heights, areas and number of stories for tall mass timber buildings. Official results are expected to be announced during the first quarter of 2019. The new provisions will be included in the 2021 *International Building Code* (IBC).

"Mass timber has been capturing the imagination of architects and developers, and the ICC result means they can now turn sketches into reality. ICC's rigorous study, testing and voting process now

SO, WHAT'S CHANGED??

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

Since its debut, IBC has contained 9 construction type options

5 Main Types (I, II, III, IV, V) with all but IV having sub-types A and B

TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B

2021 IBC Introduces 3 new tall wood construction types:

IV-A, IV-B, IV-C

Previous type IV renamed type IV-HT

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B

New Building Types

18 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 270'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-A

12 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

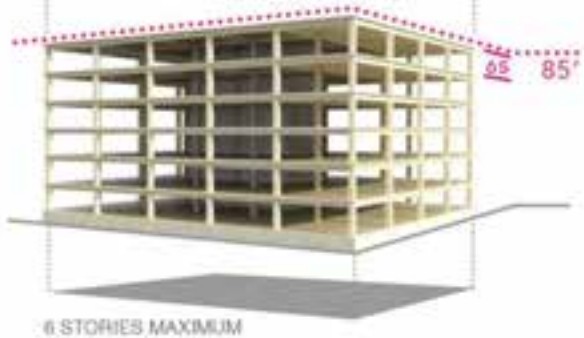
9 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 85'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C

IBC 2021

324,000 SF
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA

54,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY



6 STORIES MAXIMUM
85'-0" MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT
324,00 SF MAXIMUM AREA

TYPE IV- HT

IBC 2015

BUSINESS OCCUPANCY [GROUP B]

*BUILDING FLOOR-TO-FLOOR HEIGHTS ARE SHOWN AT 12'-0" FOR ALL EXAMPLES FOR CLARITY IN COMPARISON BETWEEN 2015 TO 2021 IBC CODES

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

WoodWorks™
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

Tall Wood Buildings in the 2021 IBC
Up to 18 Stories of Mass Timber

Scott Breneman, PhD, SE, WoodWorks – Wood Products Council • Matt Timmers, SE, John A. Martin & Associates • Dennis Richardson, PE, CBO, CASp, American Wood Council

In January 2019, the International Code Council (ICC) approved a set of proposals to allow tall wood buildings as part of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). Based on these proposals, the 2021 IBC will include three new construction types—Type IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—allowing the use of mass timber or noncombustible materials. These new types are based on the previous Heavy Timber construction type (renamed Type IV-HT) but with additional fire-resistance ratings and levels of required noncombustible protection. The code will include provisions for up to 18 stories of Type IV-A construction for Business and Residential Occupancies.

Based on information first published in the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) 2018 Conference Proceedings, this paper summarizes the background to these proposals, technical research that supported their adoption, and resulting changes to the IBC and product-specific standards.

Background: ICC Tall Wood Building Ad Hoc Committee

Over the past 10 years, there has been a growing interest in tall buildings constructed from mass timber materials (Breneman 2013, Timmers 2015). Around the world there

Via Cenni	Milan, Italy	9	2013

WoodWorks Tall Wood Design Resource

http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-TALL-WOOD.pdf

TALL TIMBER CODE ADOPTION

Georgia General Assembly

Legislation

House of Representatives | State Senate | Legislation | Joint Offices

Calendars
- House Calendars
- Senate Calendars

Composites
- House Daily
- Senate Daily
- Senate Privileged Resolutions

Legislation
- Advanced Search
- House First Readers
- Senate First Readers
- House Prefiles
- Senate Prefiles
- Signed by Governor
- Georgia Code
- General Statutes Summary

Votes
- House Votes
- Senate Votes

2019-2020 Regular Session - HB 777

Community Affairs, Department of; consider amending the state minimum standard codes to allow tall mass timber construction types; direct

Sponsored By

(1) Corbett, John 174th
(2) Burns, Jon 159th
(3) McCall, Tom 33rd
(4) England, Terry 116th
(5) Smith, Lynn 70th
(6) LaRiccia, Dominic 169th

Sponsored In Senate By

Wilkinson, John 50th

Committees

HC: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

SC: Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

First Reader Summary

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to standards and requirements for construction, alteration, etc., of buildings and other structures, so as to direct the Department of Community Affairs to undertake a review of the 2021 edition of the International Building Code so as to consider amending the state minimum standard codes to allow tall mass timber construction types; to provide a date by which said review is to be completed; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

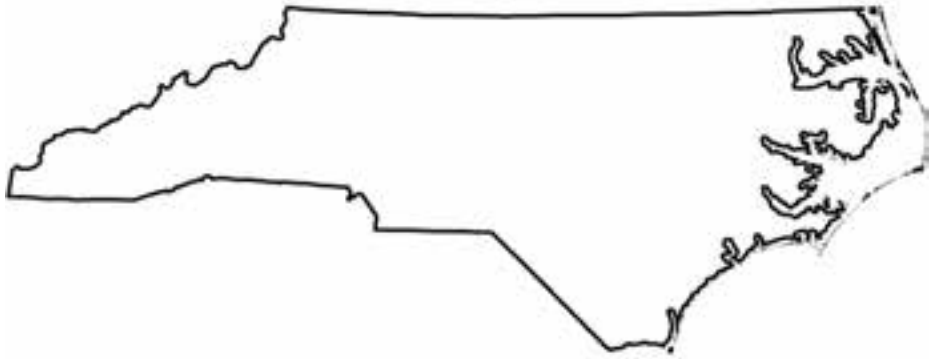
Status History

Jul/01/2020 - Effective Date
Jun/29/2020 - Act 387

Approved November 9, 2021; effective date of January 1, 2022

Credit: State of Georgia

North Carolina



- Statewide code is 2018 North Carolina Building Code (based upon 2015 IBC)
- Existing code cycle is 6 years – next NCSBC is 2024 (based upon 2021 IBC)
- Various appointed committees are now reviewing 2021 IBC language for submittal and impact assessment by the NC State Building Code Council
- Released for public comment and feedback
- Final revisions in place for statewide implementation by 1/1/24

South Carolina

- Statewide code is 2018 South Carolina Building Code (based upon 2018 IBC)
- It is anticipated that the Building Code Council will consider the 2021 International Codes for adoption beginning the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021
- Adoption of 2021 IBC codes expected in late 2022
- Changes proposed would be effective January 1st, 2023

Note- all dates are subject to change

Tall Timber Construction Types

18 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 270'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-A

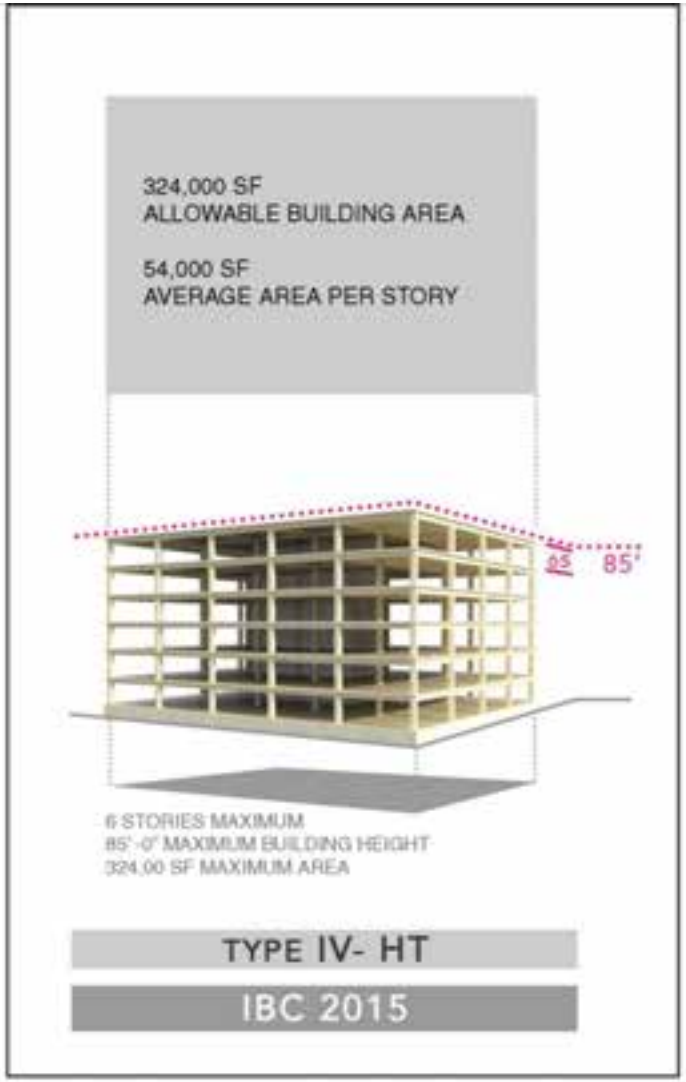
12 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

9 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 85'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C

IBC 2021



TYPE IV- HT

IBC 2015

BUSINESS OCCUPANCY [GROUP B]

*BUILDING FLOOR-TO-FLOOR HEIGHTS ARE SHOWN AT 12'-0" FOR ALL EXAMPLES FOR CLARITY IN COMPARISON BETWEEN 2015 TO 2021 IBC CODES.

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Type IV-C

9 STORIES	
BUILDING HEIGHT	85'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA	405,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY	45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture/Marcus Kauffman

Type IV-C Height and Area Limits

IV-C

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	6	85 ft	56,250 SF	168,750 SF
B	9	85 ft	135,000 SF	405,000 SF
M	6	85 ft	76,875 SF	230,625 SF
R-2	8	85 ft	76,875 SF	230,625 SF

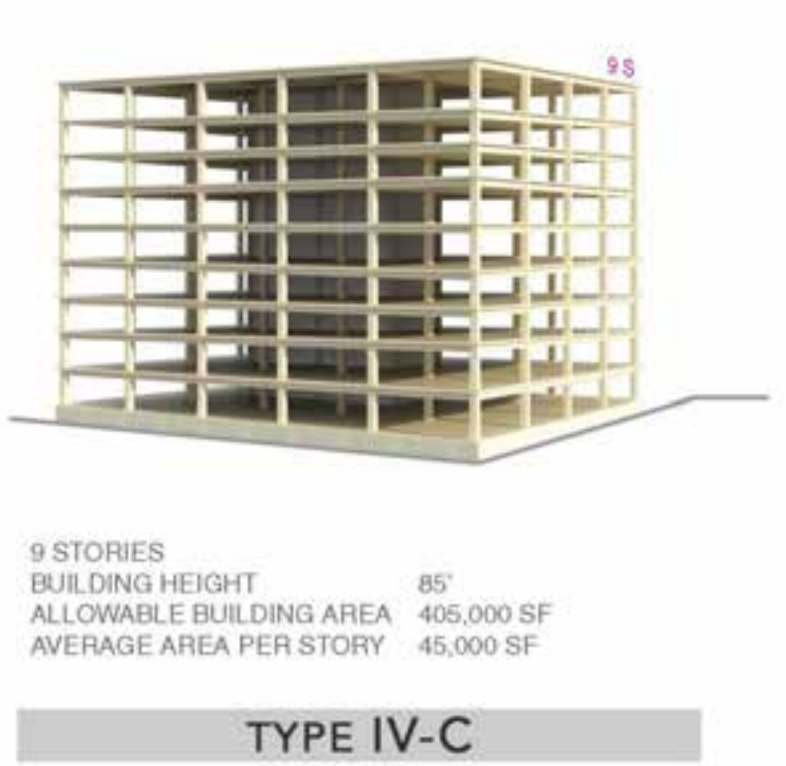
Areas exclude potential frontage increase

In most cases, Type IV-C height allowances = Type IV-HT height allowances, but add'l stories permitted due to enhanced FRR

Type IV-C area = 1.25 * Type IV-HT area

Type IV-C Protection vs. Exposed

IV-C



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Credit: Kaiser+Path, Ema Peter

All Mass Timber surfaces may be exposed

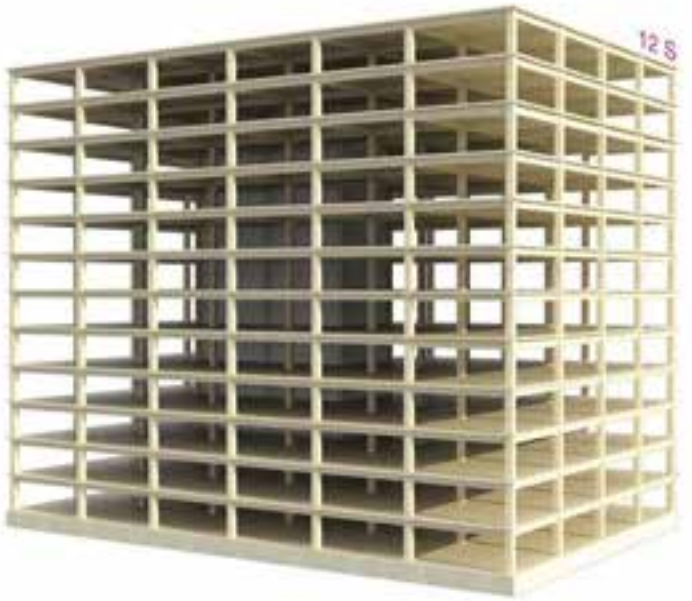
Exceptions: Shafts, concealed spaces, outside face of exterior walls

IV-C

All timber surfaces may be exposed

IV-C

Type IV-B



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Credit: LEVER Architecture

Type IV-B Height and Area Limits

IV-B

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	12	180 ft	90,000 SF	270,000 SF
B	12	180 ft	216,000 SF	648,000 SF
M	8	180 ft	123,000 SF	369,000 SF
R-2	12	180 ft	123,000 SF	369,000 SF

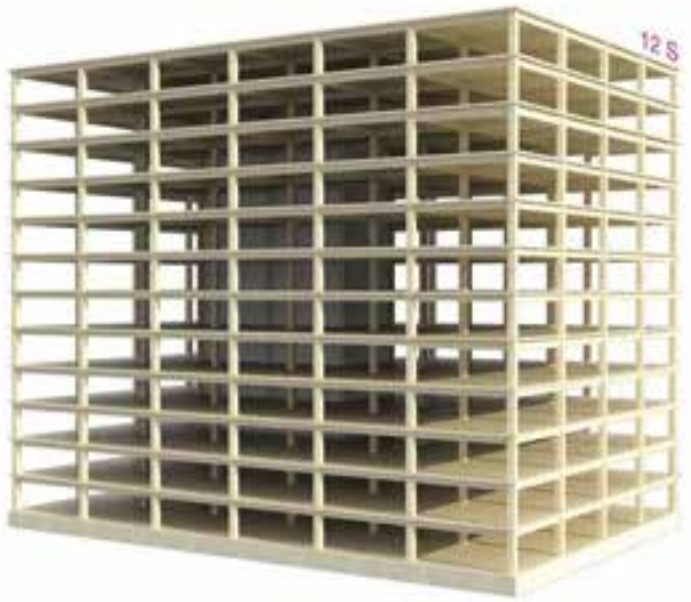
Areas exclude potential frontage increase

In most cases, Type IV-B height & story allowances = Type I-B height & story allowances

Type IV-B area = 2 * Type IV-HT area

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B



12 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Credit: Kaiser+Path

NC protection on all surfaces of Mass Timber except limited exposed areas

~20% of Ceiling or ~40% of Wall can be exposed

IV-B

Some timber surfaces may be exposed

IV-B

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Limited Exposed MT allowed in Type IV-B for:

- **MT beams and columns which are not integral part of walls or ceilings, no area limitation applies**
- **MT ceilings and beams up to 20% of floor area in dwelling unit or fire area, or**
- **MT walls and columns up to 40% of floor area in dwelling unit or fire area, or**
- **Combination of ceilings/beams and walls/columns, calculated as follows:**

Credit: Kaiser+Path

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Mixed unprotected areas, exposing both ceilings and walls:

- **In each dwelling unit or fire area, max. unprotected area =**

$$(U_{tc}/U_{ac}) + (U_{tw}/U_{aw}) \leq 1.0$$

- **U_{tc} = Total unprotected MT ceiling areas**
- **U_{ac} = Allowable unprotected MT ceiling areas**
- **U_{tw} = Total unprotected MT wall areas**
- **U_{aw} = Allowable unprotected MT wall areas**

Credit: Kaiser+Path

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Design Example: Mixing unprotected MT walls & ceilings

Credit: AWC

800 SF dwelling unit

- U_{ac} = (800 SF)*(0.20) = 160 SF
- U_{aw} = (800 SF)*(0.40) = 320 SF
- Could expose 160 SF of MT ceiling, OR 320 SF of MT Wall, OR
- If desire to expose 100 SF of MT ceiling in Living Room, determine max. area of MT walls that can be exposed

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Design Example: Mixing unprotected MT walls & ceilings

Credit: AWC

$(U_{tc}/U_{ac}) + (U_{tw}/U_{aw}) \leq 1.0$

$(100/160) + (U_{tw}/320) \leq 1.0$

$U_{tw} = 120$ SF

- Can expose 120 SF of MT walls in dwelling unit in combination with exposing 100 SF of MT ceiling

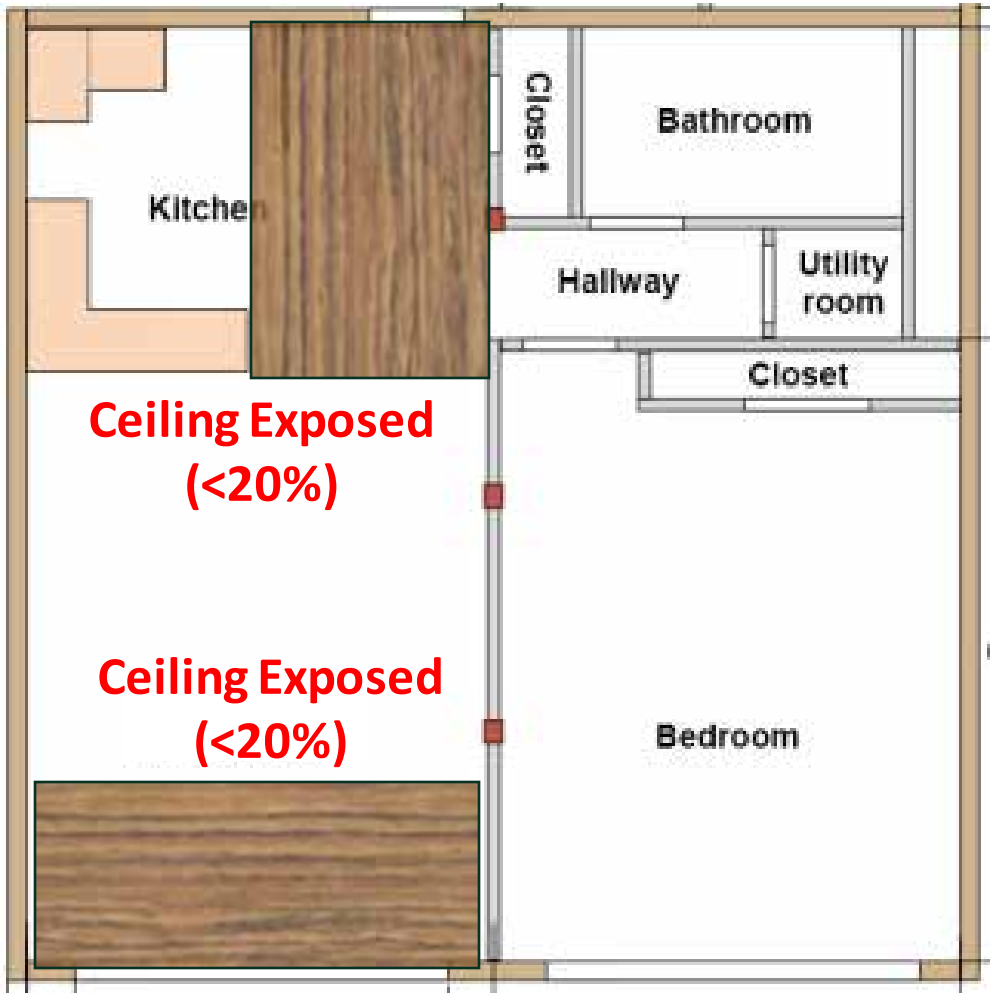
Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Credit: AWC

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B



Credit: AWC

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

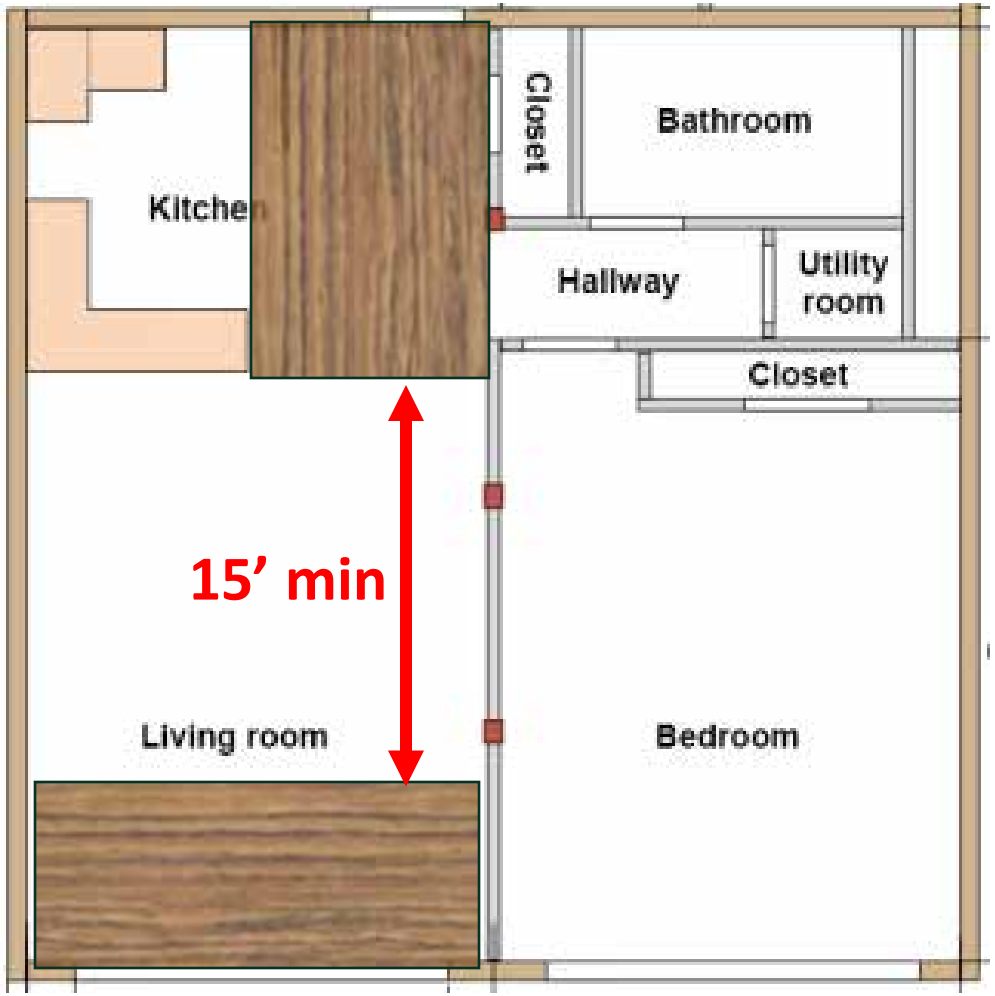
Horizontal separation of unprotected areas:

- Unprotected portions of mass timber walls and ceilings shall be not less than 15 feet from unprotected portions of other walls and ceilings, measured horizontally along the ceiling and from other unprotected portions of walls measured horizontally along the floor.

Credit: Kaiser+Path

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B



Credit: AWC

2024 IBC Changes

RISE Tests, 2020
Photo: RISE

Type IV-A

18 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT 270'
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-A

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Photos: Structurlam, naturally:wood, Fast + Epp

Type IV-A Height and Area Limits

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	18	270 ft	135,000 SF	405,000 SF
B	18	270 ft	324,000 SF	972,000 SF
M	12	270 ft	184,500 SF	553,500 SF
R-2	18	270 ft	184,500 SF	553,500 SF

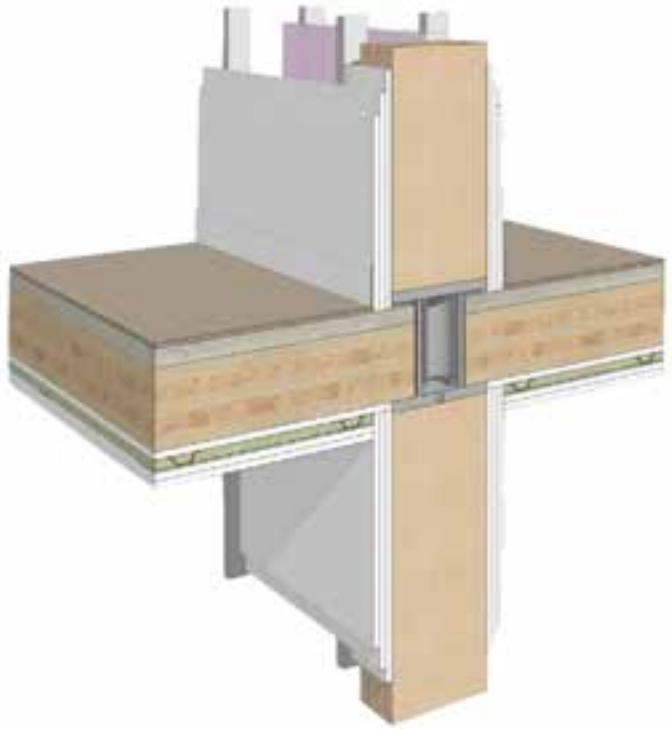
Areas exclude potential frontage increase

In most cases, Type IV-A height & story allowances = 1.5 * Type I-B height & story allowances

Type IV-A area = 3 * Type IV-HT area

Type IV-A Protection vs. Exposed

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Credit: Acton Ostry Architects, Fast + Epp

100% NC protection on all surfaces of Mass Timber

IV-A

No timber surfaces may be exposed

IV-A

Tall Wood Building Size Limits

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)						
	I-A	I-B	**IV-A**	**IV-B**	**IV-C**	IV-HT	III-A
Occupancies	**Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)**						
A, B, R	Unlimited	180	**270**	**180**	**85**	85	85
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**6**	4	4
B	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**9**	6	6
R-2	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**8**	5	5
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet^2 (IBC Table 506.2)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	**135,000**	**90,000**	**56,250**	45,000	42,000
B	Unlimited	Unlimited	**324,000**	**216,000**	**135,000**	108,000	85,500
R-2	Unlimited	Unlimited	**184,500**	**123,000**	**76,875**	61,500	72,000

Tall Wood Building Size Limits

	Construction Type (Unsprinklered Values)					
	I-A	I-B	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT
Occupancies	**Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)**					
A, B, R	Unlimited	160	**65**	**65**	**65**	**65**
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)					
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	11	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
B	Unlimited	11	**5**	**5**	**5**	**5**
R-2	Unlimited	11	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet^2 (IBC Table 506.2)					
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	**45,000**	**30,000**	**18,750**	**15,000**
B	Unlimited	Unlimited	**108,000**	**72,000**	**45,000**	**36,000**
R-2	Unlimited	Unlimited	**61,500**	**41,000**	**25,625**	**20,500**

Even so, Sprinklers may be required by 903.2 (all occupancies) and definitely for residential (420.4)

Tall Wood Building Size Limits

	Construction Type (Unsprinklered Values)					
	I-A	I-B	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT
Occupancies	**Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)**					
A, B, R	Unlimited	160	65	65	65	65
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)					
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	11	3	3	3	3
B	Unlimited	11	5	5	5	5
R-2	Unlimited	11	4	4	4	4
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet^2 (IBC Table 506.2)					
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	45,000	30,000	18,750	15,000
B	Unlimited	Unlimited	108,000	72,000	45,000	36,000
R-2	Unlimited	Unlimited	61,500	41,000	25,625	20,500

In almost all cases, sprinklers will be required

Even so, Sprinklers may be required by 903.2 (all occupancies) and definitely for residential (420.4)

Non-Tall Opportunities – Large Area

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)						
	I-A	I-B	**IV-A**	**IV-B**	**IV-C**	IV-HT	III-A
Occupancies	**Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)**						
A, B, R	Unlimited	180	**270**	**180**	**85**	85	85
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**6**	4	4
B	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**9**	6	6
R-2	Unlimited	12	**18**	**12**	**8**	5	5
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet^2 (IBC Table 506.2)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	**135,000**	**90,000**	**56,250**	45,000	42,000
B	Unlimited	Unlimited	**324,000**	**216,000**	**135,000**	108,000	85,500
R-2	Unlimited	Unlimited	**184,500**	**123,000**	**76,875**	61,500	72,000

What's the 'Sweet Spot' for Tall Mass Timber?

Depends on many factors:

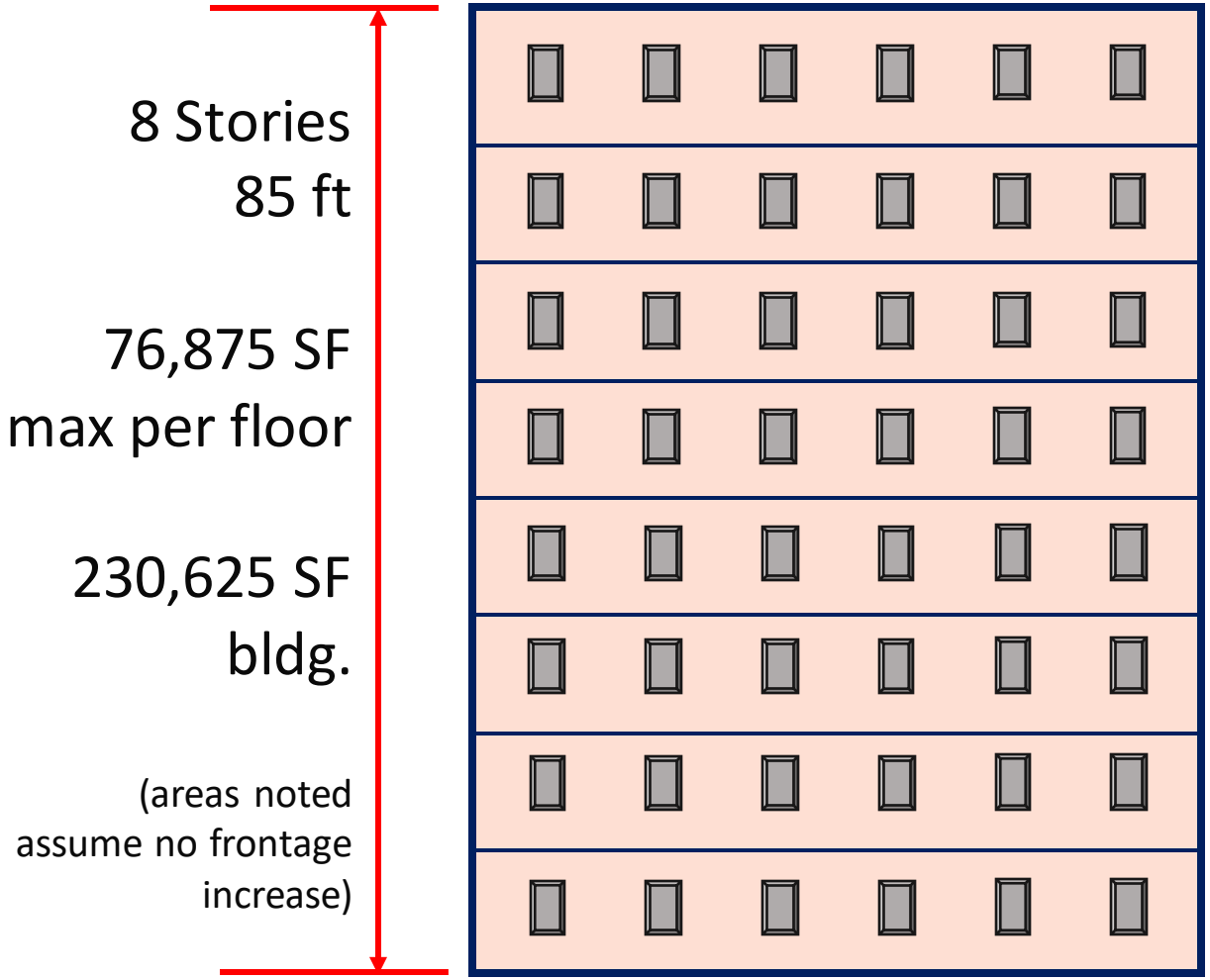
- Project Use
- Site Constraints
- Local Zoning & FAR Limitations
- Budget
- Client Objectives for Sustainability, Exposed Timber
- And More…

But Some General Trends Could Be:

80 M Street, SE, Washington, DC
Photo: Hickok Cole | Architect: Hickok Cole

Type IV-C Tall Mass Timber

Example R-2, Type IV-C Building



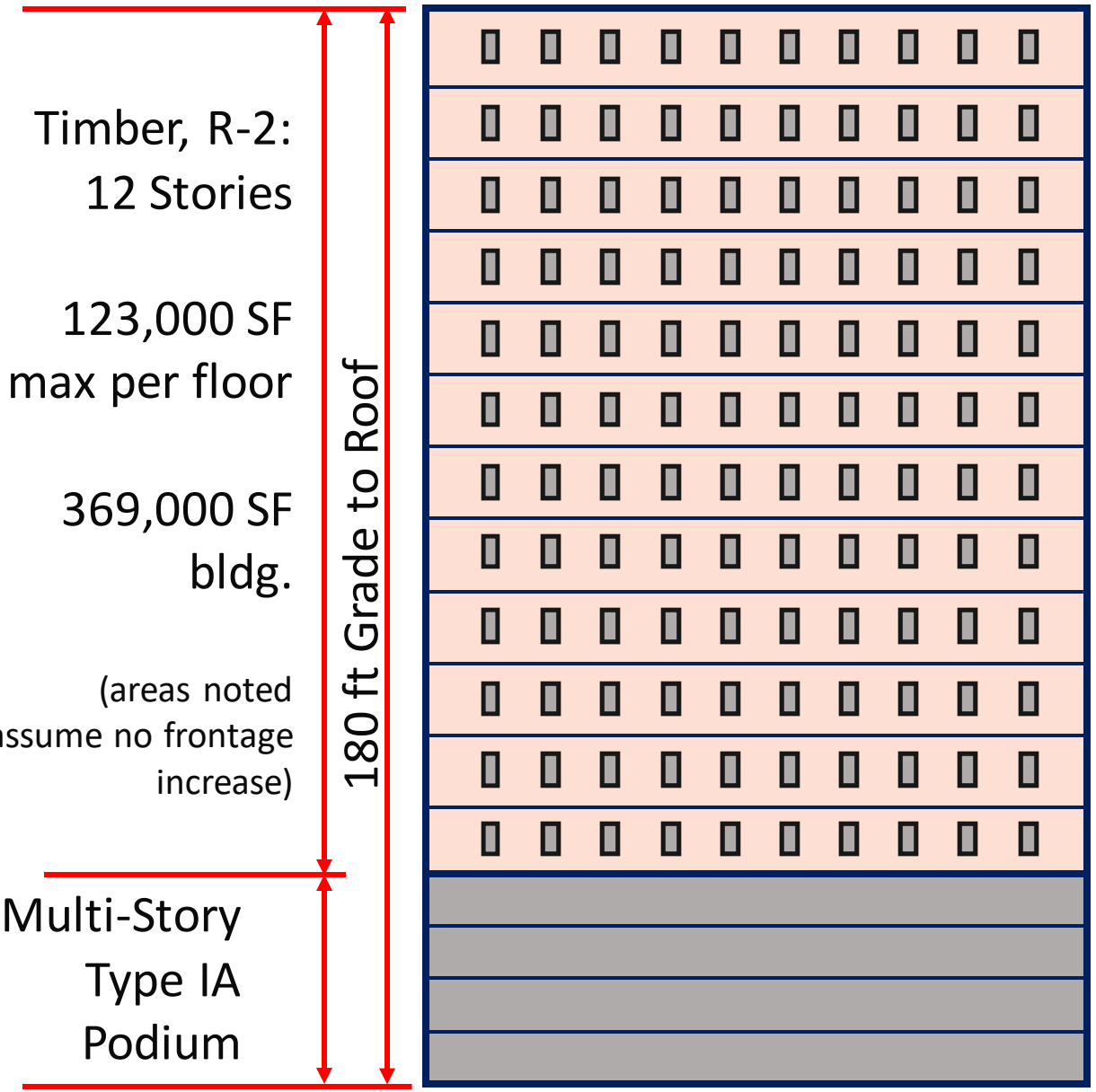
Not Likely to Utilize Podium Due to Overall Building Height Limit (85 ft) Relative to # of Timber Stories (8)

Same Overall Building Height Limit as IV-HT (85 ft) but higher Fire-Resistance Ratings Req'd

3 Additional Stories Permitted Compared to IV-HT

All Timber Exposed

Type IV-B Tall Mass Timber



Example Mixed-Use, Type IV-B Building

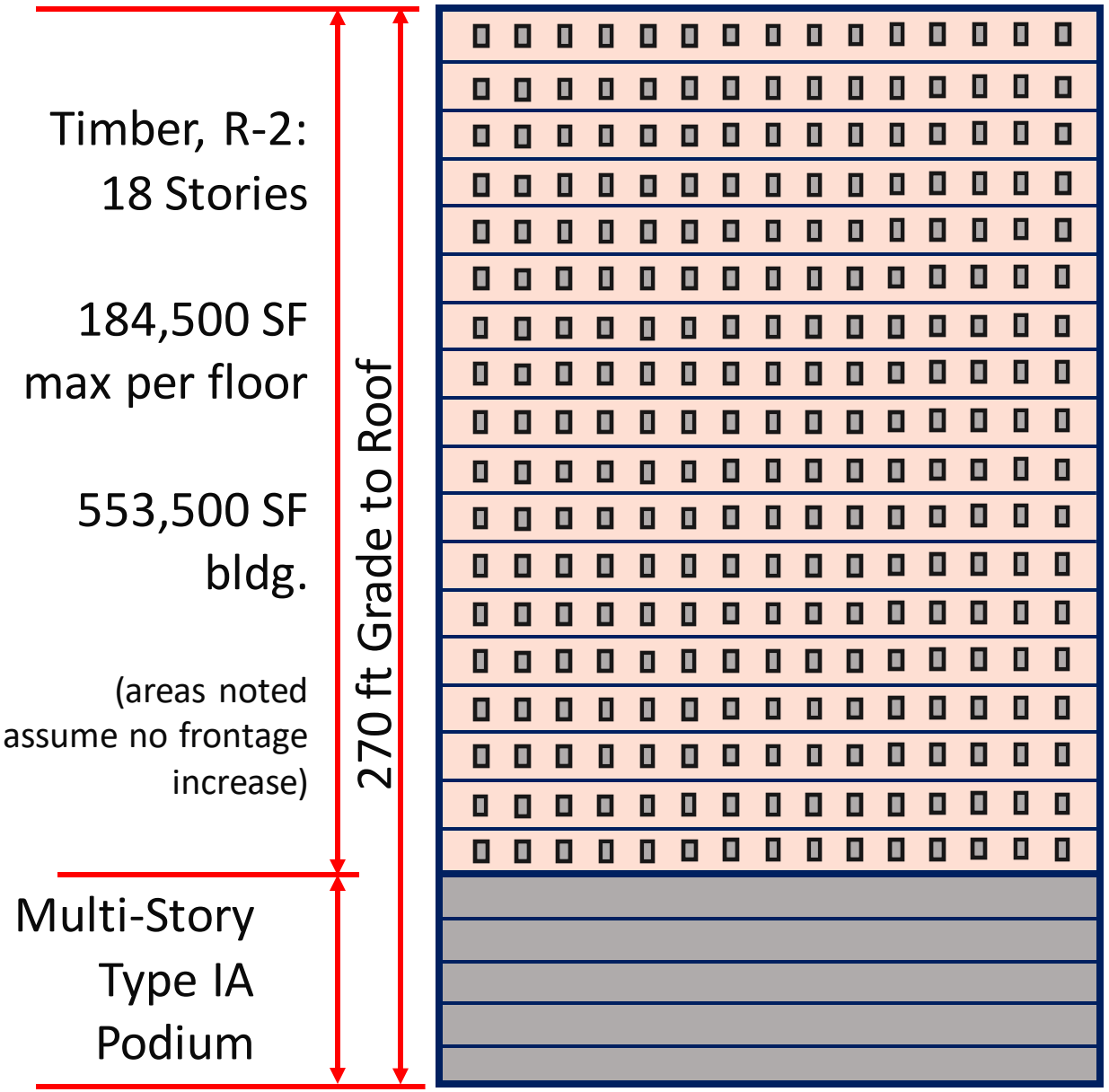
Likely to Utilize Podium Due to Overall Building Height Limit (180 ft) Relative to # of Timber Stories (12)

Same Fire-Resistance Ratings Req'd as IV-C But Limitations on Timber Exposed

4 Additional Stories Permitted Compared to IV-C

Limited Timber Exposed

Type IV-A Tall Mass Timber



Example Mixed-Use, Type IV-A Building

Likely to Utilize Podium Due to Overall Building Height Limit (270 ft) Relative to # of Timber Stories (18)

Higher Fire-Resistance Ratings Req'd than IV-B For Primary Frame

6 Additional Stories Permitted Compared to IV-B

No Exposed Timber Permitted

Materials Permitted

602.4 Type IV. Type IV construction is that type of construction in which the building elements are mass timber or noncombustible materials and have fire resistance ratings in accordance with Table 601. Mass timber elements shall meet the fire resistance rating requirements of this section based on either the fire resistance rating of the noncombustible protection, the mass timber, or a combination of both and shall be determined in accordance with Section 703.2 or 703.3. The minimum dimensions and permitted materials for building elements shall comply with the provisions of this section and Section 2304.11. Mass timber

Exterior load-bearing walls and nonload-bearing walls shall be mass timber construction, or shall be of noncombustible construction.

Exception: Type IV-HT Construction in accordance with Section 602.4.4.

The interior building elements, including nonload-bearing walls and partitions, shall be of mass timber construction or of noncombustible construction.

Exception: Type IV-HT Construction in accordance with Section 602.4.4..

MT Type IV Minimum Sizes

In addition to meeting FRR, all MT elements must also meet minimum sizes

These minimum sizes have been in place for old type IV (current type IV-HT) construction and the same minimums sizes also apply to MT used in new types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C

Contained in IBC 2304.11

Type IV Minimum Sizes - Framing

Framing		Solid Sawn (nominal)	Glulam (actual)	SCL (actual)
Floor	Columns	8 x 8	$6^{3}/_{4}$ x 8¼	7 x 7½
	Beams	6 x 10	5 x 10½	5¼ x 9½
Roof	Columns	6 x 8	5 x 8¼	5¼ x 7½
	Beams*	4 x 6	3 X $6^{7}/_{8}$	3½ X 5½

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

Type IV Minimum Sizes – Floor/Roof Panels

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 ½” particleboard

Roof Panels/Decking:

- 3” thick CLT (nominal thickness)
- 3” NLT/DLT/GLT (nominal thickness)
- 2” decking (nominal thickness)
- 1-1/8” WSP


Photo: StructureCraft


Photos: Aitor Sanchez/ Ewing Cole


Photo: LEVER Architecture

MT Type IV Minimum Sizes – Walls

Exterior Walls for Type IV-A B C

- **CLT or Non-combustible**

Exterior Walls for Type IV-HT

- **CLT or FRTW or Non-combustible**
- **IBC 2018 - 6” Thick Wall (FRTW or CLT)**
- **IBC 2021 - 4” Thick CLT**

MT Type IV Minimum Sizes – Walls

MT Interior Walls in all Type IV:

- Laminated construction 4” thick
- Solid wood construction min. 2 layers of 1” matched boards

Other Interior Walls in Type IV A,B,C

- Non-combustible (0 hr for nonbearing)

Other Interior Walls in Type IV HT

- Non-combustible (1 hr min)
- Wood stud wall (1 hr min)

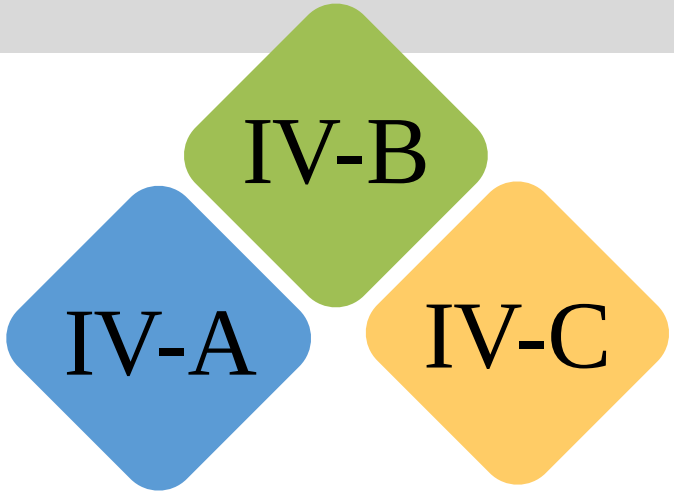
Verify other code requirements for FRR (eg. interior bearing wall; occupancy separation)

Interior Wall Construction Recap

	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT
Fire Rating (bearing wall)	3 Hr	2 Hr	2 Hr	1 Hr or HT*
Construction – MT	Laminated construction 4” thick (CLT, NLT, etc) Solid wood construction min. 2 layers of 1” matched boards			
NC Protection	Per Interior Requirements			No
Noncombustible non-bearing wall	0 Hr			1 Hr
Wood Stud Wall	No			1 Hr

*IBC 2021 requires at least 1 Hr FRR for HT walls supporting 2 levels

Exterior Wall Construction Recap



	IV-B	IV-A	IV-C	IV-HT (IBC 2021)	IV-HT (IBC 2018)
Fire Rating (bearing wall)	3 Hr	2 Hr	2 Hr	2 Hr	2Hr
Mass Timber	Mass Timber/CLT			4” min thick CLT*	6” Wall*
Exterior NC Protection	40 Min NC & No Exterior Combustible Coverings			FRT Sheathing, Gyp or other NC	
Interior NC Protection	Per Interior Requirements			Not Required	
Light Frame FRTW	No			Yes*	6” Wall*

*Changes in IBC 2015, 2018, and 2021 editions

Tall Wood Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

FRR Requirements for Tall Mass Timber Structures (hours)

Building Element	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C
Primary Frame	3	2	2
Exterior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Interior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Roof Construction	1.5	1	1
Primary Frame at Roof	2	1	1
Floor Construction	2	2	2

Source: 2021 IBC Table 601

Noncombustible Protection (NC)

Where timber is required to be protected, NC must contribute at least 2/3 FRR

Required Noncombustible Contribution to FRR

FRR of Building Element (hours)	Minimum from Noncombustible Protection (minutes)
1	40
2	80
3 or more	120

Source: 2021 IBC Section 722.7

Noncombustible Protection (NC)

The definition of “Noncombustible Protection (For Mass Timber)” is created to address the passive fire protection of mass timber.

Mass timber is permitted to have its own fire-resistance rating (e.g., Mass Timber only) or have a fire resistance rating based on the fire resistance through a combination of the mass timber fire-resistance plus protection by non-combustible materials as defined in Section 703.5 (e.g., additional materials that delay the combustion of mass timber, such as gypsum board).


Credit: Urban One

Noncombustible Protection (NC)

Prescriptive Noncombustible Contributions to FRR

Type of Protection	Contribution per Layer (minutes)
1/2" Type X gypsum board	25
5/8" Type X gypsum board	40

Source: 2021 IBC Section 722.7.1

Required Noncombustible Contribution to FRR

FRR of Building Element (hours)	Minimum from Noncombustible Protection (minutes)
1	40
2	80
3 or more	120

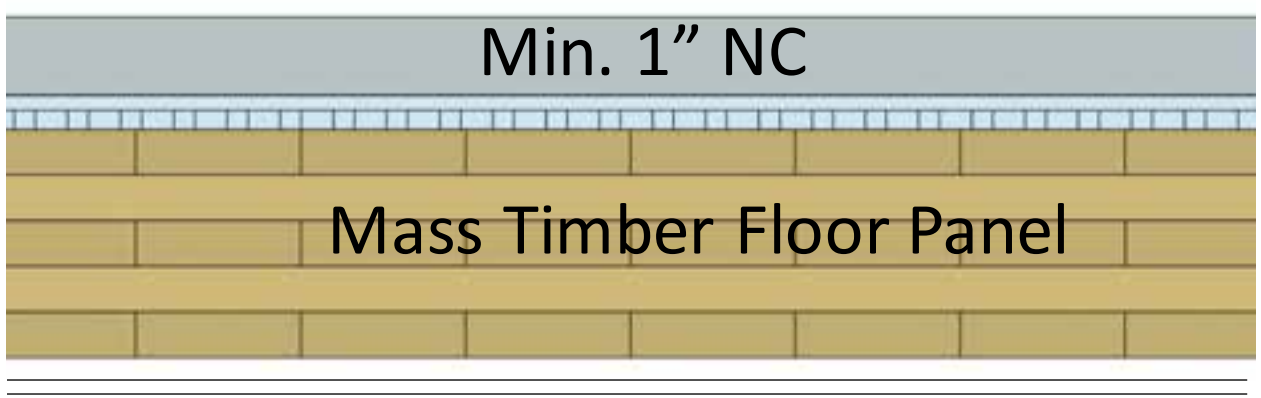
1 layer 5/8 Type X

2 layers 5/8 Type X

3 layers 5/8 Type X

Source: 2021 IBC Section 722.7

Floor Surface Protection



Min. 1” thick NC protection required on mass timber floors in IV-A and IV-B. Not required in IV-C


Credit: Maxxon

Noncombustible Protection

Noncombustible Protection Required

	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT
Roof below Mass Timber	60 min	40 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
Primary Frame @ Roof	80 min	40 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
Primary Frame	120 min	80 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
Below Mass Timber Floor	80 min	80 min*	Not Req.	Not Req.
Above Mass Timber Floor	1” Min NC Material	1” Min NC Material	Not Req.	Not Req.

Requirements Per new 602.4. * Some MT permitted to be exposed.

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.

+

= FRR

MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

However, FRR Doesn't always need to be from a combination of MT + NC. In some cases, just NC can be used, in other cases, just MT can be used:

IBC 602.4
Mass timber elements shall meet the fire resistance rating requirements of this section based on either the fire resistance rating of the noncombustible protection, the mass timber, or a combination of both.

Type IV-A Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-A

Primary Frame (3-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr):

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

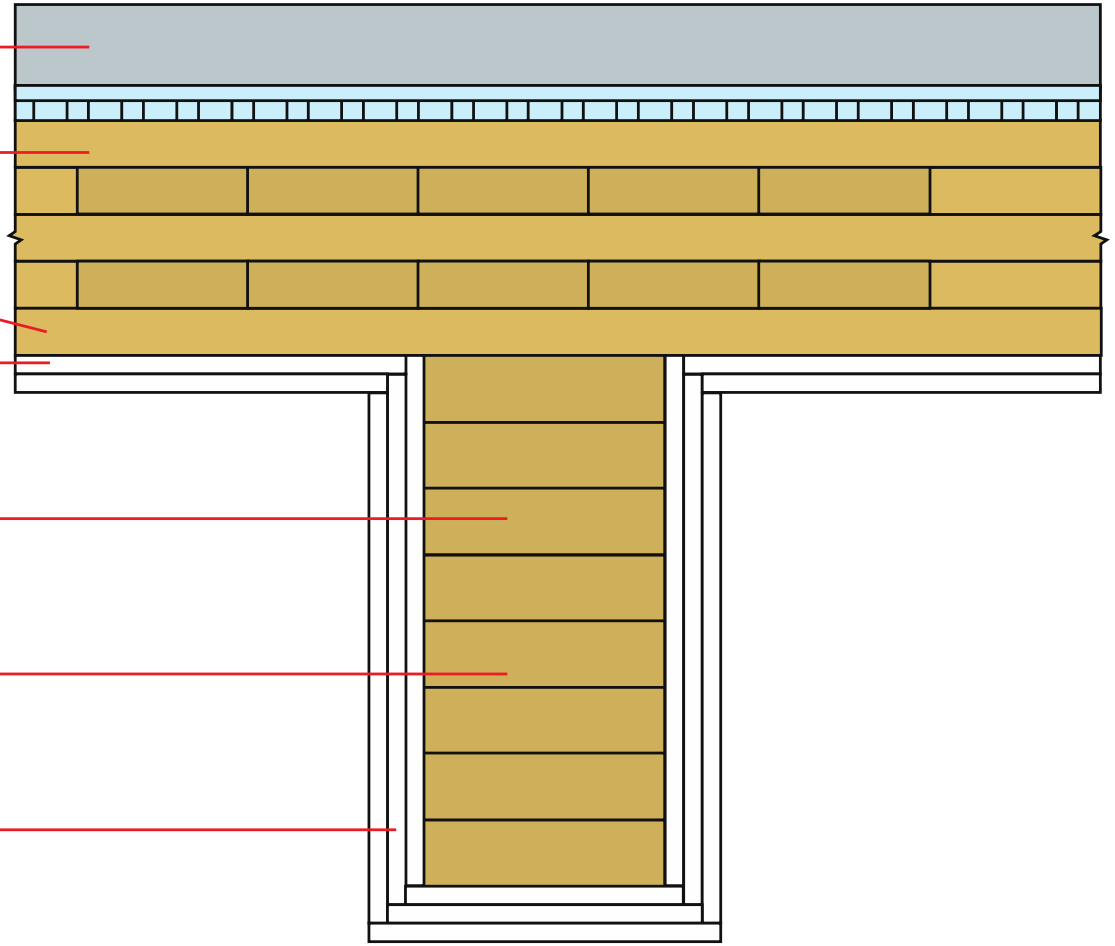
40 minutes of MT FRR

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

60 minutes of MT FRR

Three layers 5/8" Type X gypsum



Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel (2-hr)

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

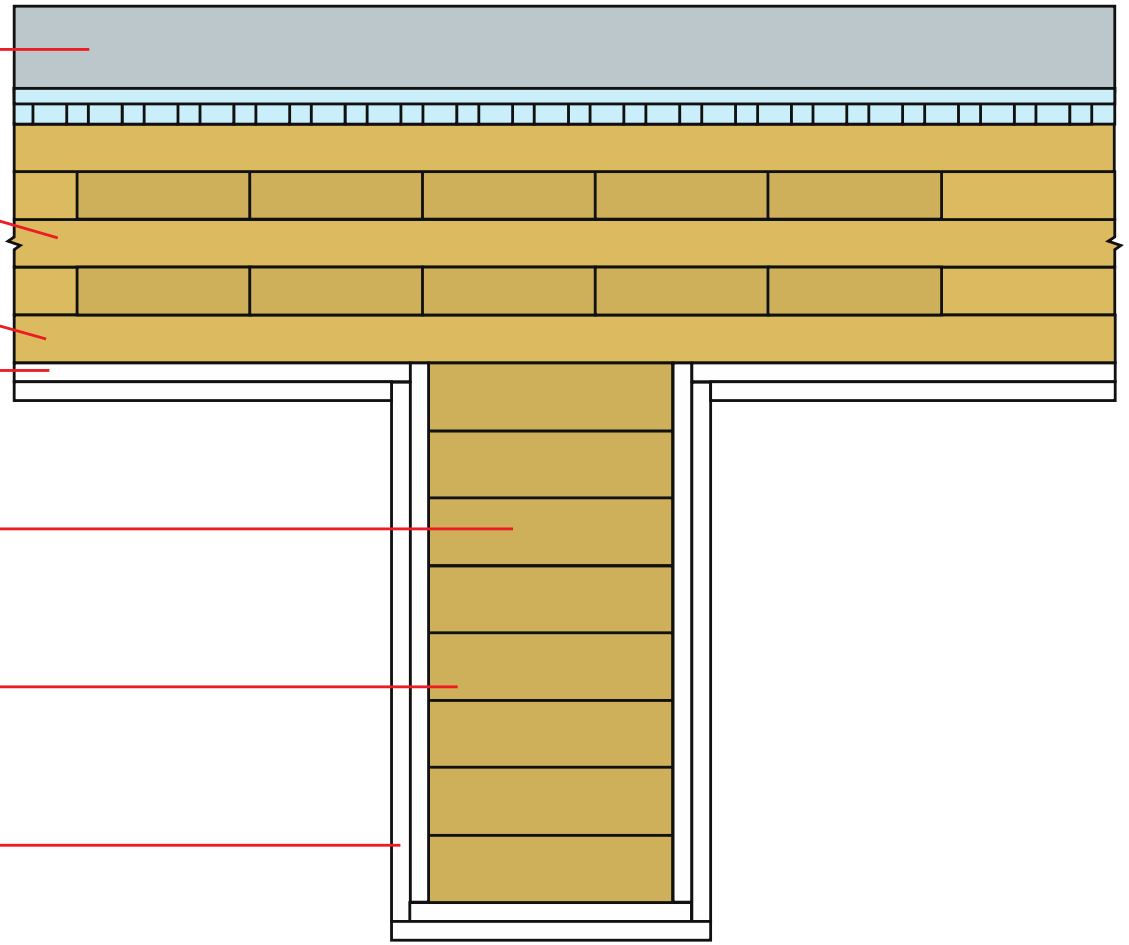
40 minutes of MT FRR

2 layers 5/8" Type X gypsum

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

40 minutes of MT FRR

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum



Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr)

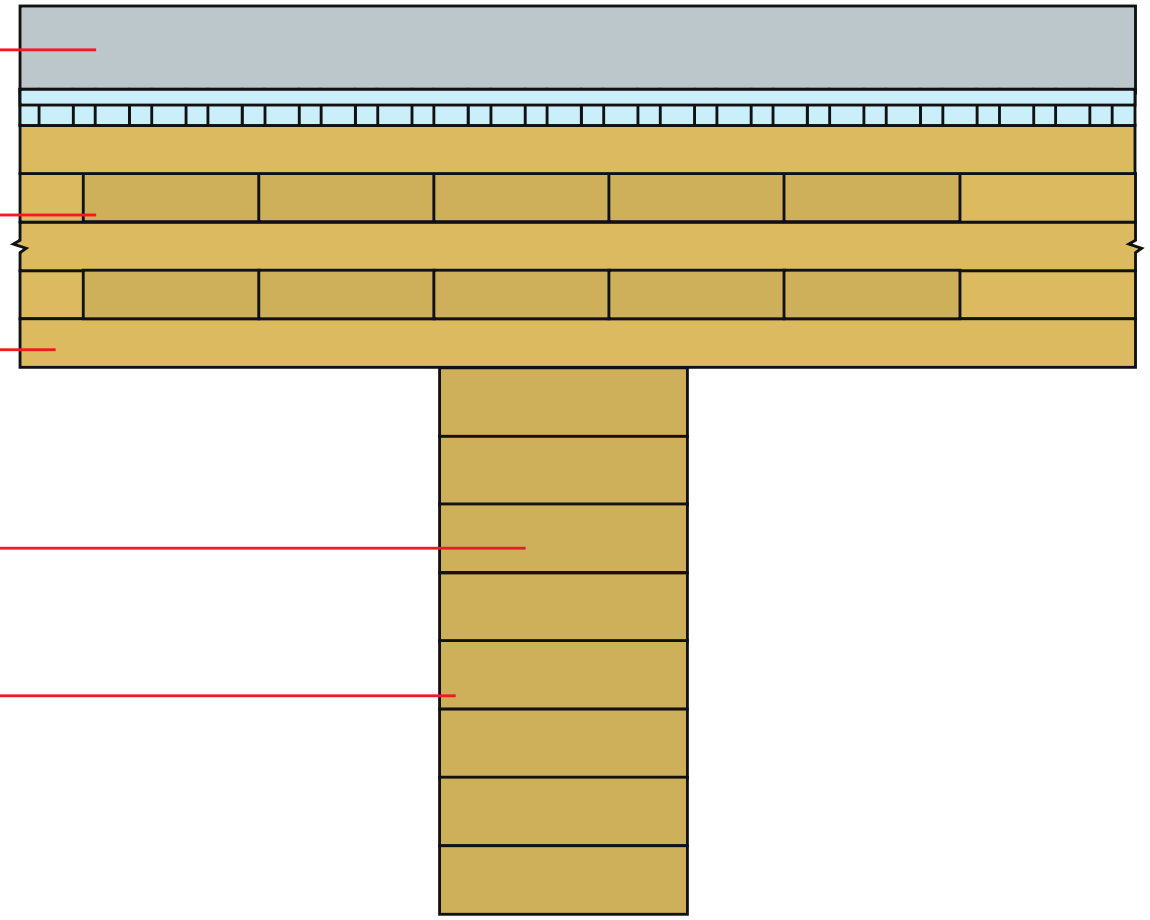
Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

2-hr of MT FRR;
noncombustible material not required

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

2-hr of MT FRR;
Noncombustible material not required



Type IV-C Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-C

Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr)

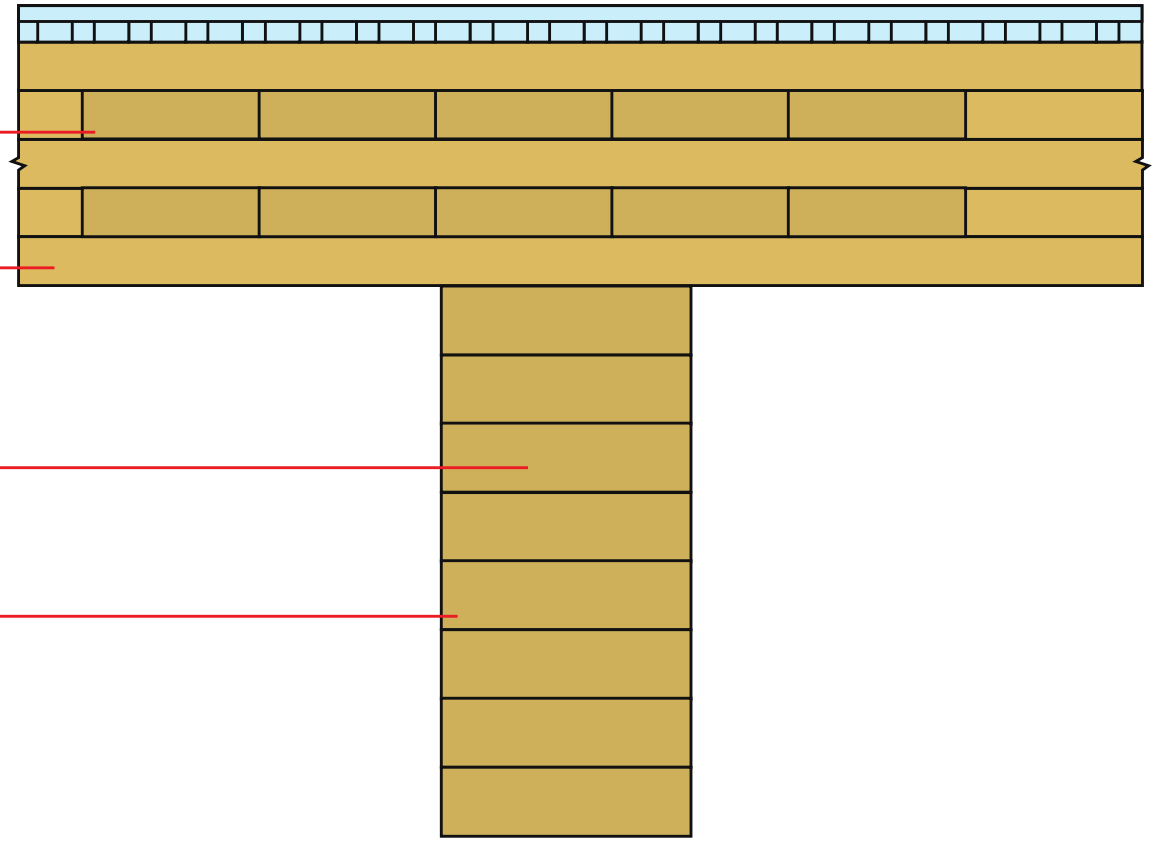
Noncombustible material not required

Mass timber floor panel

2-hr of MT FRR;
noncombustible material not required

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

2-hr of MT FRR;
Noncombustible material not required



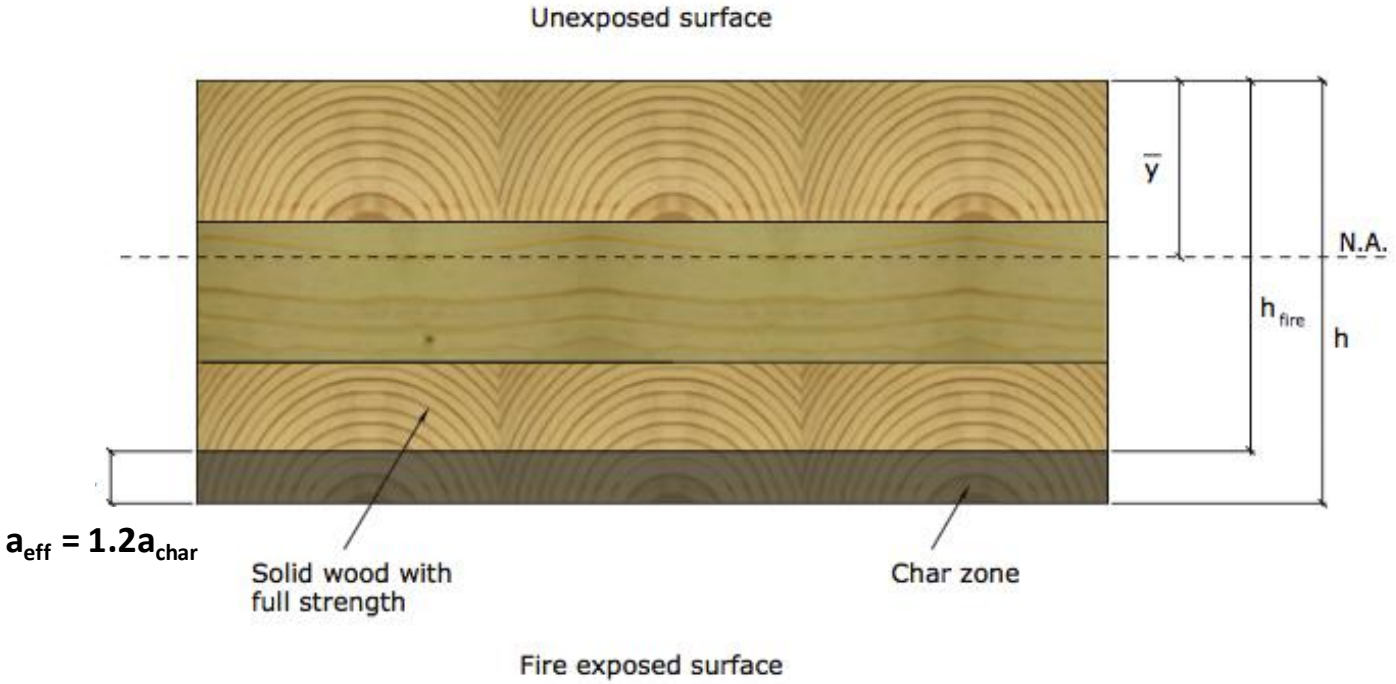
MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

How do you determine FRR of MT?

2 Options:

1. **Calculations in Accordance with IBC 722 → NDS Chapter 16**
2. **Tests in Accordance with ASTM E119**


Credit: Urban One



MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

MT FRR Calculations Method:

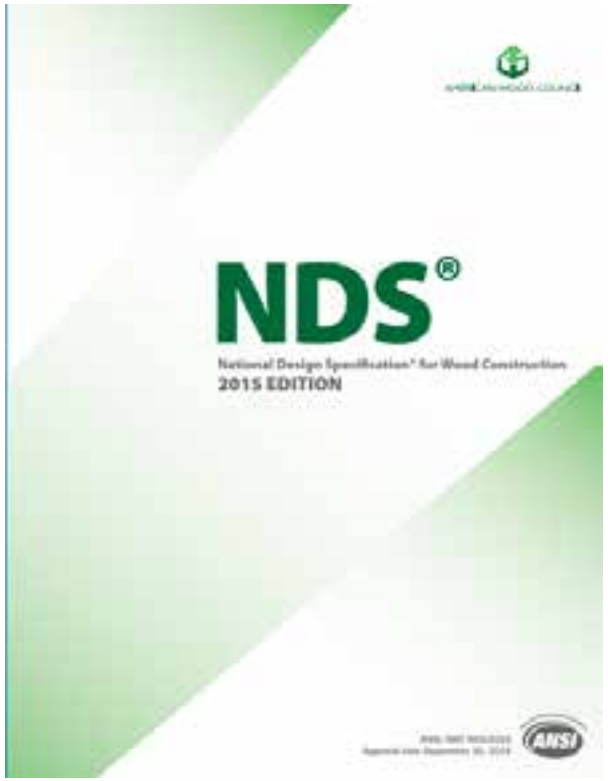
- **IBC 703.3 allows several methods of determining FRR. One is calculations per 722.**
- **722.1 refers to NDS Chpt 16 for exposed wood FRR**

703.3 Methods for determining fire resistance. The application of any of the methods listed in this section shall be based on the fire exposure and acceptance criteria specified in ASTM E119 or UL 263. The required *fire resistance* of a building element, component or assembly shall be permitted to be established by any of the following methods or procedures:

3. Calculations in accordance with Section 722.

722.1 General. The provisions of this section contain procedures by which the *fire resistance* of specific materials or combinations of materials is established by calculations. These procedures apply only to the information contained in this section and shall not be otherwise used. The calculated *fire resistance* of concrete, concrete masonry and clay masonry assemblies shall be permitted in accordance with ACI 216.1/TMS 0216. The calculated *fire resistance* of steel assemblies shall be permitted in accordance with Chapter 5 of ASCE 29. The calculated *fire resistance* of exposed wood members and wood decking shall be permitted in accordance with Chapter 16 of ANSI/AF&PA *National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS)*.

MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)




Credit: FPInnovations

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 β_n=1.5in./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)

Nominal char rate of 1.5”/HR is recognized in NDS. Effective char depth calculated to account for duration, structural reduction in heat-affected zone

Table 16.2.1A Char Depth and Effective Char Depth (for β_n = 1.5 in./hr.)

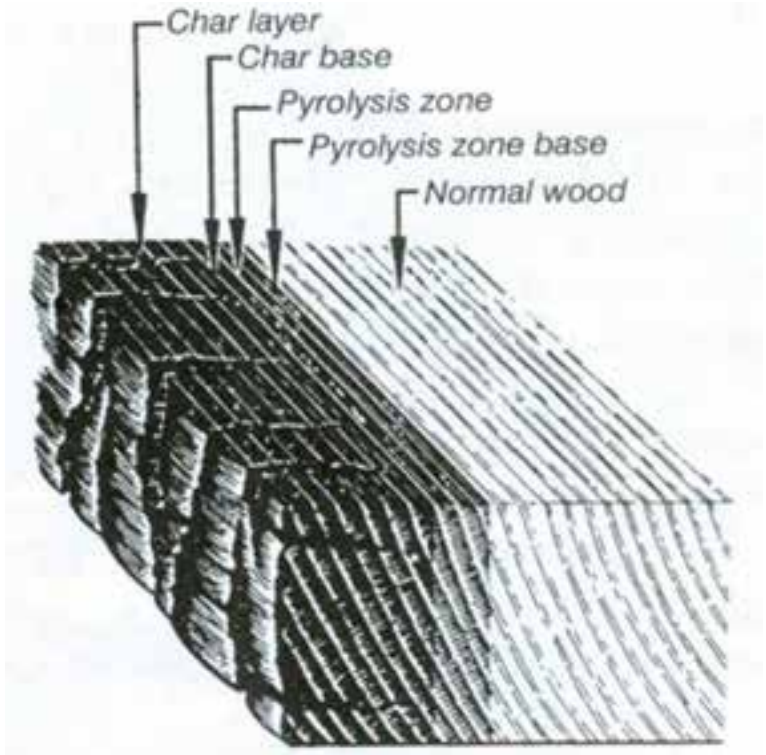
Required Fire Resistance (hr.)	Char Depth, a_{char} (in.)	Effective Char Depth, a_{eff} (in.)
1-Hour	1.5	1.8
1½-Hour	2.1	2.5
2-Hour	2.6	3.2

Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with β_n=1.5in./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)

Structural capacity check performed on remaining section, with stress increases



Credit: Forest Products Laboratory

Table 16.2.2 Adjustment Factors for Fire Design[1]

			ASD					
			Design Stress to Member Strength Factor	Size Factor[2]	Volume Factor[2]	Flat Use Factor[2]	Beam Stability Factor[3]	Column Stability Factor[3]
Bending Strength	F_b	x	2.85	C_F	C_V	C_{fu}	C_L	-
Beam Buckling Strength	F_{bE}	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-
Tensile Strength	F_t	x	2.85	C_F	-	-	-	-
Compressive Strength	F_c	x	2.58	C_F	-	-	-	C_P
Column Buckling Strength	F_{cE}	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-

$$a_{char} = \beta_t t^{0.813}$$ **Solid Sawn, Glulam, SCL**

$$a_{char} = n_{lam} h_{lam} + \beta_t \left(t - \left(n_{lam} t_{gi}\right)\right)^{0.813}$$ **CLT**

$$a_{eff} = 1.2 a_{char}$$ **Effective Char Depth**

FRR Design of MT

WoodWorks Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

WOODWORKS
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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 4.488 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 36% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105 mm 4.133 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	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	E1	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under Z-channels and furring strips with 3 5/8" [illegible] batts	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	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	E1	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	E1	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 7/8" I-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")	Structurlam	E1 M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Crete 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 (173mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1950 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 59% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (245mm 9.65")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% 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 8d 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 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 5)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
5-ply CLT (140mm 5.51")	KLH	CV3M1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI

FRR Design of MT

WOODWORKS
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • Woodworks
Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE • 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 existing 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 (FRTW) 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

Cartozo | Portland, Oregon
Kaiser Group | Rish Architecture
Munsing Structural Engineering

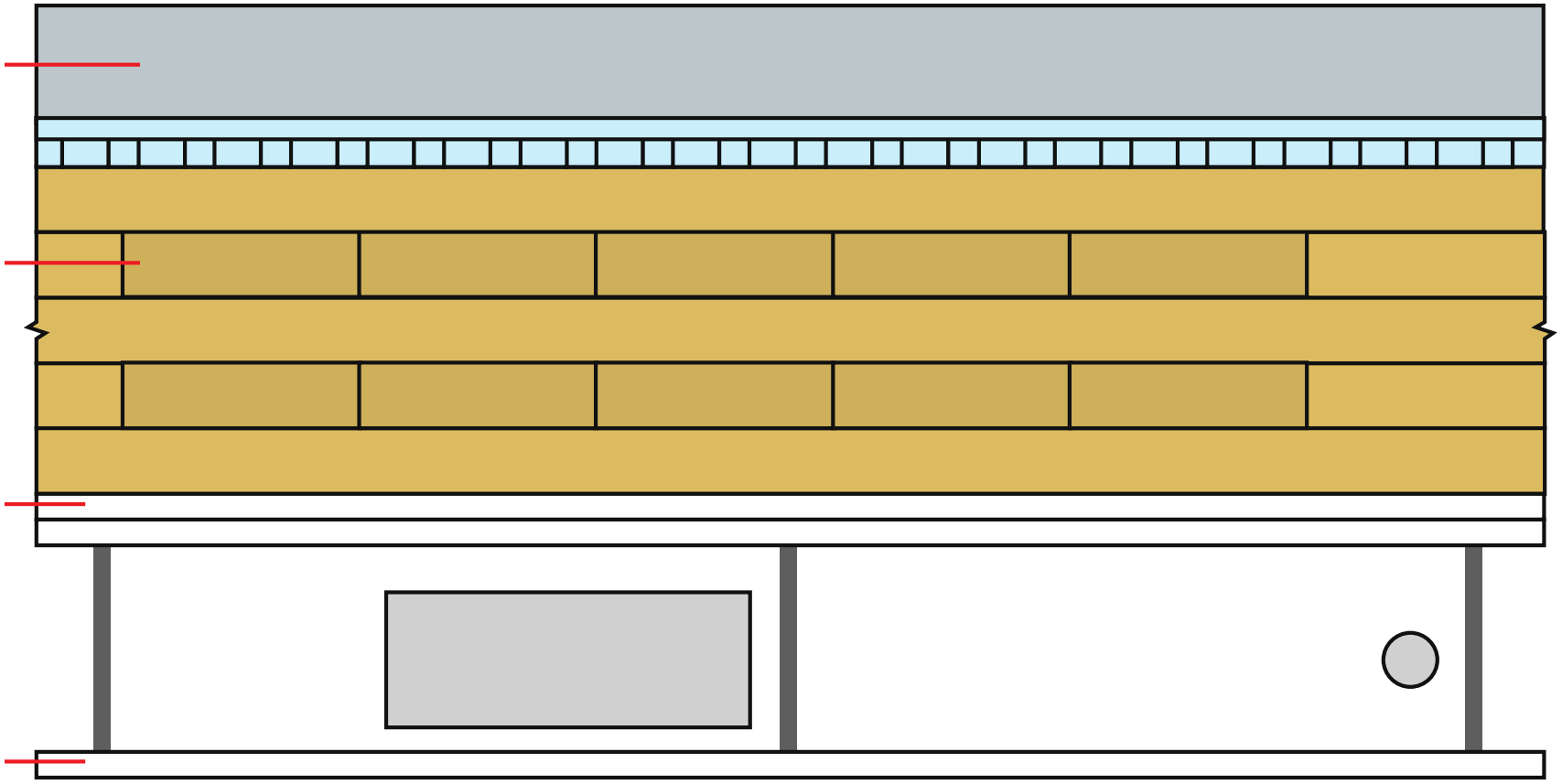
Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Free download at woodworks.org

Concealed Spaces in Type IV

What if I have a dropped ceiling? Can I have a dropped ceiling?

- **Impact on FRR, NC placement, sprinkler requirements**



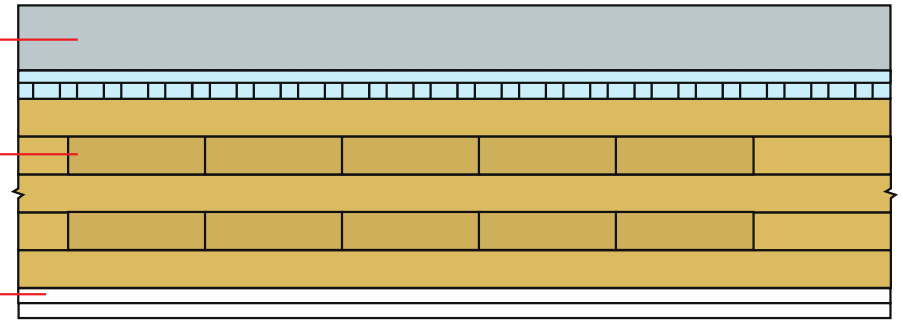
Concealed Spaces in Type IV-A, IV-B

Without Dropped Ceiling

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum*



**Applicable to most locations; limited exposed mass timber permitted in IV-B*

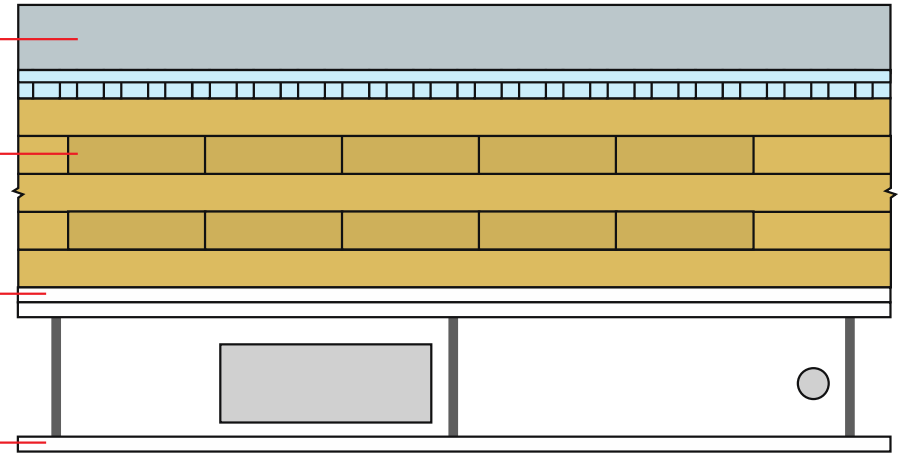
With Dropped Ceiling

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum

Dropped ceiling



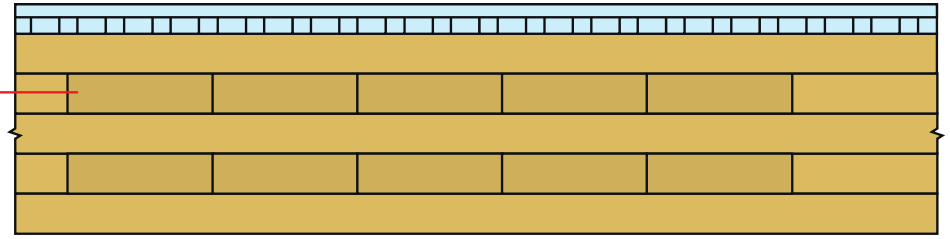
Concealed Spaces in Type IV-C

Without Dropped Ceiling

Noncombustible material not required

Mass timber floor panel

Noncombustible material not required



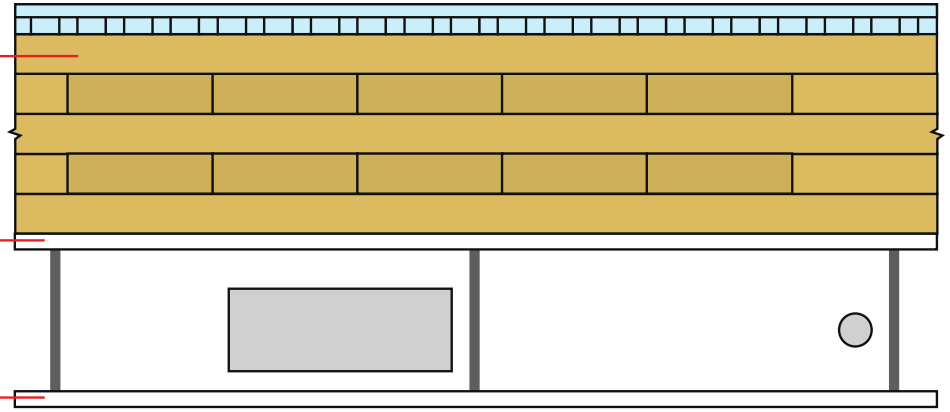
With Dropped Ceiling

Noncombustible material not required

Mass timber floor panel

One layer 5/8" Type X gypsum covering all mass timber surfaces within concealed space

Dropped ceiling



WoodWorks
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

Concealed Spaces in Mass Timber and Heavy Timber Structures

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director - Tall Wood, WoodWorks

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, glued-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.

INTRO, Cleveland | Cleveland, Ohio
Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors
HPA Architecture

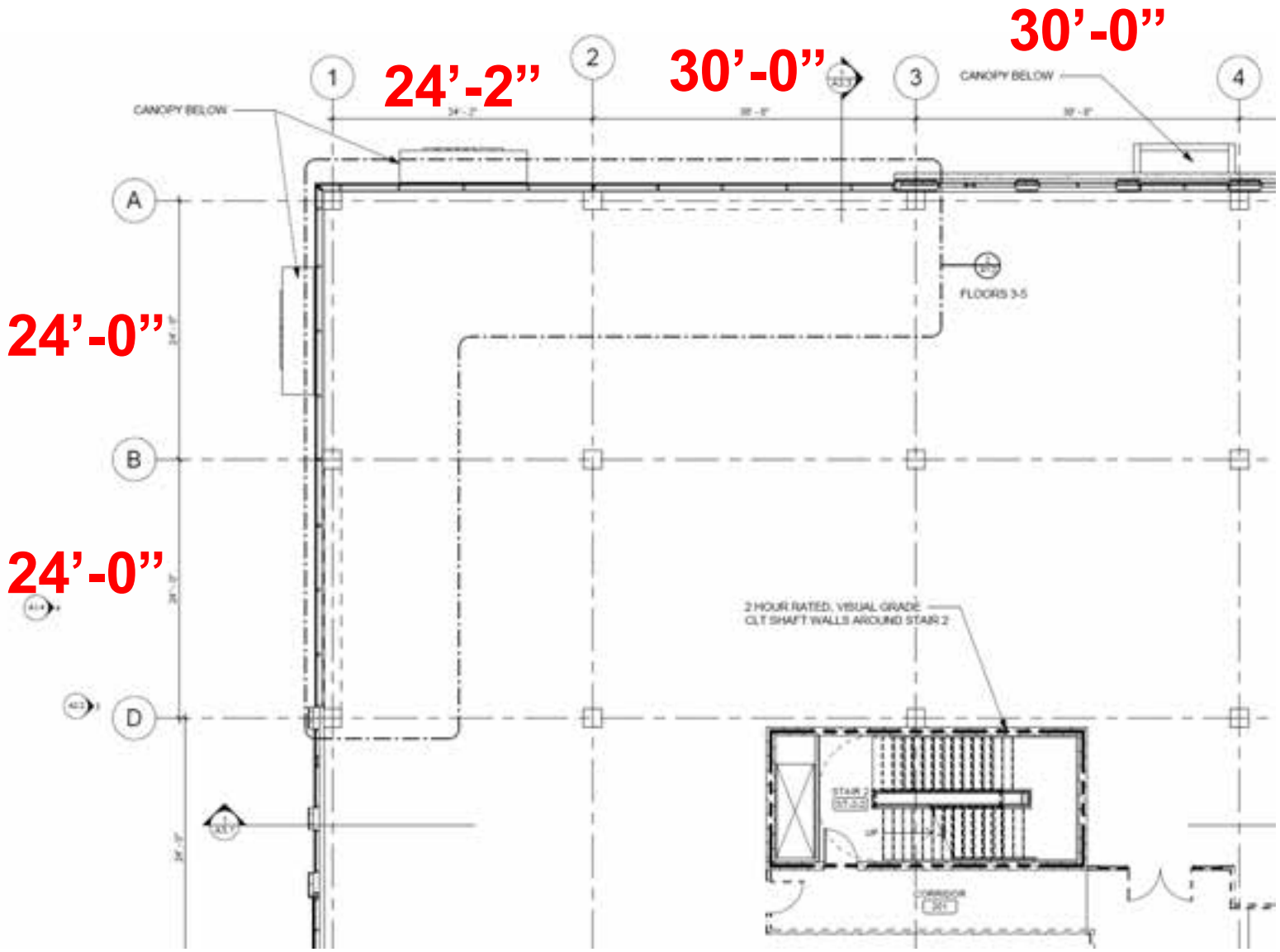
Concealed Space Protection in Mass Timber

Structural Grid

Structural Grid

Grids & Spans

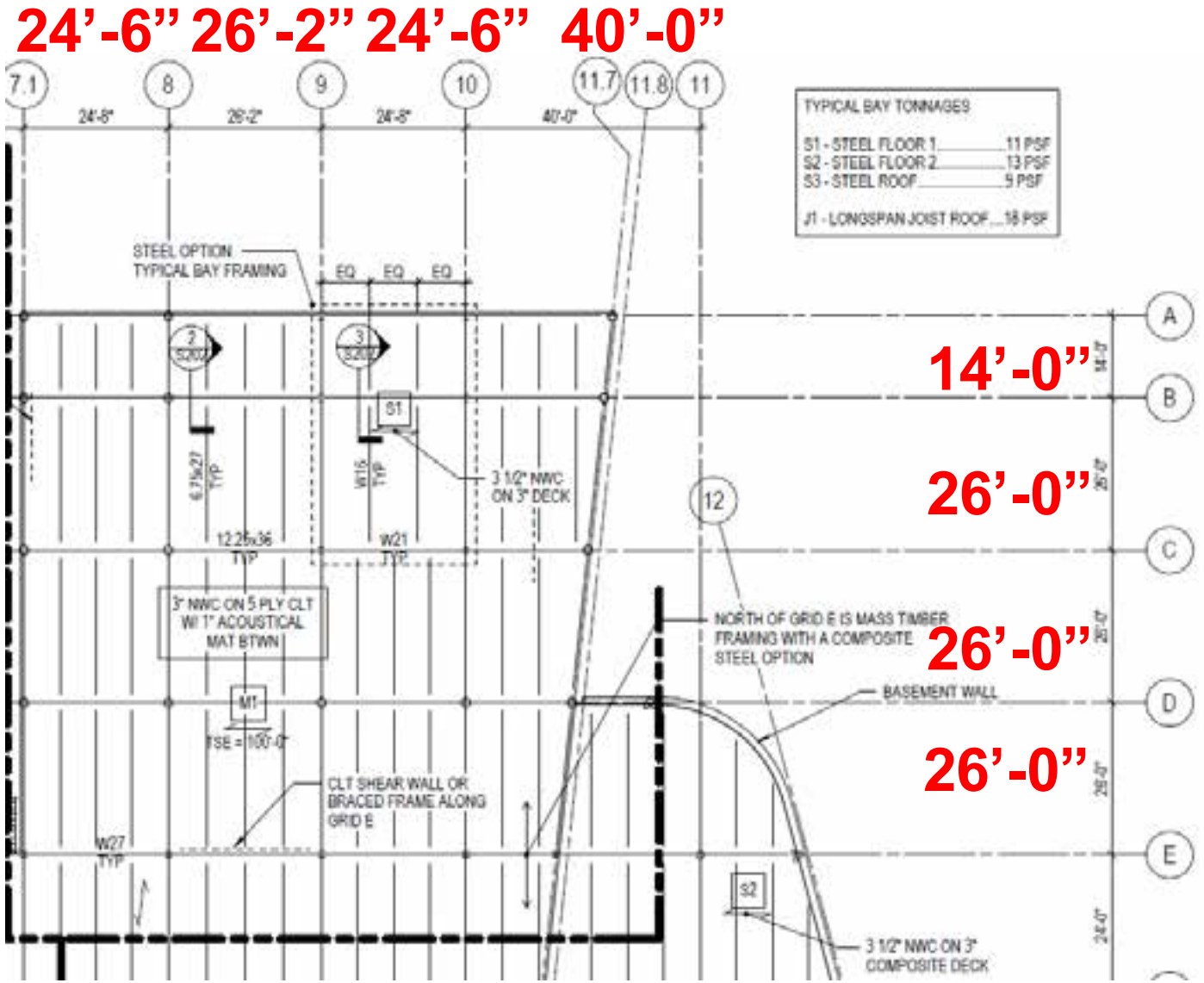
- Consider Efficient Layouts
- Repetition & Scale
- Manufacturer Panel Sizing
- Transportation



Structural Grid

Grids & Spans

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



Structural Grid

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

Platte Fifteen, Denver, CO
30x30 Grid, 2 purlins per bay
3-ply CLT
Image: JC Buck

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

Clay Creative, Portland, OR
30x30 Grid, 1 purlin per bay
2x6 NLT
Image: Mackenzie

MEP Layout & Integration

MEP Layout & Integration

Set Realistic Owner Expectations About Aesthetics

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

MEP Layout & Integration

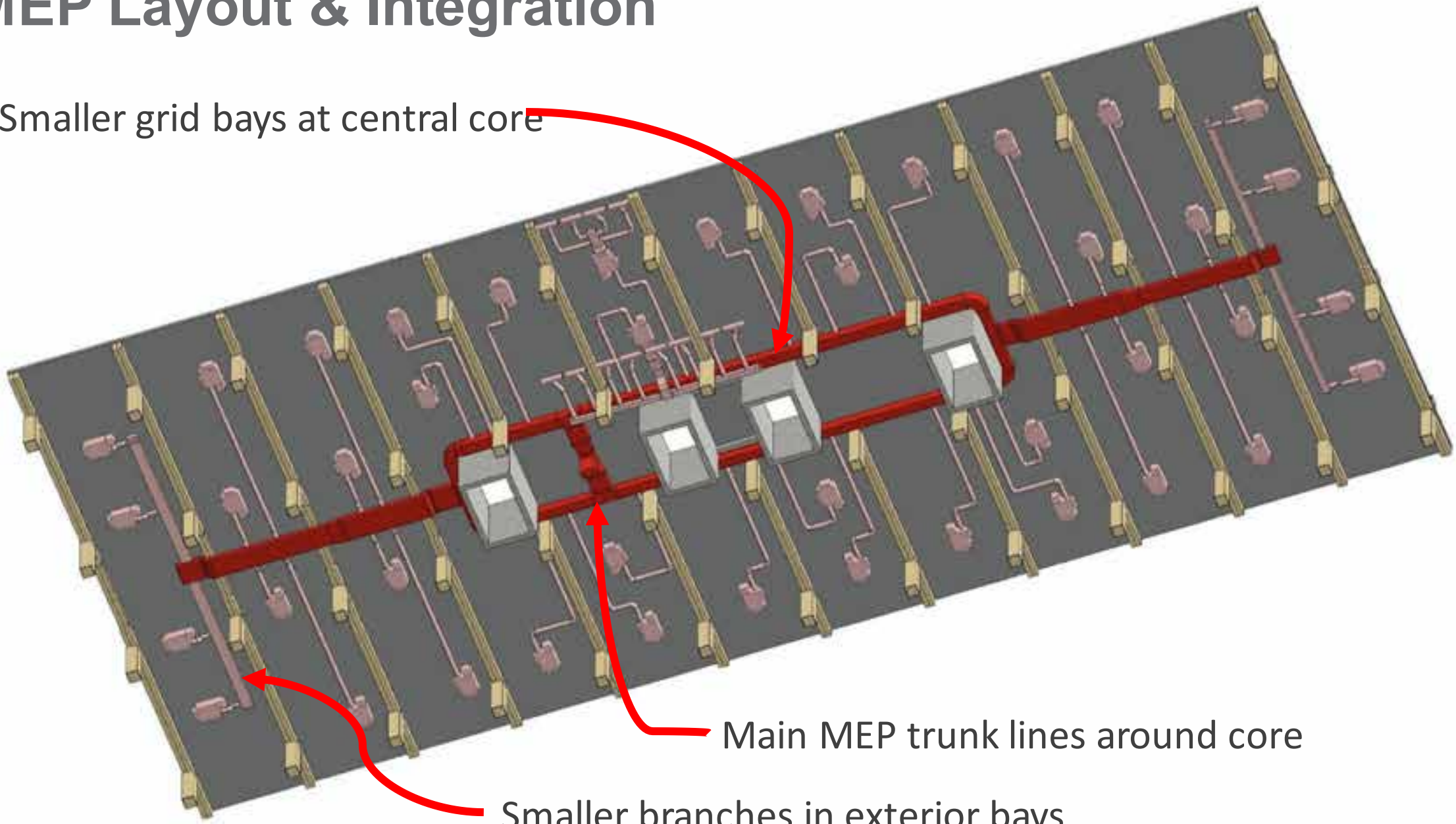
Smaller grid bays at central core (more head height)

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


Credit: Blaine Brownell


Credit: WoodWorks

MEP Layout & Integration



Credit: ARUP

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

Dropped below MT framing

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


Credit: Alex Schreyer


Credit: WoodWorks

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

- Fewer penetrations
- Bigger impact on head height (overall structure depth is greater)
- FRR impacts: top of beam exposure


Credit: JC Buck


Credit: KL&A Engineers & Builders

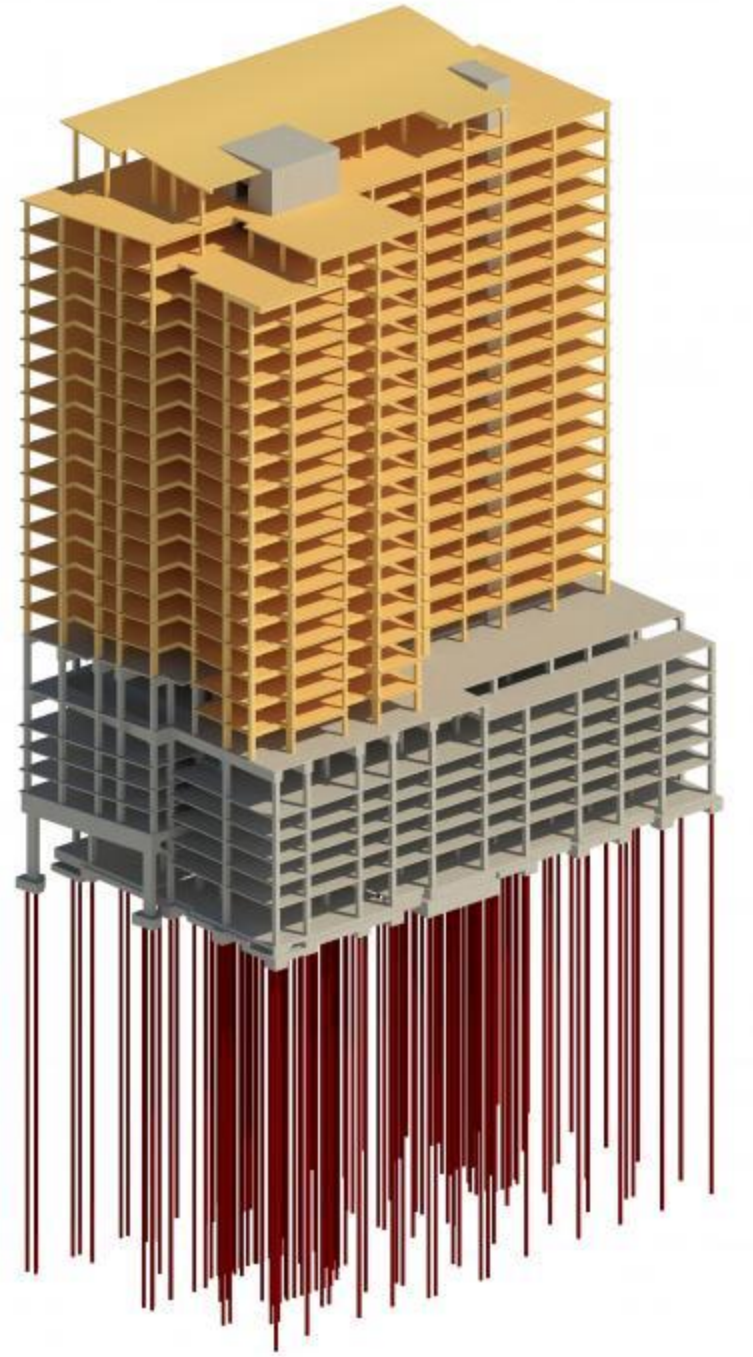
LATERAL SYSTEMS IN TALL WOOD

INTRO, CLEVELAND
Concrete Core Shearwalls

Photo: Panzica Construction

OxBlue

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE
Concrete Core Shearwalls



Photos: Korb + Associates, Thornton Tomasetti

BROCK COMMONS, VANCOUVER
Concrete Core Shearwalls

Photos: Acton Ostry Architects

FUTURE POTENTIAL LATERAL SYSTEM FOR TALL WOOD

Photo: WoodWorks

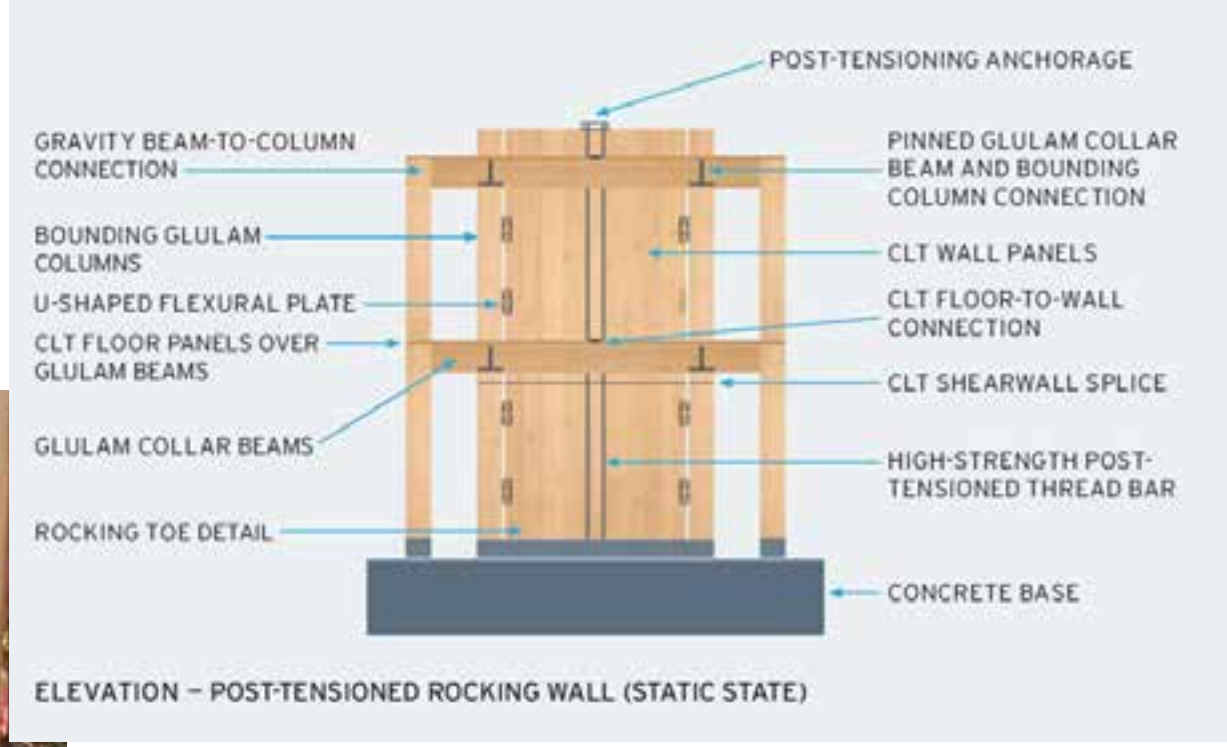


Image: KPFF

Mass Timber Rocking Shearwalls

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LATERAL SYSTEMS

Prescriptive Code Compliance

Concrete Shearwalls ✓

Steel Braced Frames ✓

CLT Shearwalls (65 ft max) ✓

CLT Rocking Walls ✗

2021 SDPWS
ASCE 7-22

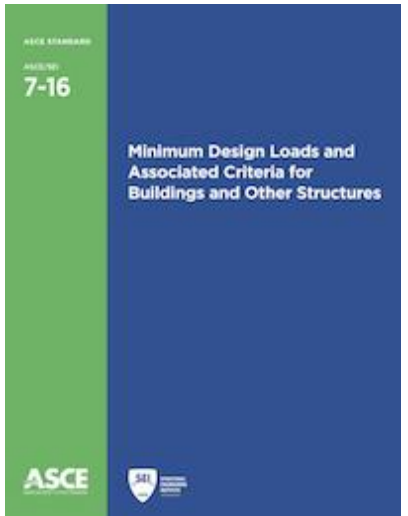
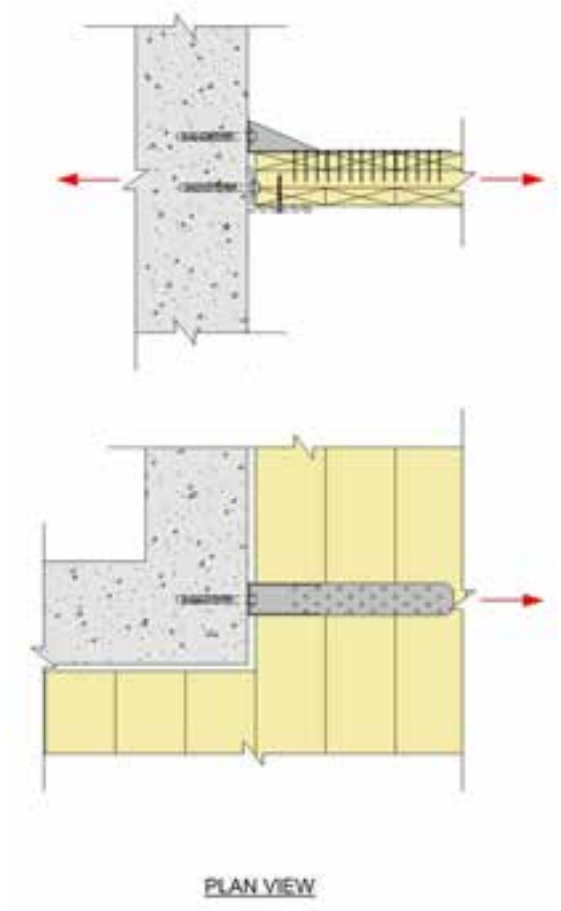


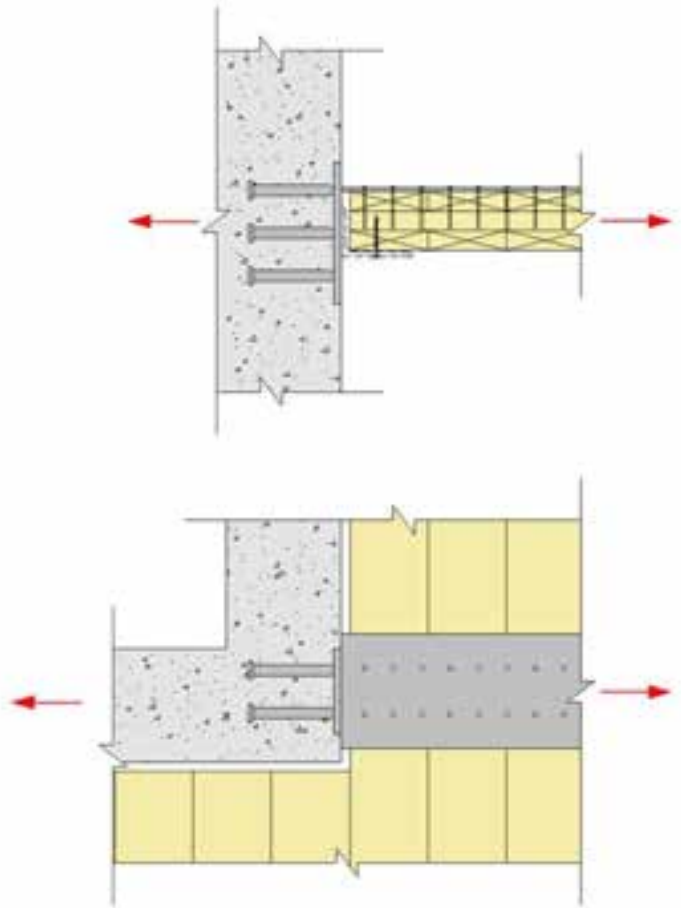

Photo: WoodWorks

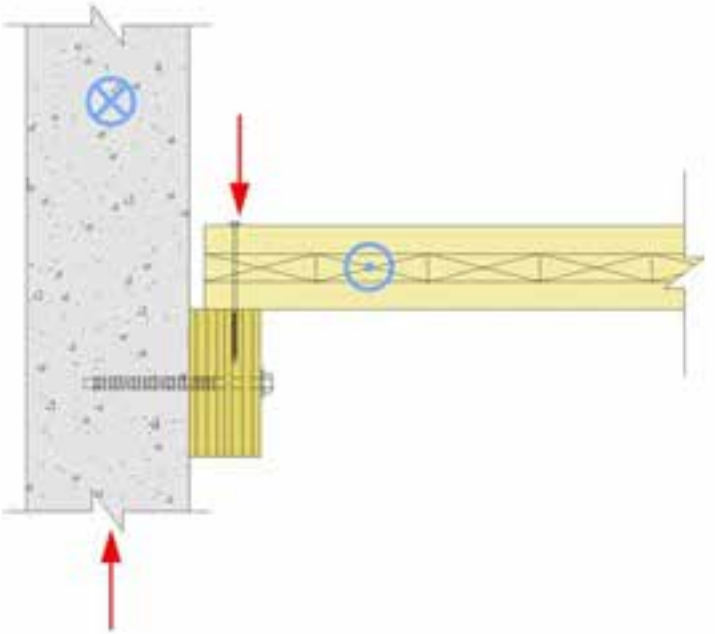
CONSIDERATIONS FOR LATERAL SYSTEMS

Connections to concrete core

- Tolerances & adjustability
- Drag/collector forces



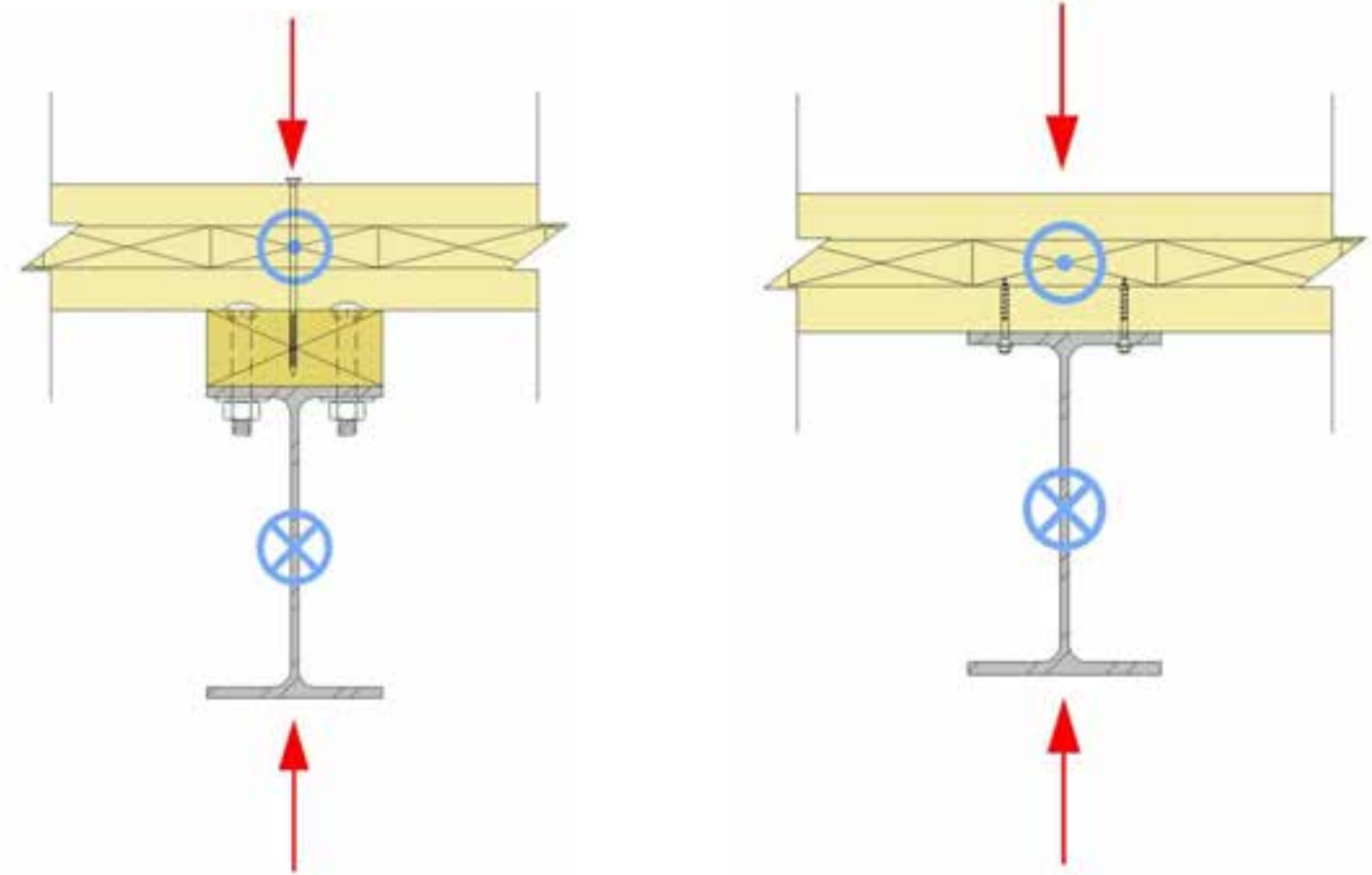




CONSIDERATIONS FOR LATERAL SYSTEMS

Connections to steel frame

- Tolerances & adjustability
- Ease of installation



Photos: Marcus Kauffmann, ODF

CONNECTIONS IN TALL WOOD

Photo: Structurlam

Connection Fire Protection

In Construction Types IV-A, IV-B & IV-C, building elements are required to be FRR as specified in IBC Tables 601 and 602. Connections between these building elements must be able to maintain FRR no less than that required of the connected members.

Photo: MyTiCon

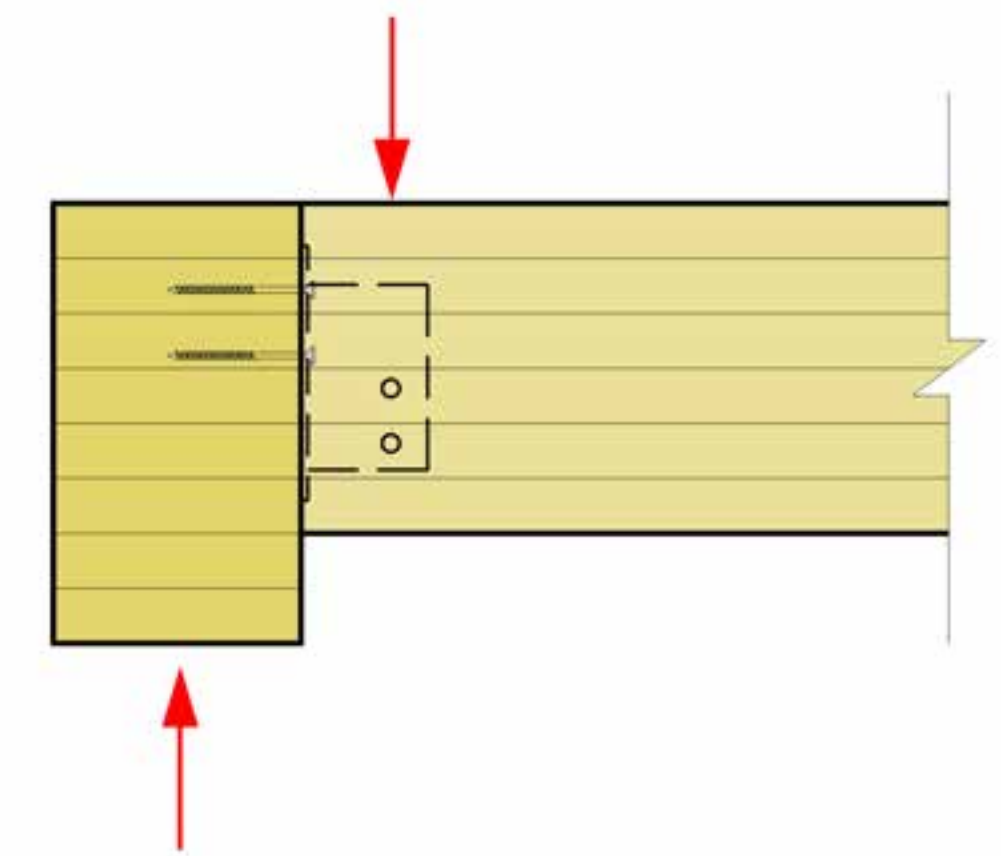
16.3 Wood Connections

Wood connections, including connectors, fasteners, and portions of wood members included in the connection design, shall be protected from fire exposure for the required fire resistance time. Protection shall be provided by wood, fire-rated gypsum board, other approved materials, or a combination thereof.

Source: NDS

Connection Fire Protection

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



Connection Fire Protection

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


Photo: John Stamets


Photo: Josh Partee


Photo: Christian Columbres


Photo: Blaine Brownell

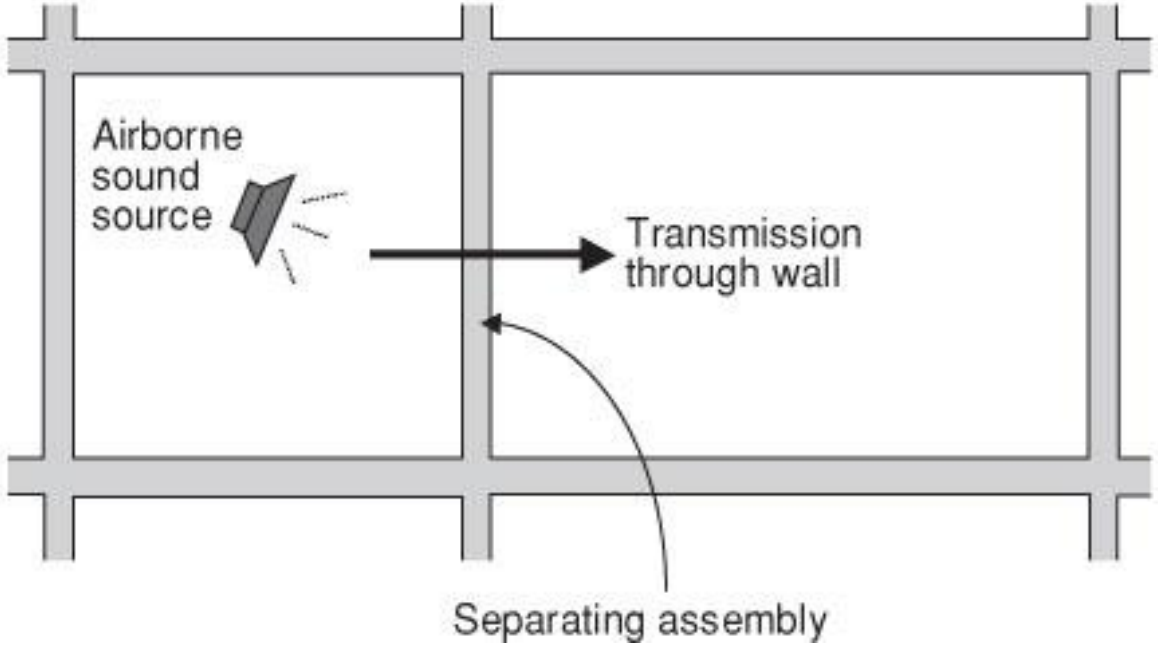
Acoustical Design

Acoustical Design

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

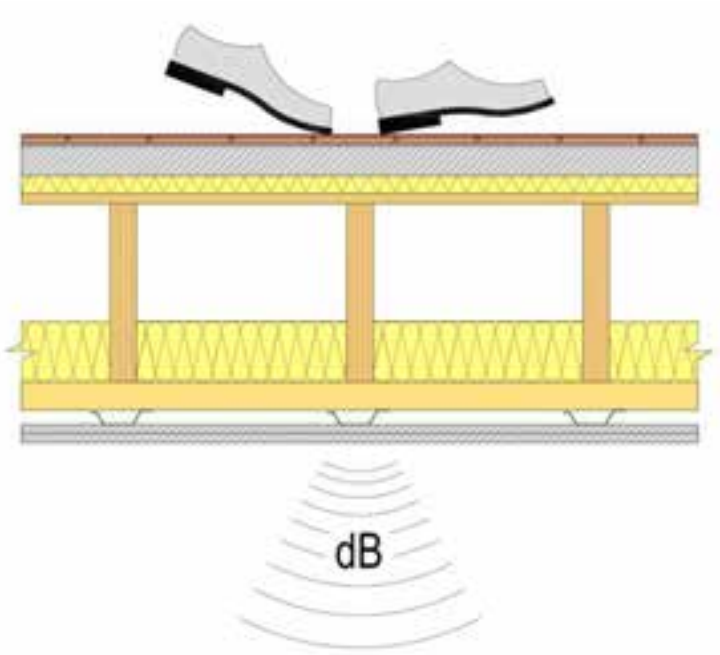


Acoustical Design

<u>Structure-borne sound:</u>

Impact Insulation Class (IIC)

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



Acoustical Design

Code requirements only address residential occupancies:

For unit to unit or unit to public or service areas:

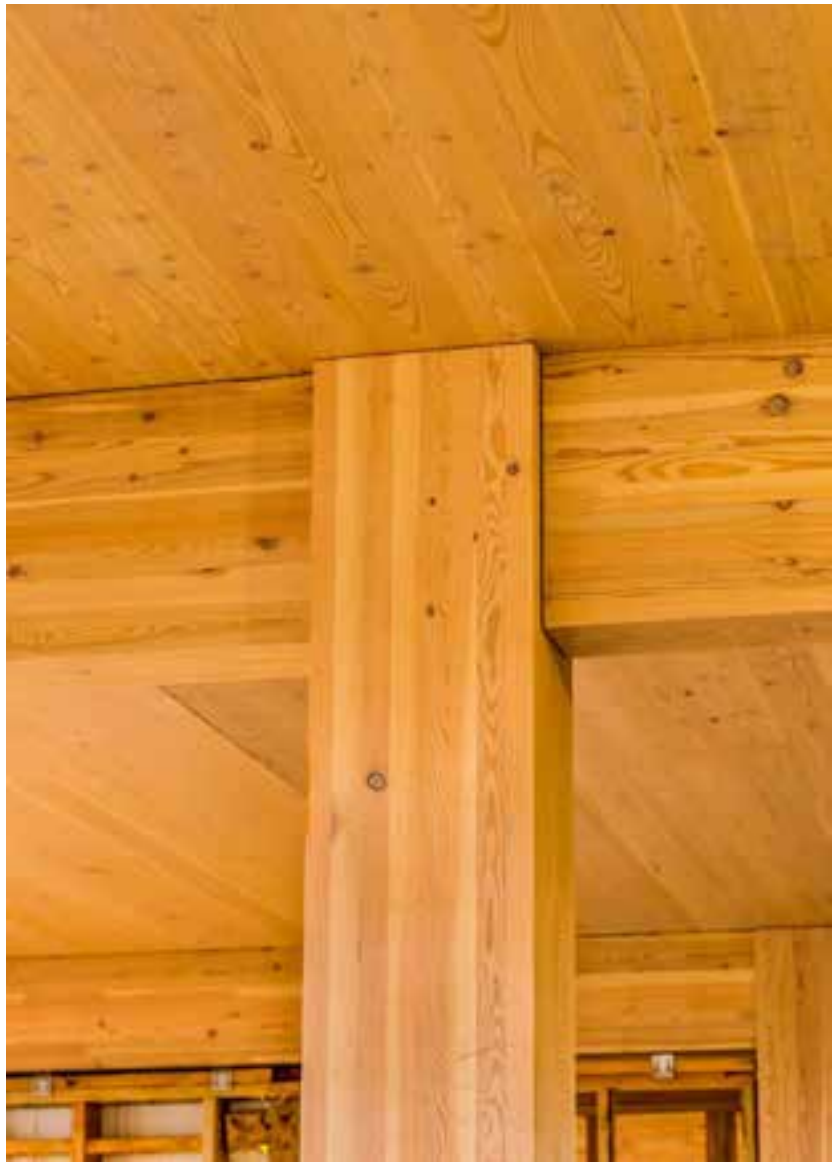
Min. STC of 50 (45 if field tested):

- Walls, Partitions, and Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

Min. IIC of 50 (45 if field tested) for:

- Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

Tall Timber: Structure Often is Finish



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

Mass Timber Acoustics

TABLE 1:

Examples of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Panels

Mass Timber Panel	Thickness	STC Rating	IIC Rating
3-ply CLT wall[4]	3.07"	33	N/A
5-ply CLT wall[4]	6.875"	38	N/A
5-ply CLT floor[5]	5.1875"	39	22
5-ply CLT floor[4]	6.875"	41	25
7-ply CLT floor[4]	9.65"	44	30
2x4 NLT wall[6]	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[6]	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[2]	6" with 1/2" plywood	34	33

Source: Inventory of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Assemblies, WoodWorks[7]

Acoustical Detailing

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

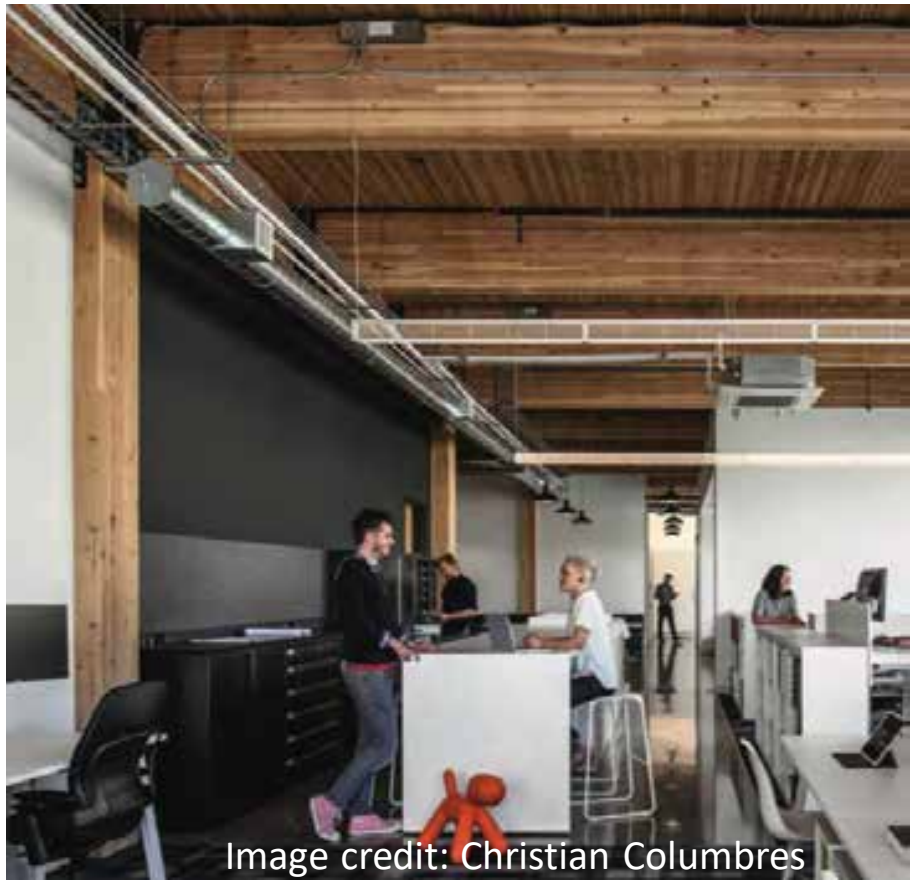
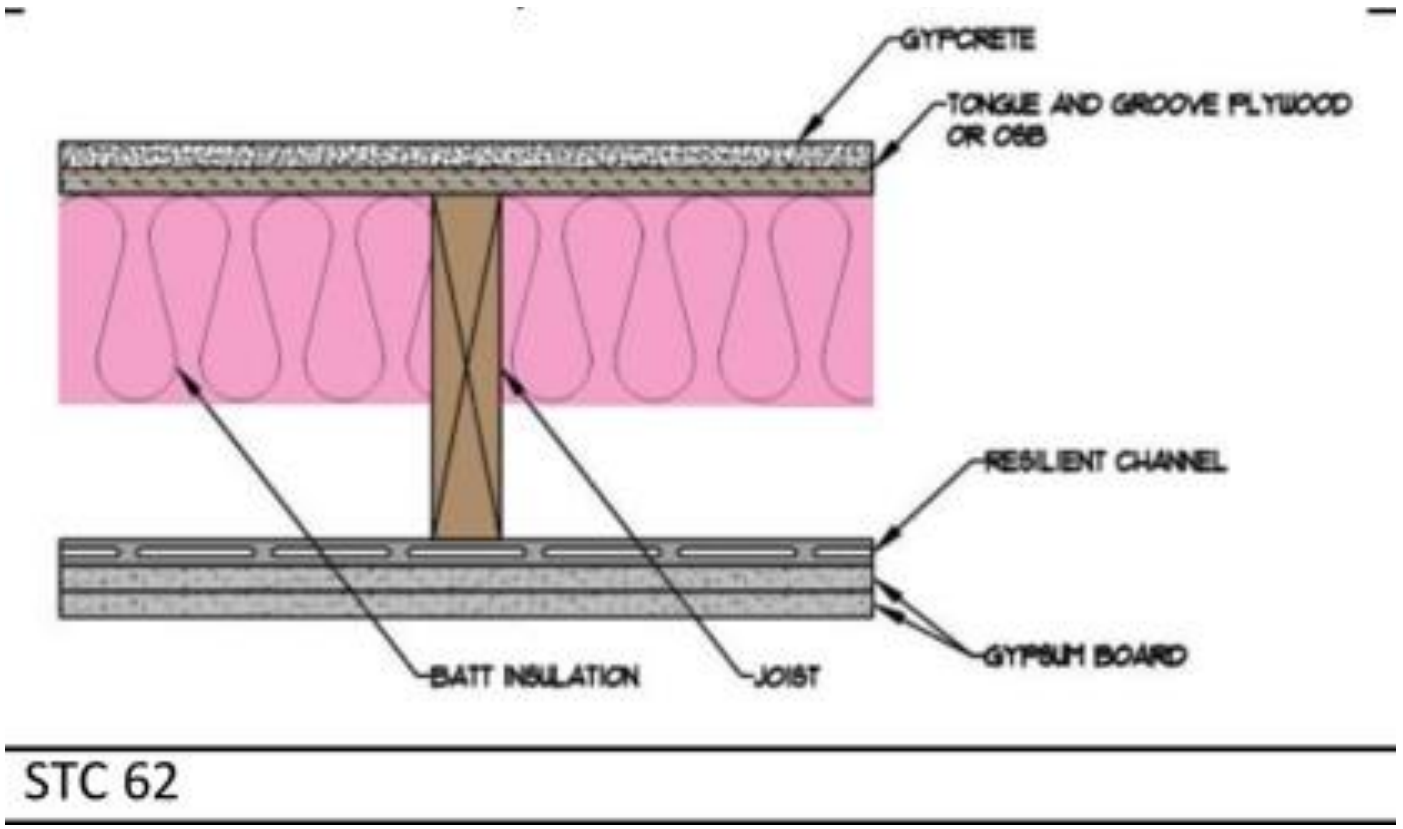


Image credit: Christian Columbres

Acoustical Detailing

What does this look like in typical wood-frame construction:

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



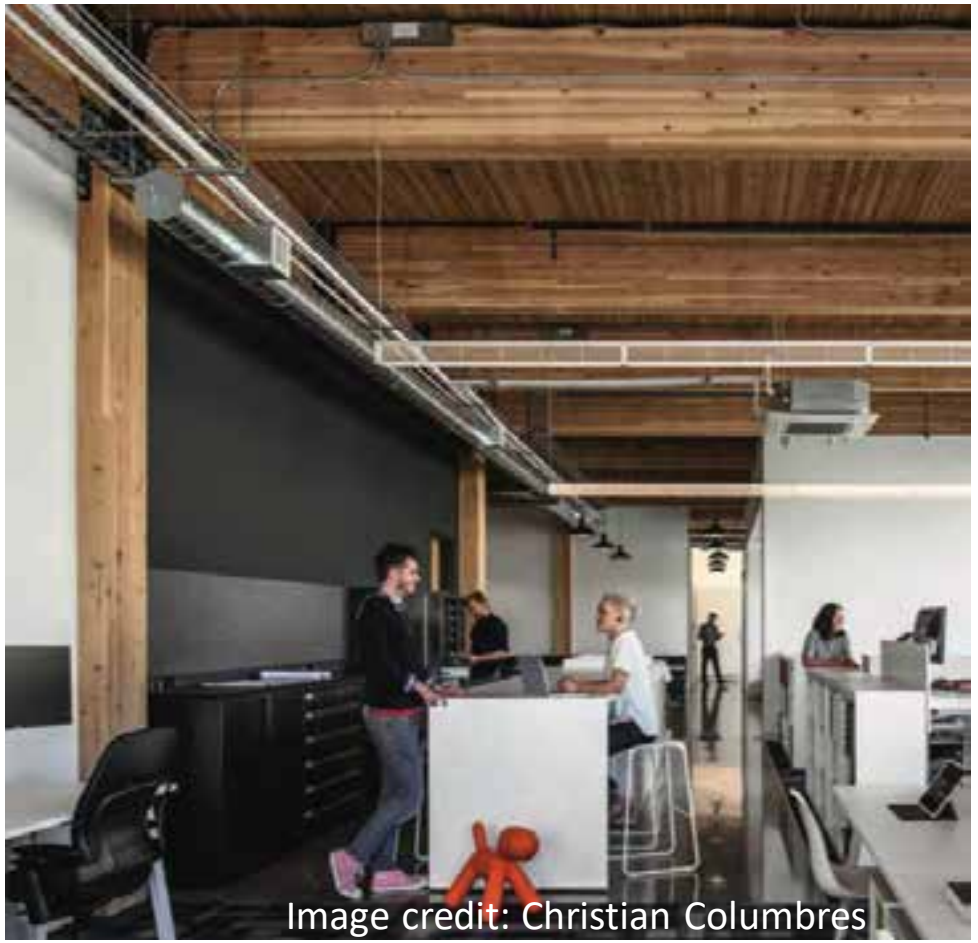
STC 62

Mass Timber Acoustics

Mass timber has relatively low “mass”

Recall the three ways to increase acoustical performance:

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



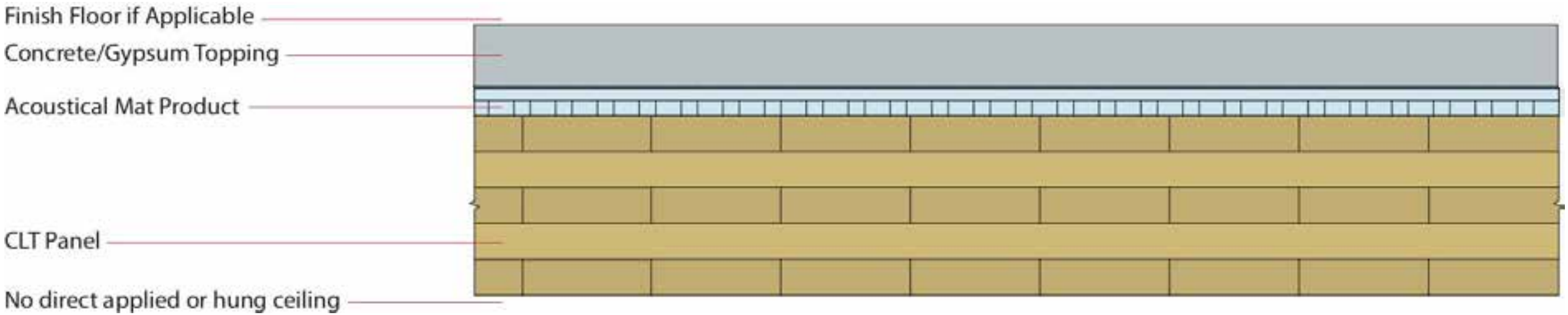
Mass Timber Acoustics

Concrete Slab:		CLT Slab:
6” Thick		6-7/8” Thick
80 PSF	⟷	18 PSF
STC 53	⟷	STC 41

Mass Timber Acoustics

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

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



Mass Timber Acoustics

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 ¼" to 1"+

Image credit: Maxxon

Mass Timber Acoustics

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

Image credit: AcoustiTECH

Mass Timber Acoustics

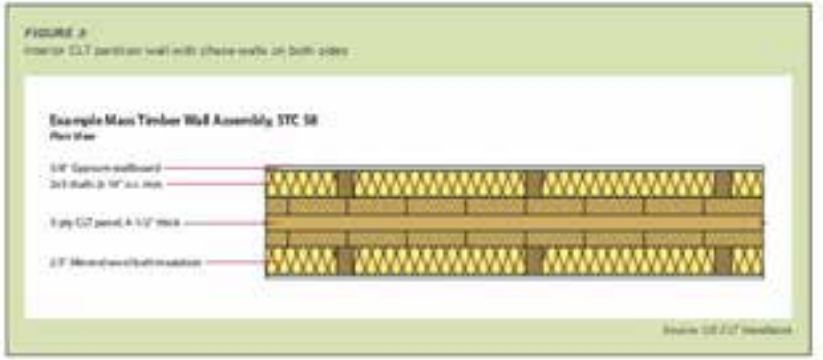
Solutions Paper

WoodWorks
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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

The growing availability and code acceptance 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 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.



Example Mass Timber Wall Assembly, STC 58

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" has an STC rating of 33.[1] In contrast, Figure 3 shows an interior CLT partition wall with chase walls on both sides. This assembly achieves an STC rating of 58, exceeding the IBC's acoustical requirements for multi-family construction. Other examples are included in the inventory of tested assemblies noted above.

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, glued-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.

http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-MASS-TIMBER-ACOUSTICS.pdf

Mass Timber Acoustics

Inventory of Tested Assemblies

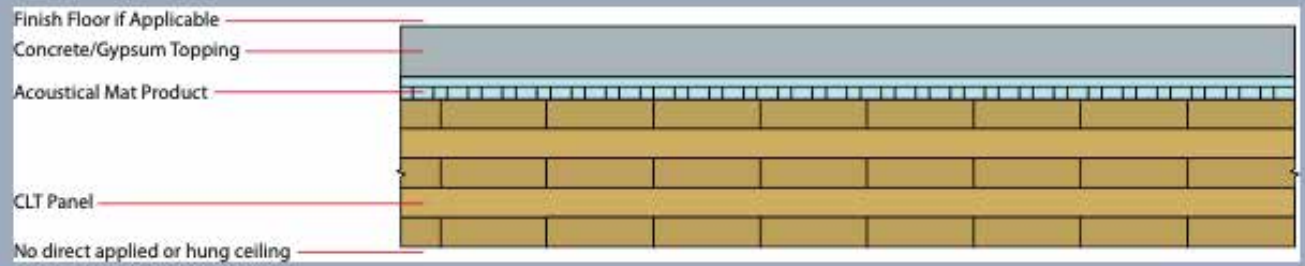
Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Assemblies

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 or contact the WoodWorks Regional Director nearest you: http://www.woodworks.org/project-assistance

Contents:

http://bit.ly/mass-timber-assemblies

Table 1: CLT Floor Assemblies with Concrete/Gypsum Topping, Ceiling Side Exposed



CLT Panel	Concrete/Gypsum Topping	Acoustical Mat Product Between CLT and Topping	Finish Floor	STC[1]	IIC[1]	Source
CLT 5-ply (6.875")	1-1/2" Gyp-Crete®	Maxxon Acousti-Mat® 3/4	None	47[2] ASTC	47[2] AIIC	1
			LVT	-	49[2] AIIC	
			Carpet + Pad	-	75[2] AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top®	-	52[2] AIIC	
			Eng Wood on Acousti-Top®	-	51[2] AIIC	
		Maxxon Acousti-Mat® ¾ Premium	None	49[2] ASTC	45[2] AIIC	
			LVT	-	47[2] AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top®	-	49[2] AIIC	
	1-1/2" Levelrock® Brand 2500	USG SAM N25 Ultra	None	45[6]	39[6]	15
			LVT	48[6]	47[6]	16
			LVT Plus	48[6]	49[6]	58
			Eng Wood	47[6]	47[6]	59
			Carpet + Pad	45[6]	67[6]	60
			Ceramic Tile	50[6]	46[6]	61
		Soprema® Insonomat	None	45[6]	42[6]	15
			LVT	48[6]	44[6]	16
			LVT Plus	48[6]	47[6]	58
			Eng Wood	47[6]	45[6]	59
			Carpet + Pad	45[6]	71[6]	60
			Ceramic Tile	50[6]	46[6]	61
		USG SAM N75 Ultra	None	45[6]	38[6]	15
			LVT	48[6]	47[6]	16
			LVT Plus	48[6]	49[6]	58
			Eng Wood	47[6]	49[6]	59

Questions? Ask me anything.

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901 East Sixth, Thoughtbarn-Delineate Studio, Leap!Structures, photo Casey Dunn