



Photo: Structurllam

# Early Design Decisions: Priming Mass Timber Projects for Success

Presented by  
Chelsea Drenick and Mike Romanowski, WoodWorks  
March 16, 2022



## HEAVY TIMBER

Federal Center South, Seattle, WA  
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider



## MASS TIMBER

Bullitt Center, Seattle, WA  
Photo: John Stamets

# Mass Timber Building Options



Photo: Blaine Brownell

## Post & Beam



Photo: acton ostry architects

## Flat Plate



Photo: : LendLease

## Honeycomb

# Mass Timber Building Options



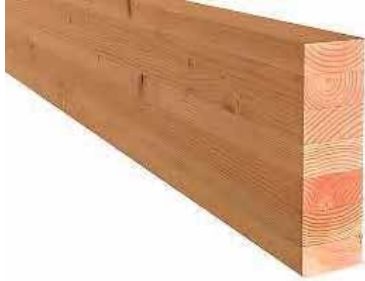
**Hybrid: Light-Frame Wood**



**Hybrid: Steel**



Glue-Laminated Timber (Glulam)  
Beams & columns



Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)  
Solid sawn laminations



Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)  
SCL laminations (MPP)



Photo: Freres Lumber

Dowel-Laminated Timber (DLT)



Photo: StructureCraft

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)



Photo: Think Wood

Glue-Laminated Timber (GLT)  
Plank orientation



# Key Early Design Decisions

**What is the Single Most Important Early Design Decision on a Mass Timber Project? Is it:**

**Construction Type  
Fire-Resistance Ratings  
Member Sizes  
Grids & Spans  
Exposed Timber (where & how much)**

**MEP Layout  
Acoustics  
Concealed Spaces  
Connections  
Penetrations**

**The Answer is...They All Need to Be Weighed (Plus Others)**

# Key Early Design Decisions

Significant Emphasis Placed on the Word **Early**

**Early** Because:

Avoids placing limitations due to construction norms or traditions that may not be efficient with mass timber

Allows greater integration of all building elements in 3D models, ultimately used throughout design, manufacturing and installation



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early = Efficient

Realize Efficiency in:

- Cost reduction
- Material use (optimize fiber use, minimize waste)
- Construction speed
- Trade coordination
- Minimize RFIs

Commit to a mass timber design from the start





# Key Early Design Decisions

There are a number of project-specific factors that influence how these early decisions are made, and in some cases, the order in which the decisions are made:

- **Site** (size, orientation, zoning, cost)
- **Building needs** (size, occupancy, layout, floor to floor height, aesthetics, sustainability goals)
- Resulting **code options** & design implications



# Key Early Design Decisions

One *potential* design route:

1. Building size & occupancy informs construction type & grid
2. Construction type informs fire resistance ratings
3. Grid & fire resistance ratings inform timber member sizes & MEP layout

But that's not all...



# Key Early Design Decisions

Other impactful decisions:

- **Acoustics** informs member sizes (and vice versa)
- Fire-resistance ratings inform **connections & penetrations**
- **MEP layout** informs use of concealed spaces



# Key Early Design Decisions

Other impactful decisions:

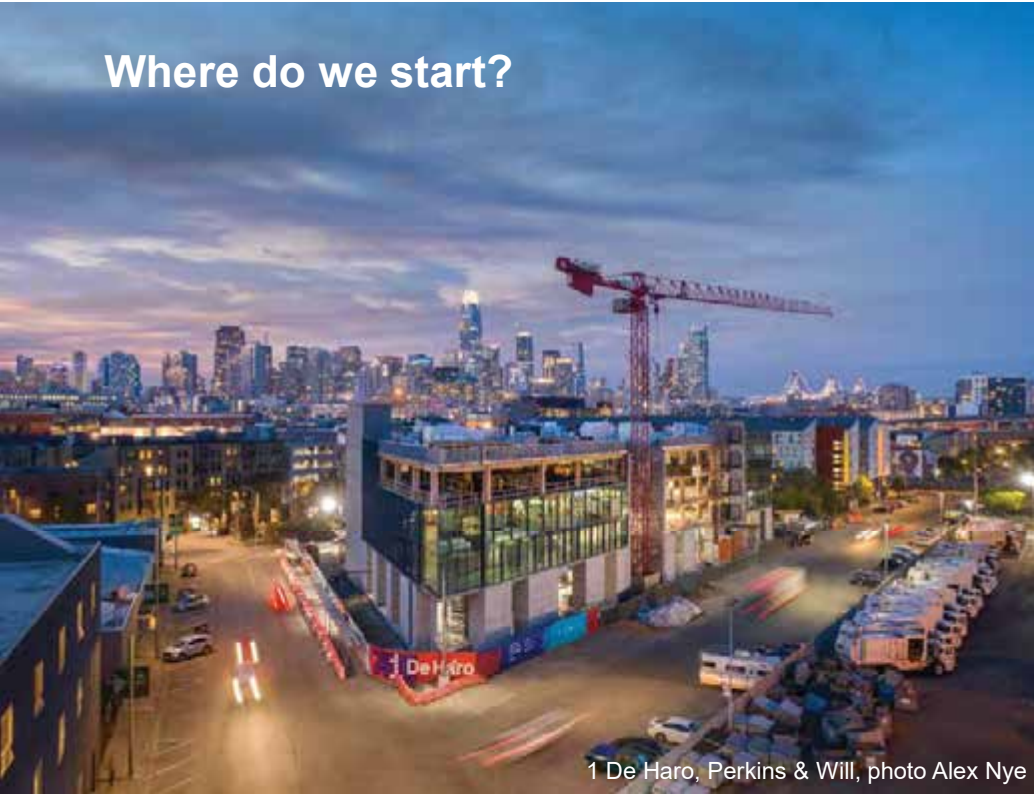
- **Grid** informs efficient spans, MEP layout
- **Manufacturer capabilities** inform member sizes, grids & connections
- **Lateral system choice** informs connections, construction sequencing

And more...



# Key Early Design Decisions

Where do we start?



1 De Haro, Perkins & Will, photo Alex Nye





# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction Type – Primarily based on building size & occupancy

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)							
	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT	III-A	III-B	V-A	V-B
Occupancies	Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)							
A, B, R	270	180	85	85	85	85	70	60
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	18	12	6	4	4	3	3	2
B	18	12	9	6	6	4	4	3
R-2	18	12	8	5	5	5	4	3
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet <sup>2</sup> (IBC Table 506.2)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	135,000	90,000	56,250	45,000	42,000	28,500	34,500	18,000
B	324,000	216,000	135,000	108,000	85,500	57,000	54,000	27,000
R-2	184,500	123,000	76,875	61,500	72,000	48,000	36,000	21,000

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction Type – Primarily based on building size & occupancy

	Construction Type (All Sprinklered Values)							
	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C	IV-HT	III-A	III-B	V-A	V-B
Occupancies	Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)							
A, B, R	270	180	85	85	85	85	70	60
<b>For low- to mid-rise mass timber buildings, there may be multiple options for construction type. There are pros and cons of each, don't assume that one type is always best.</b>								
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet <sup>2</sup> (IBC Table 506.2)							
A-2, A-3, A-4	135,000	90,000	56,250	45,000	42,000	28,500	34,500	18,000
B	324,000	216,000	135,000	108,000	85,500	57,000	54,000	27,000
R-2	184,500	123,000	76,875	61,500	72,000	48,000	36,000	21,000

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Fire-Resistance Ratings

- Driven primarily by construction type
- Rating achieved through timber alone or non-combustible protection required?

TABLE 601  
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a, b</sup>	2 <sup>a, b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>e</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior <sup>a, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT <sup>g</sup>	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior					See Table 705.5							
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 2304.11.2	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	1½ <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>e</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	1½	1	1	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Fire-Resistance Ratings (FRR)

- Thinner panels (i.e. 3-ply) generally difficult to achieve a 1+ hour FRR
- 5-ply CLT / 2x6 NLT & DLT panels can usually achieve a 1- or 2-hour FRR
- Construction Type | FRR | Member Size | Grid (or re-arrange that process but follow how one impacts the others)

Panel	Example Floor Span Ranges
3-ply CLT (4-1/8" thick)	Up to 12 ft
5-ply CLT (6-7/8" thick)	14 to 17 ft
7-ply CLT (9-5/8")	17 to 21 ft
2x4 NLT	Up to 12 ft
2x6 NLT	10 to 17 ft
2x8 NLT	14 to 21 ft
5" MPP	10 to 15 ft



Credit: David Barber, ARUP

# Construction Types

**When does the code allow mass timber to be used?**

IBC/CBC defines mass timber systems in Chapter 2 and notes their acceptance and manufacturing standards in Chapter 23

Permitted anywhere that combustible materials and heavy timber are allowed, plus more





# Construction Types

IBC/CBC defines 5 construction types: I, II, III, IV, V  
A building must be classified as one of these

Construction Types I & II:  
All elements required to be non-combustible materials

However, there are exceptions, including several for mass timber

# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type IB, IIA & IIB: Roof Construction (ref. Table 601, footnote c)



Photo Credit: DeStafano & Chamberlain, Inc, Robert Benson Photography



Image: StructureCraft Builders

# Construction Types

All wood framed building options:

## Type III

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW)

Interior elements anything allowed by code, including mass timber

## Type V

All building elements are anything allowed by code, including mass timber

Types III and V are subdivided into A (protected) and B (unprotected)

## Type IV-HT (Heavy Timber)

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW or CLT)

Interior elements must qualify as Heavy Timber (min. sizes, no concealed spaces for 2018 IBC or earlier)

# Construction Types

**Where does the code allow MT to be used?**

- Type III: Interior elements (floors, roofs, walls) and exterior walls if FRT



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

# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type IV-HT: Exposed interior elements (floors, roofs, walls) and exterior walls if CLT or FRT; must meet min. sizes. Could be concealed space limitations (varies by code version)





# Construction Types

**Type IV-HT construction permits exposed heavy/mass timber elements of min. sizes.**

Framing		Solid Sawn (nominal)	Glulam (actual)	SCL (actual)
Floor	Columns	8 x 8	$6\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$	$7 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$
	Beams	6 x 10	$5 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$
Roof	Columns	6 x 8	$5 \times 8\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$
	Beams*	4 x 6	$3 \times 6\frac{7}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$

**Minimum width by depth in inches**  
**See IBC/CBC Sec. 602.4 & 2304.11 for details**

\*3" nominal width allowed where sprinklered

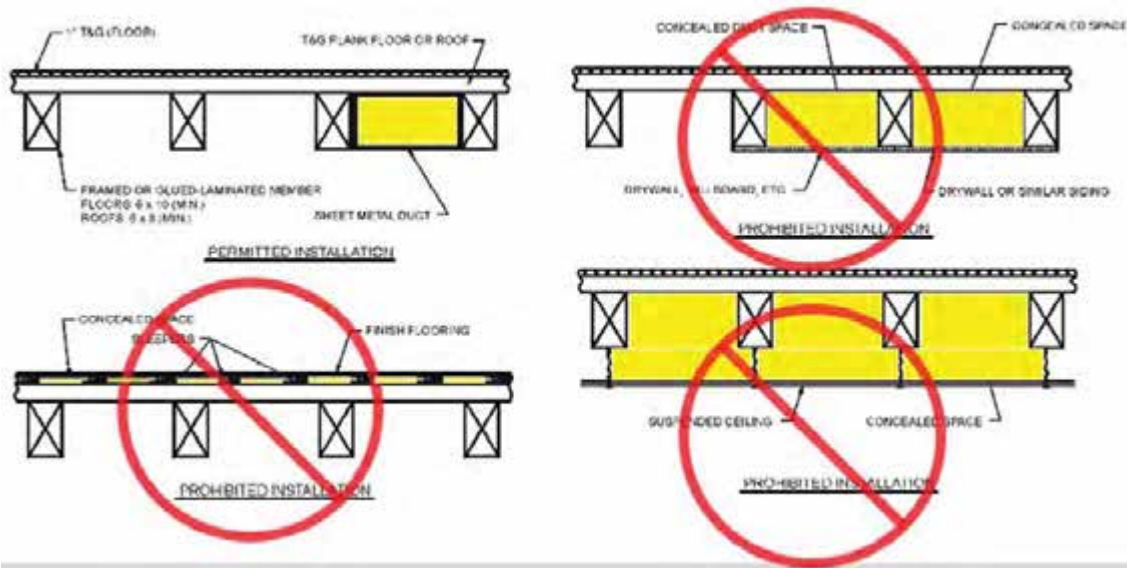


Photo: WoodWorks

# Construction Types

## Type IV-HT concealed spaces

Prior to the 2021 IBC/2019 CBC Supplement, Type IV-HT provisions prohibited concealed spaces



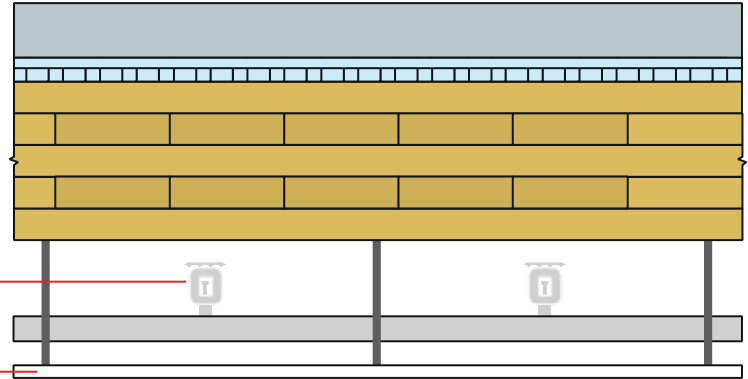
# Construction Types

## Type IV-HT concealed space options under the 2021 IBC/2019 CBC Supplement

### Option 1:

Sprinklers in concealed spaces

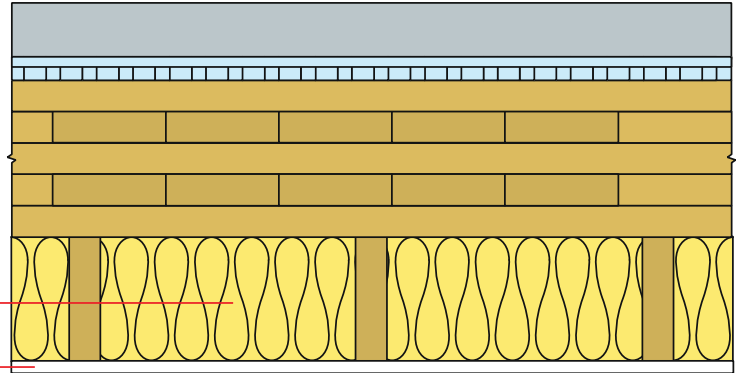
Dropped ceiling



## Construction Types

## Type IV-HT concealed space options under the 2021 IBC/2019 CBC Supplement

### Option 2:



## Noncombustible insulation

## Dropped ceiling

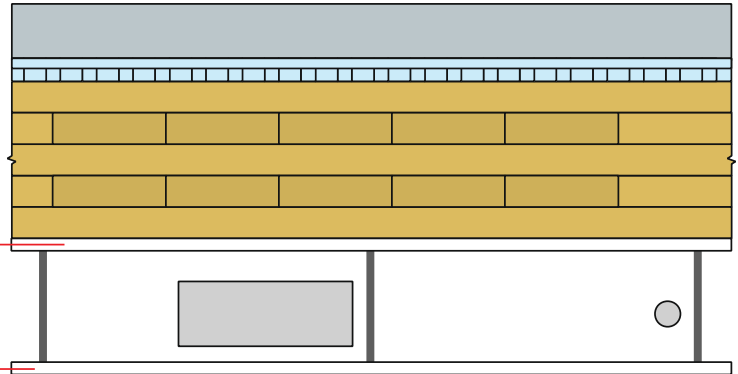
# Construction Types

## Type IV-HT concealed space options under the 2021 IBC/2019 CBC Supplement

### Option 3:

5/8" Type X gypsum on all mass timber surfaces within concealed space

Dropped ceiling





# Construction Types

## Concealed Spaces Solutions Paper



### Concealed Spaces in Mass Timber and Heavy Timber Structures

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 concealed areas of a building. Section 718 of the 2018 IBC includes prescriptive requirements for protection and compartmentalization of concealed spaces through the use of draft stopping, fire blocking, sprinklers and other means. For information on these requirements, see the WoodWorks GAA. Air sprinklers required in concealed spaces such as *floor and roof voids 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 misconception that exposed mass timber building elements cannot be used or separated in other construction types. This is not the case.

In addition to Type IV buildings, structural mass timber elements—including CLT, glue-laminated timber (glulam), half-laminated timber (HLT), structural composite timber (SCT), and heavy-timber joists (HTJ)—meeting certain criteria and reported in the following construction types, whether as part of the resistance rating or separately:

- **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-resistance-rated 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 & II, in A or B exterior columns and arches when 20 feet or more of horizontal separation is provided, and balconies, canopies and similar projections.



The John W. Oliver Design Building at UMass Amherst includes exposed wood structure in some areas and dropped ceilings in others. Architect: Leers Weinzapfel Associates.

# Construction Types

## Where does the code allow MT to be used?

- Type V: Interior elements (floors, roofs, walls) and exterior walls



Image: Christian Columbres Photography

# Construction Types



Type IIIA: 6 stories  
Type IIIB: 4 stories

Allowable mass  
timber building size  
for group B  
occupancy with  
NFPA 13 sprinklers



Credit: Ema Peter

Type IV-HT: 6 stories

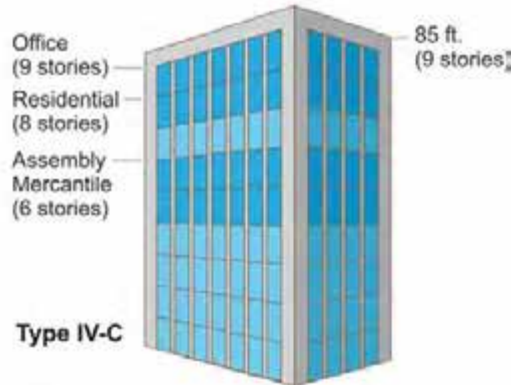
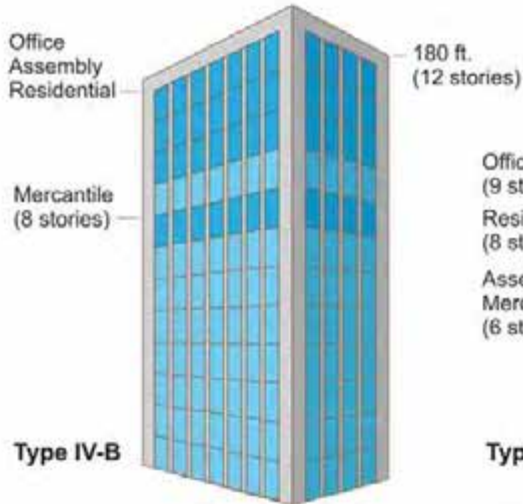
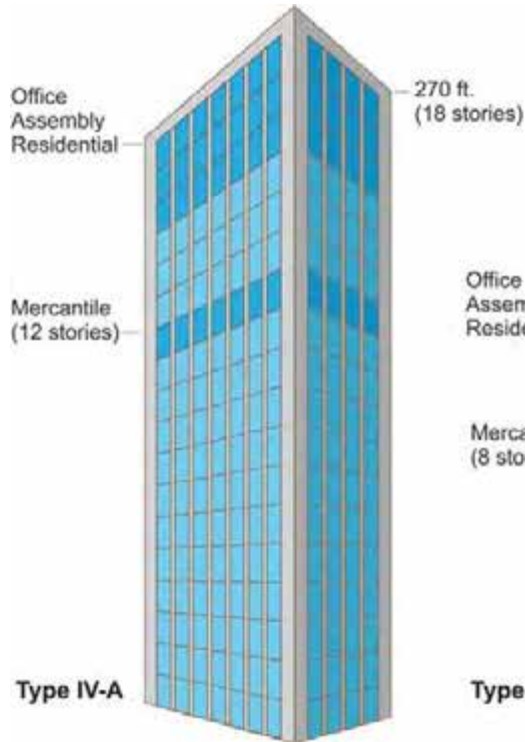


Credit: Christian Columbres Photography

Type VA: 4 stories  
Type VB: 3 stories

# Construction Types

New Options in the 2021 IBC/2019 CBC  
Supplement  
Allowable mass timber building size for  
group B occupancy with NFPA 13  
sprinklers



# Fire Design

Construction type influences FRR

**TABLE 601**  
**FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)**

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	HT	1	0
Bearing walls									
Exterior <sup>e,f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	1/HT	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions									
Exterior	See Table 602								
Nonbearing walls and partitions									
Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 602.4.6	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary members (see Section 202)	1 <sup>1/2</sup> <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0 <sup>e</sup>	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0	HT	1 <sup>b,c</sup>	0

# Fire Design

Construction type influences FRR

**TABLE 601  
FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS (HOURS)**

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B
Primary structural frame <sup>f</sup> (see Section 202)	3 <sup>a, b</sup>	2 <sup>a, b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior <sup>e, f</sup>	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT <sup>g</sup>	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior					See Table 705.5							
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	See Section 2304.11.2	0	0
Floor construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	HT	1	0
Roof construction and associated secondary structural members (see Section 202)	1 <sup>1/2</sup> <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	1 <sup>1/2</sup>	1	1	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0



# Fire Design

Construction type influences FRR

- Type IV-HT Construction (minimum sizes)
- **Other than type IV-HT**: Demonstrated fire resistance

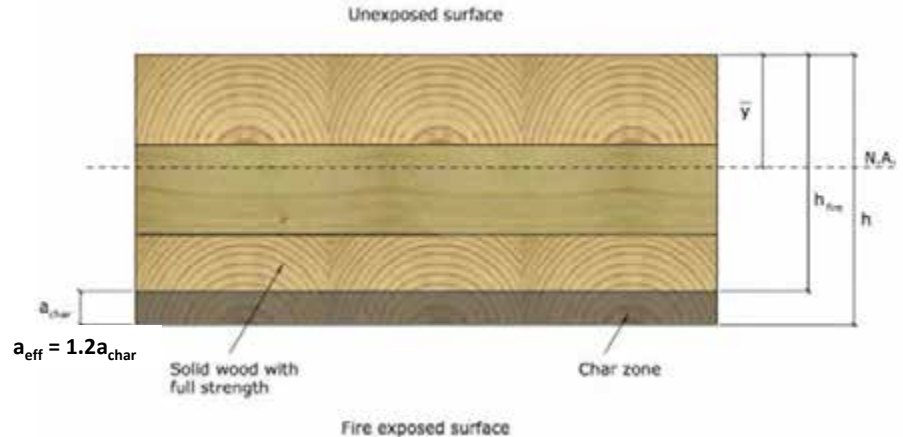
Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing)  
can impact member sizing



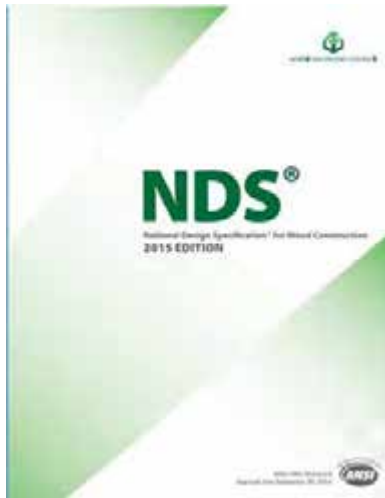
# Fire Design

## Which Method of Demonstrating FRR of MT is Being Used?

1. Calculations in Accordance with IBC/CBC Sec. 703.3 & 722  
→ NDS Chapter 16
1. Tests in Accordance with ASTM E119



# Fire Design



NDS Chapter 16 includes calculation of fire resistance for CLT, NLT, Glulam, Solid Sawn and SCL wood products

**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n=1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{\text{char}}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{\text{lam}}$ (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



Credit: FPInnovations

# Fire Design

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



Credit: ARUP

**Table 16.2.1A Char Depth and Effective Char Depth (for  $\beta_n = 1.5 \text{ in./hr.}$ )**

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

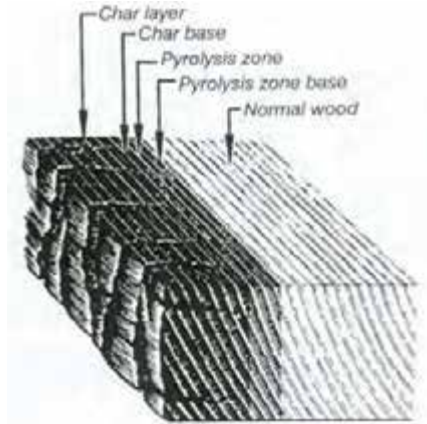
**Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with  $\beta_n = 1.5 \text{ in./hr.}$ )**

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, $a_{\text{char}}$ (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, $h_{\text{lam}}$ (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

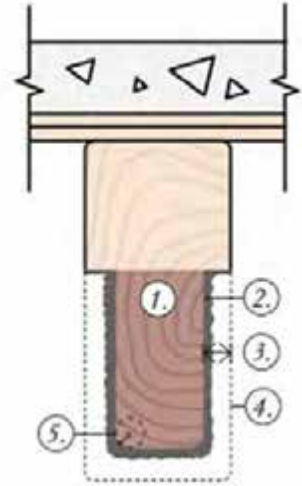
# Fire Design

Two structural capacity checks performed:

1. On entire cross section neglecting fire effects
2. On post-fire remaining section, with stress increases



Credit: Forest Products Laboratory



$$a_{\text{char}} = \beta_t t^{0.813}$$

Solid Sawn, Glulam, SCL

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

CLT

$$a_{\text{eff}} = 1.2 a_{\text{char}}$$

Effective Char Depth

# Fire Design

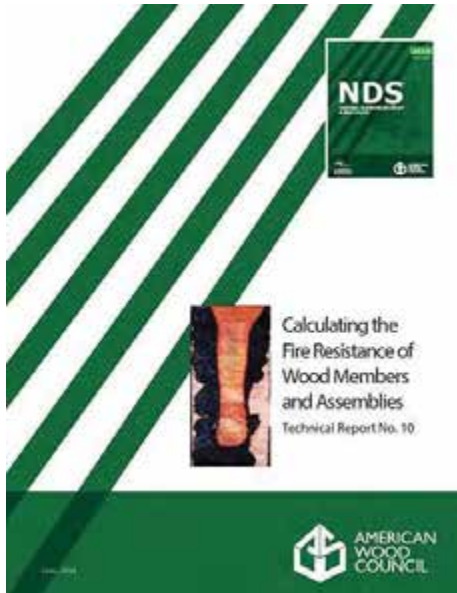
NDS Table 16.2.2 Design stress adjustment factors applied to adjust to average ultimate strength under fire design conditions

				ASD					
			Design Stress to Member Strength Factor	Size Factor <sup>2</sup>	Volume Factor <sup>2</sup>	Flat Use Factor <sup>2</sup>	Beam Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>	Column Stability Factor <sup>3</sup>	
Bending Strength	F <sub>b</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	C <sub>V</sub>	C <sub>Fu</sub>	C <sub>L</sub>	-	
Beam Buckling Strength	F <sub>bE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-	
Tensile Strength	F <sub>t</sub>	x	2.85	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	-	
Compressive Strength	F <sub>c</sub>	x	2.58	C <sub>F</sub>	-	-	-	C <sub>P</sub>	
Column Buckling Strength	F <sub>cE</sub>	x	2.03	-	-	-	-	-	



# Fire Design

AWC's TR 10 is a technical design guide, aids in the use of NDS Chapter 16 char calculations



## Example 5: Exposed CLT Floor - Allowable Stress Design

Simply-supported cross-laminated timber (CLT) floor spanning  $L=18$  ft in the strong-axis direction. The design loads are  $q_{live}=80$  psf and  $q_{dead}=30$  psf including estimated self-weight of the CLT panel. Floor decking, nailed to the unexposed face of CLT panel, is spaced to restrict hot gases from venting through half-lap joints at edges of CLT panel sections. Calculate the required section dimensions for a 1-hour structural fire resistance time when subjected to an ASTM E119 fire exposure.

For the structural design of the CLT panel, calculate the maximum induced moment.

Calculate panel load (per foot of width):

$$W_{load} = (q_{dead} + q_{live}) = (30 \text{ psf} + 80 \text{ psf})(1 \text{ ft width}) = 110 \text{ plf/ft of width}$$

Calculate maximum induced moment (per foot of width):

$$M_{max} = W_{load} L^2 / 8 = (110)(18^2)/8 = 4,455 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width}$$

From PRG 320, select a 5-ply CLT floor panel made from 1-3/8 in x 3-1/2 in. lumber boards (CLT thickness of 6-7/8 inches). For CLT grade V2, tabulated properties are:

$$\text{Bending moment, } F_b S_{eff,0} = 4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width}$$

(PRG 320 Annex A, Table A2)

Calculate the allowable design moment (assuming  $C_D=1.0$ ;  $C_M=1.0$ ;  $C_t=1.0$ ;  $C_L=1.0$ )

$$M_s' = F_b (S_{eff})(C_D)(C_M)(C_t)(C_L) = 4,675 (1.0)(1.0)(1.0) = 4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft of width} \quad (\text{NDS 10.3.1})$$

**Structural Check:**

$$M_s' \geq M_{max}$$

$$4,675 \text{ ft-lb/ft} > 4,455 \text{ ft-lb/ft}$$

✓

(note: serviceability check is not performed to simplify the design example, but should be done in typical structural design).

# Fire Design

## Tested FRR of Exposed MT:

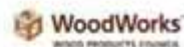
- Many successful Mass Timber ASTM E119 fire tests have been completed by industry & manufacturers



# Fire Design

## WoodWorks Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies



CLT Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Major & Minor Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Construction in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Score	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	SPF 16-18 PL 4.0S-MOR x SPF 15	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half Lap	None	Reduced 10% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (10'0" x 4.5' x 5.5")	Structural	SPF 16-18 x SPF 16-18	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	II	None	Top side Splice	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	II	1 layer of 1/2" Type X gypsum under 2 channels and spring strips with 3/4" aluminum bars	Top side Splice	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	II	None	Top side Splice	3/4" in proprietary gypsum over Mass on glued half lap	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.0	3	UL
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	II	1 layer 5/8" mineral gypsum	Top side Splice	5/8" in proprietary gypsum over Mass on acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	II	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum under 2 channels under 3/4" 1" Mineral Wool insulation	Half Lap	None	Unaltered See Manufacturer	3	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	Structural	OSB MBE 2100 x SPF 12	None	Exposed Splice	1 x 1/2" Mass on 2 x 2 (4x4) 2000 psi in Mass on Reinforcing Mesh	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2.5	4	Intertek, 2/22/2016
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half Lap & Top side Splice	2" gypsum topping	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	SPF 16-18 PL 4.0S-MOR x SPF 15	None	Half Lap	None	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	Structural	SPF 16-18 x SPF 16-18	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half Lap	None	Unaltered 100% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (24'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	Structural	SPF 16-18 x SPF 16-18	None	Half Lap	None	Unaltered 100% Moment Capacity	2.5	1 (Test 7)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	Structural	II-VI	None	Half Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 3/4" nails	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	1 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 10/26/2016
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	Structural	VI	None	Half Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 3/4" nails	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	1 (Test 3)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
3-ply CLT (17'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 3/4" nails	Unaltered See Manufacturer	2	1 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
3-ply CLT (24'0" x 6'0" x 5.5")	None	CY1001	None	Half Lap & Top side Splice	None	Unaltered See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI

# Fire Design

Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing) can impact member sizing

Each has unique benefits:

- **Testing:**
  - Can result in higher FRR for some assemblies when compared to calculations (i.e. 2-hr FRR with 5-ply CLT panel).
  - Seen as more acceptable by some building officials
- **Calculations:**
  - Can provide more design flexibility
  - Allows for project span and loading specific analysis

# Fire Design



## Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

CONVENTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS • DESIGN TECHNICAL GROUP • WOODWORKS  
SUSTAINMENT, PDS, PG, RP • DESIGN TECHNICAL GROUP • WOODWORKS

For many years, exposed heavy timber framing elements have been permitted in U.S. buildings due to their inherent fire-resistance properties. The productivity 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 exciting 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 determining the 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 categories (Type I through V) with all but Type IV having subcategories A and B. Types III and IV 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**



© 2018 | Richard O'Keefe  
AIAA Group | Ben Kohnen  
Meyers Group Engineering

## Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Free download at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)

# MEP Layout & Integration

Set Realistic Owner Expectations About Aesthetics

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





# MEP Layout & Integration

## Key considerations:

- Level of exposure desired
- Floor to floor, structure depth & desired head height
- Building occupancy and configuration (i.e. central core vs. double loaded corridor)
- Grid layout and beam orientations
- Need for future tenant reconfiguration
- Impact on fire & structural design: concealed spaces, penetrations



Credit: WoodWorks

# 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

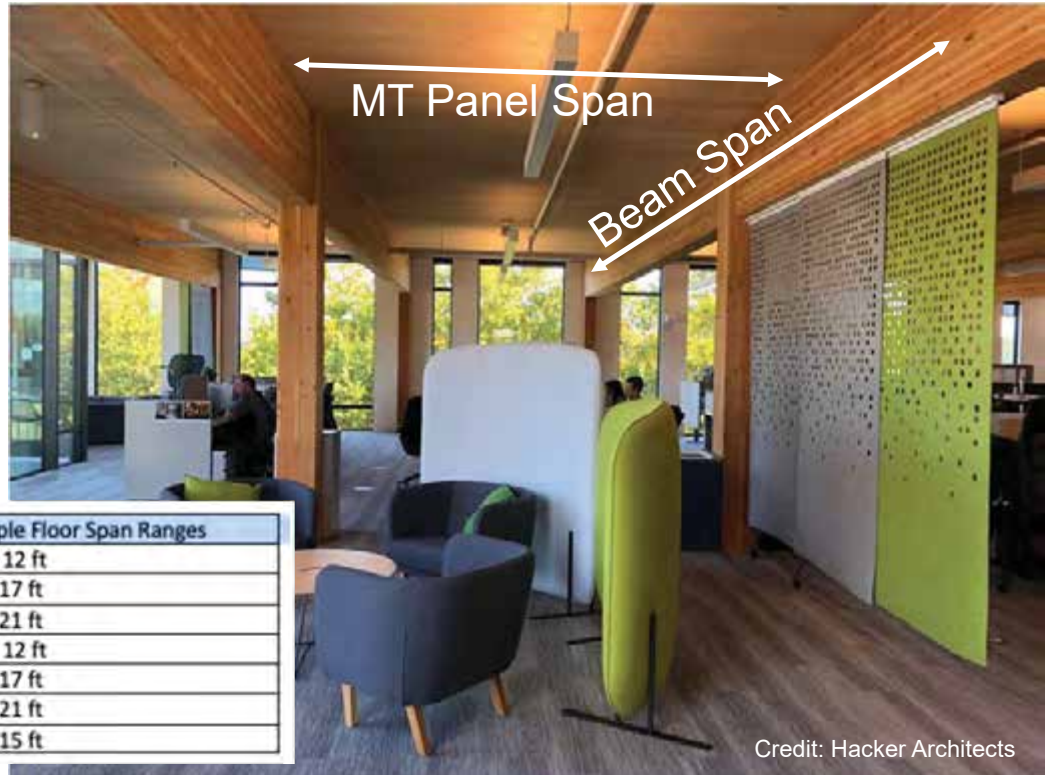
# MEP Layout & Integration

## One-way beam layout

- Columns/beams spaced at panel span limits in one direction
- Beam penetrations are minimized/eliminated

Recall typical panel span limits:

Panel	Example Floor Span Ranges
3-ply CLT (4-1/8" thick)	Up to 12 ft
5-ply CLT (6-7/8" thick)	14 to 17 ft
7-ply CLT (9-5/8")	17 to 21 ft
2x4 NLT	Up to 12 ft
2x6 NLT	10 to 17 ft
2x8 NLT	14 to 21 ft
5" MPP	10 to 15 ft



Credit: Hacker Architects

# 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

## Penetrations through beams

- Requires more coordination (penetrations)
- Bigger impact on structural capacity of penetrated members
- Minimal impact on head height



Credit: WoodWorks



Credit: WoodWorks

# MEP Layout & Integration

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



# MEP Layout & Integration

Gaps between MT panels

- Fewer penetrations, can allow for easier modifications later
- Impact on acoustic performance



Credit: Ema Peter/MGA



Credit: Hacker Architects

# MEP Layout & Integration

Gaps between MT panels

- Aesthetics: often uses ceiling panels to cover gaps



Credit: Ema Peter/MGA

# MEP Layout & Integration

- Raised access floor (RAF) above MT
- Aesthetics (minimal exposed MEP)
  - More efficient MEP system



Credit: BOKA Powell

RAF



NON RAF

# MEP Layout & Integration

Raised access floor (RAF) above MT

- Impact on head height
- Concealed space code provisions



Credit: Global IFS



# MEP Layout & Integration

Within topping slab above MT

- Greater need for coordination prior to slab pour
- Limitations on what can be placed (thickness of topping slab)
- No opportunity for renovations later





# Lateral System Choices

## Concrete Shear Walls

- Typically at core



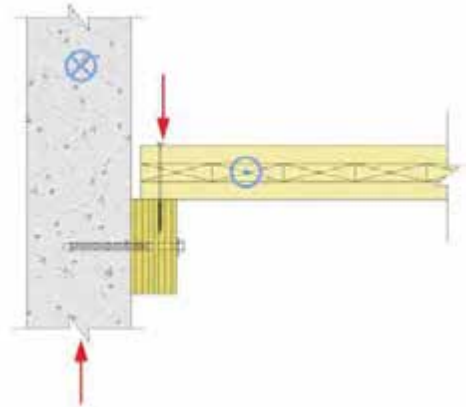
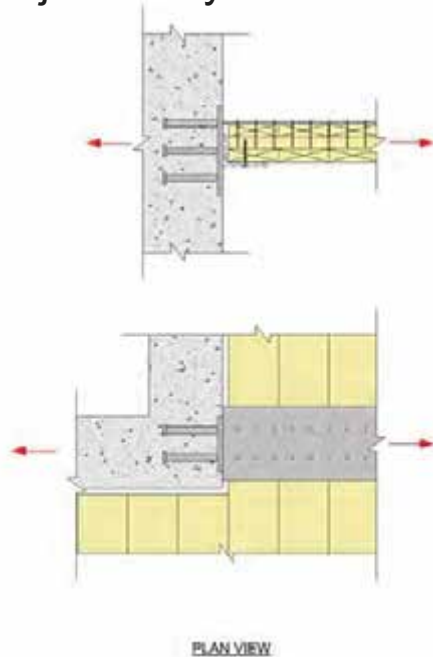
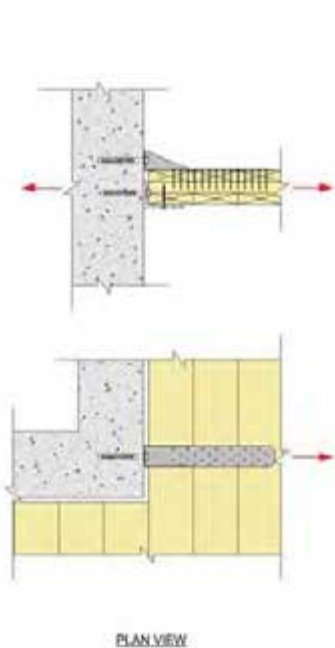
Credit: Hacker Architects



# Lateral System Choices

## Concrete Shear Walls

- Connection tolerances & adjustability



# Lateral System Choices

## Steel Braced/Moment Frames

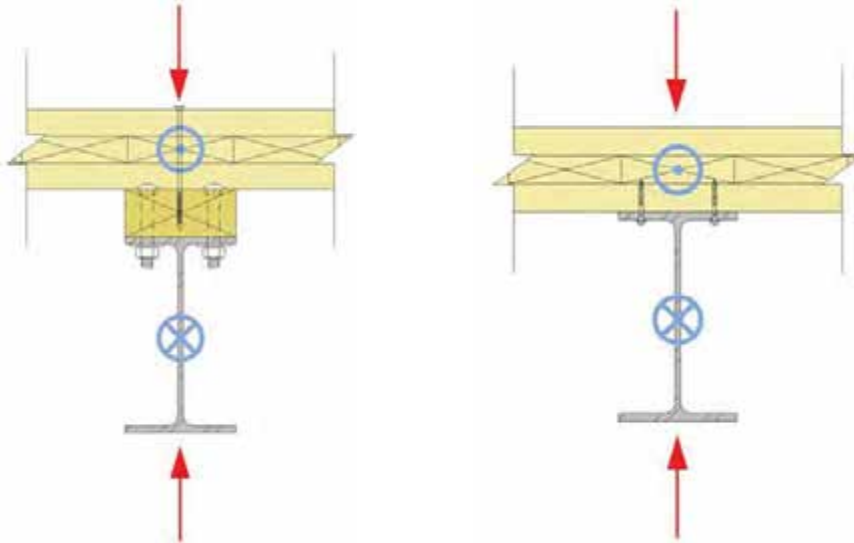


Photos: Marcus Kauffmann, ODF

# Lateral System Choices

## Steel Braced/Moment Frames

- Connection tolerances & adjustability



Photos: Marcus Kauffmann, ODF

# Lateral System Choices

## Light-Frame Wood Shear Walls



Credit: KL&A Engineers & Builders



# Lateral System Choices

## Light-Frame Wood Shear Walls

- Standard of construction practice well known
- Limited to 65 ft shear wall height, 85 ft overall building height (Type IIIA & IV-HT construction)



Credit: Jeremy Bittermann & Kaiser + Path



# Lateral System Choices

## CLT Shear Walls (Conventional)



Photo: Alex Schreyer





# Lateral System Choices

## CLT Rocking Shear Walls



Photo: WoodWorks

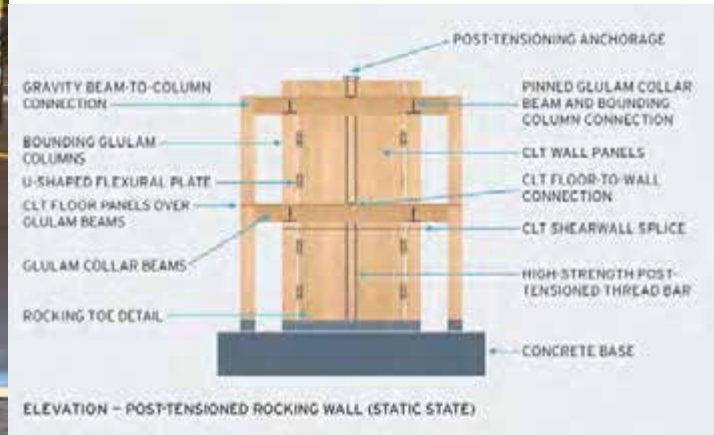


Image: KPFF

# Lateral System Choices

## Timber Braced Frames



Credit: Alex Schreyer

# Lateral System Choices

## Prescriptive Code Compliance

Concrete Shear Walls

Steel Braced/Moment Frames

Light-Frame Wood Shear Walls

CLT Shear Walls (Conventional)

CLT Rocking Shear Walls

Timber Braced Frames



2021 SDPWS  
ASCE 7-22



Photo: WoodWorks





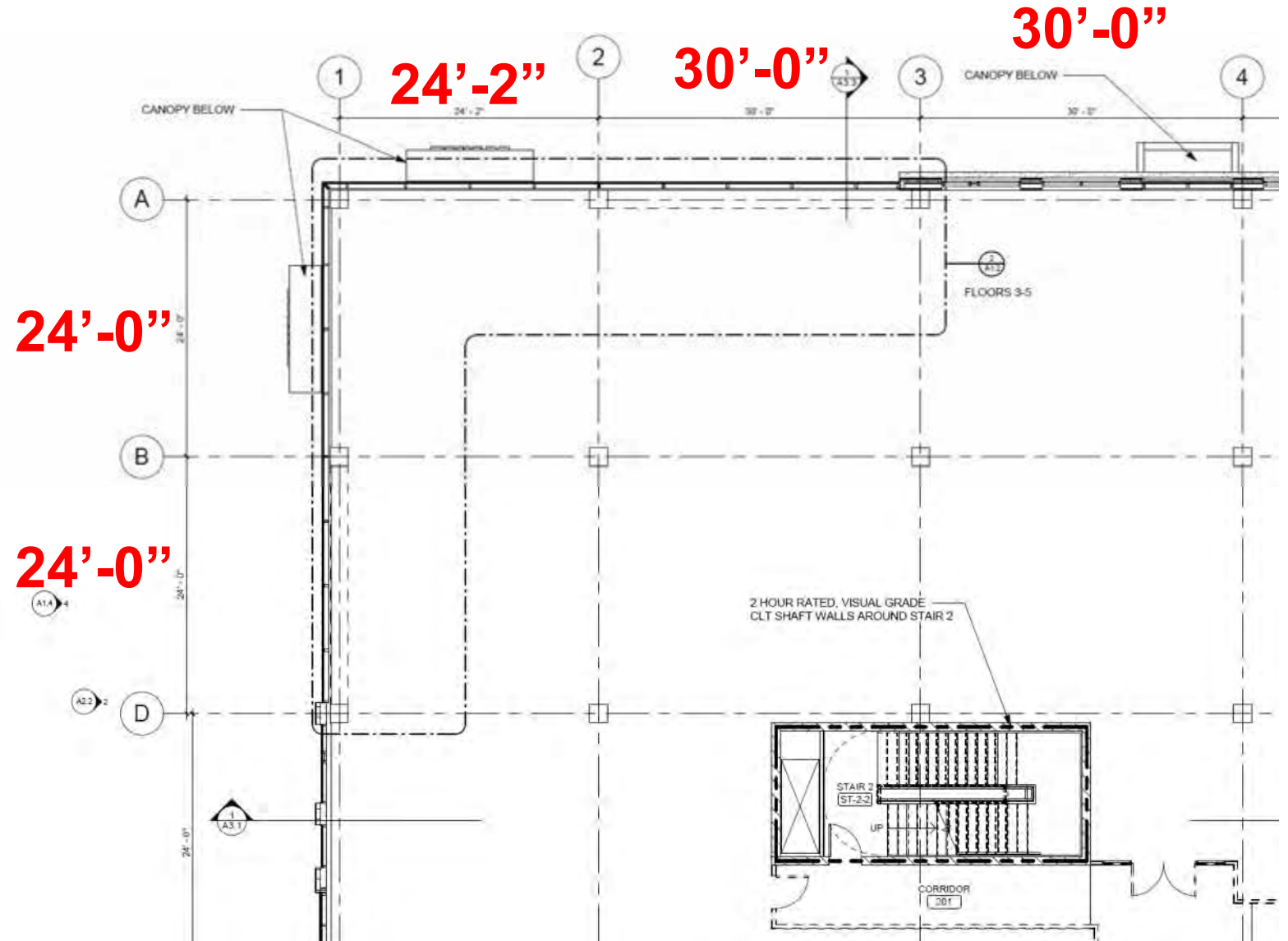
# Structural Grid



# Structural Grid

## Grids & Spans

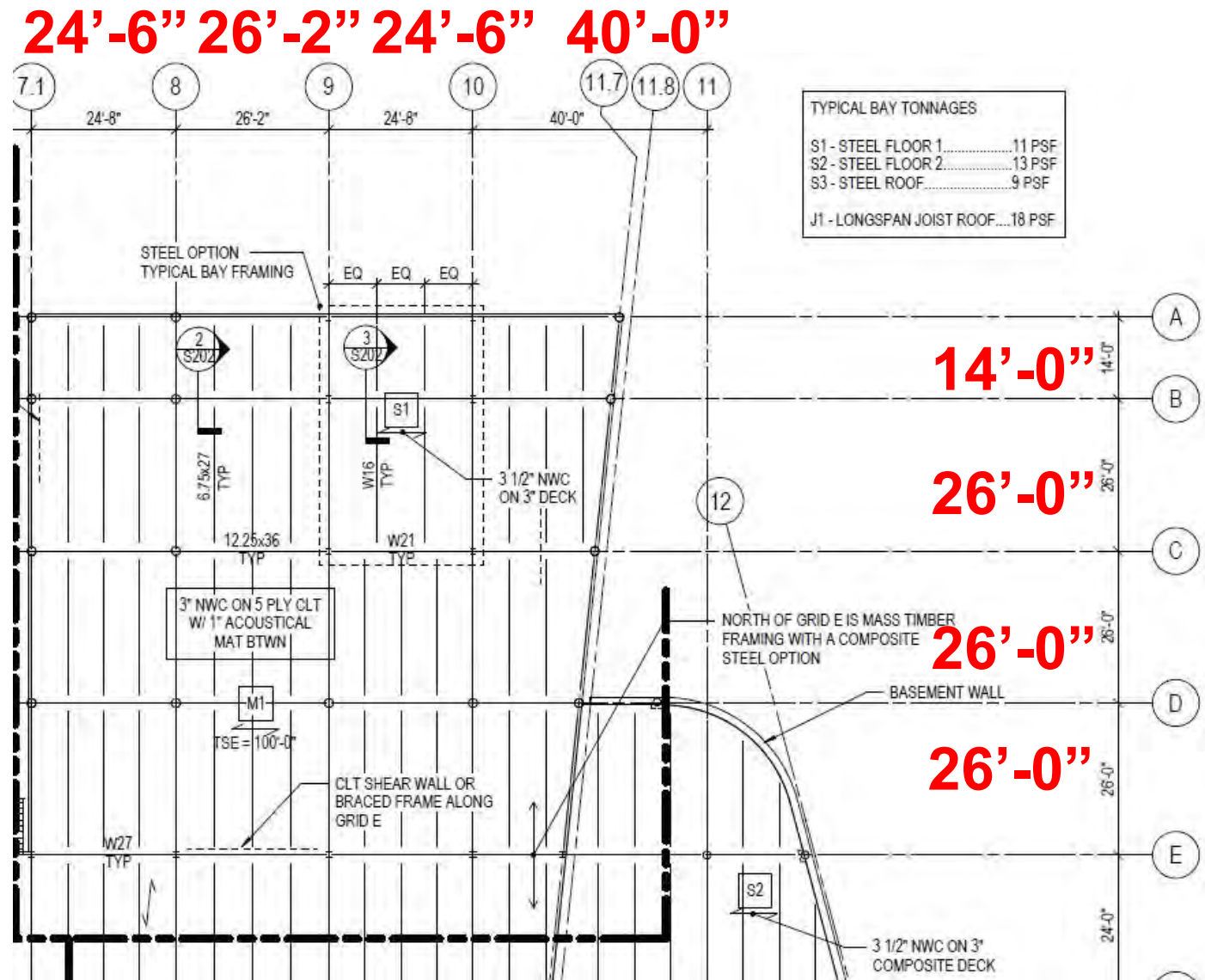
- Consider Efficient Layouts
- Repetition & Scale
- Manufacturer Panel Sizing
- Transportation



# 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

Albina Yard, Portland, OR  
20x20 Grid, 1 purlin per bay  
3-ply CLT  
Image: Lever Architecture



# 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

First Tech Credit Union, Hillsboro, OR  
12x32 Grid, One-Way Beams  
5-ply (5.5") CLT  
Image: Swinerton



# 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



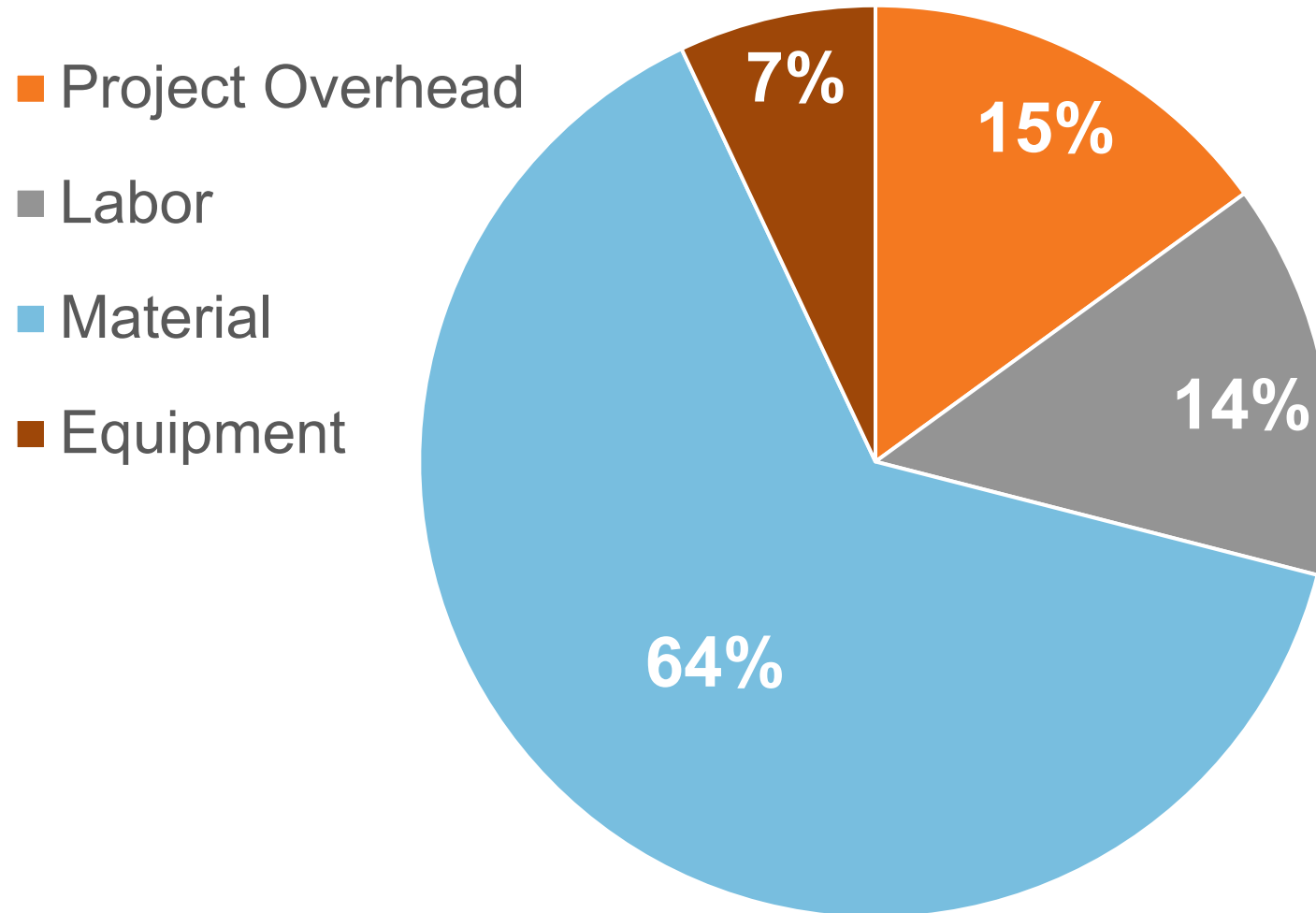
# Structural Grid

**Why so much focus on panel thickness?**



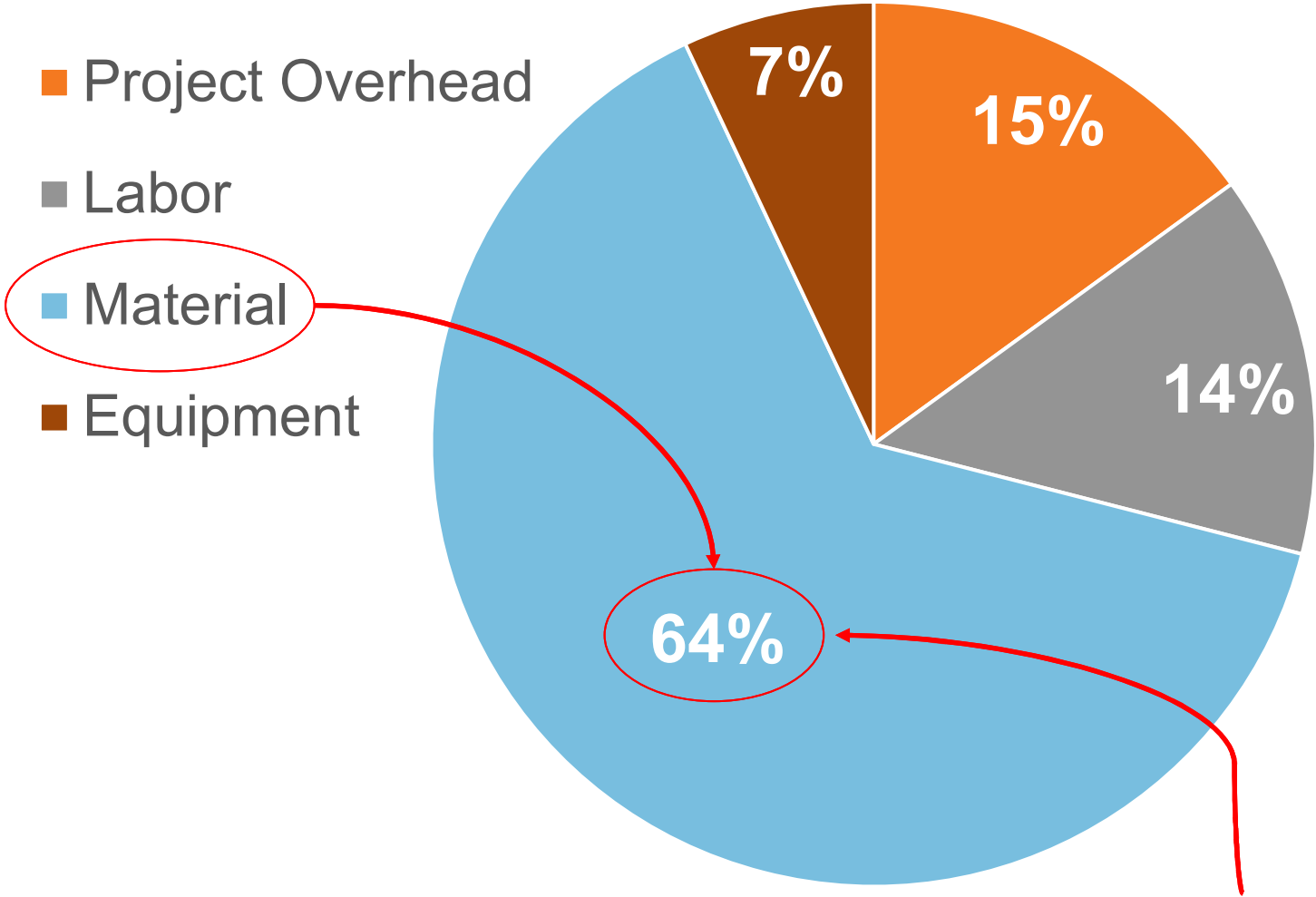
# Structural Grid

## Typical MT Package Costs





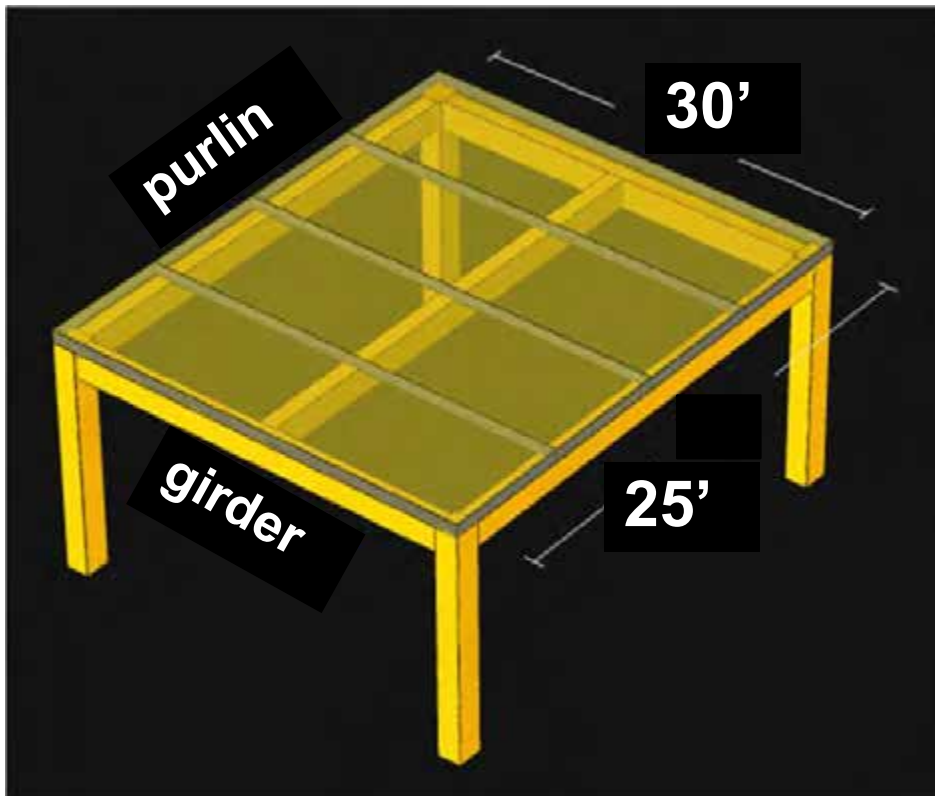
# Structural Grid



**Panels are the biggest part of the biggest piece of the cost pie**

# Structural Grid

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IIIA option 1

1-hr FRR

Purlin: 5.5"x28.5"

Girder: 8.75"x33"

Column: 10.5"x10.75"

Floor panel: 5-ply

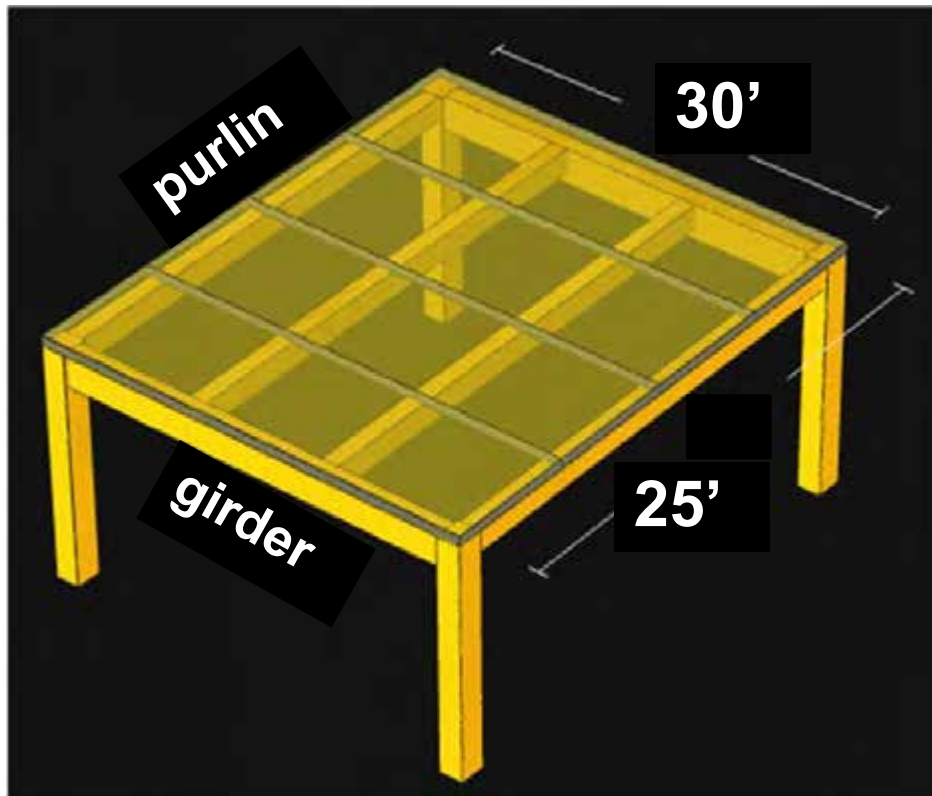
Glulam volume = 118 CF (22% of MT)

CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

Total volume = 0.73 CF / SF

# Structural Grid

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IIIA option 2

1-hr FRR

Purlin: 5.5"x24"

Girder: 8.75"x33"

Column: 10.5"x10.75"

Floor panel: 5-ply

Glulam volume = 123 CF (22% of MT)

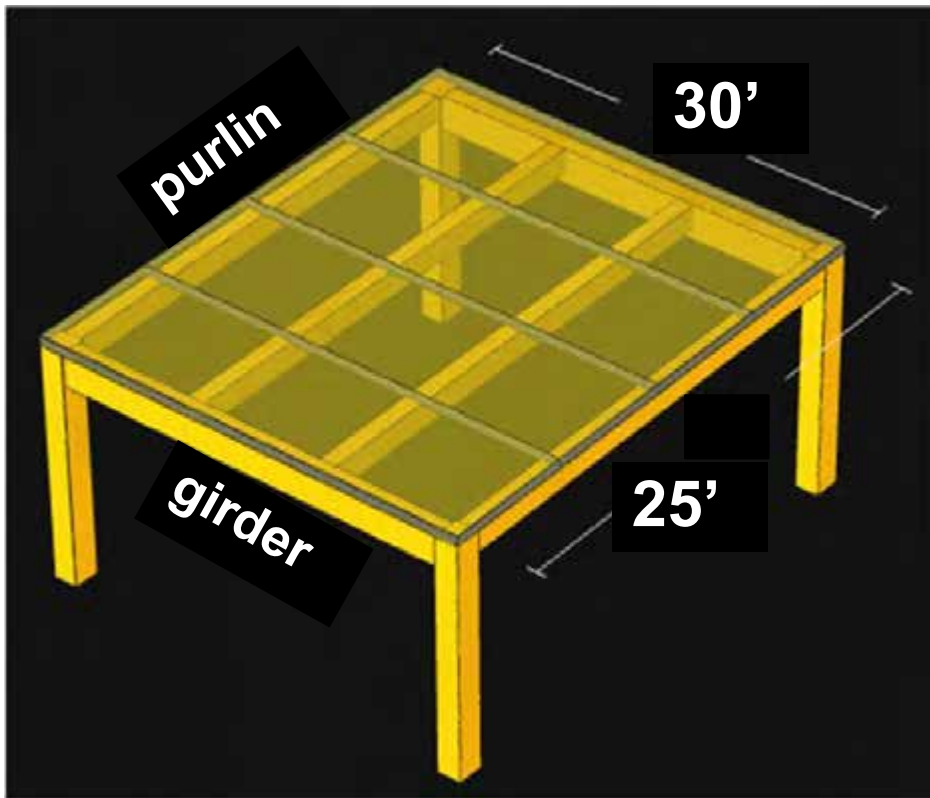
CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

Total volume = 0.74 CF / SF

Cost considerations: One additional beam (one additional erection pick), 2 more connections

# Structural Grid

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IV-HT

0-hr FRR (min sizes per IBC)

Purlin: 5.5"x24" (IBC min = 5"x10.5")

Girder: 8.75"x33" (IBC min = 5"x10.5")

Column: 10.5"x10.75" (IBC min = 6.75"x8.25")

Floor panel: 3-ply (IBC min = 4" CLT)

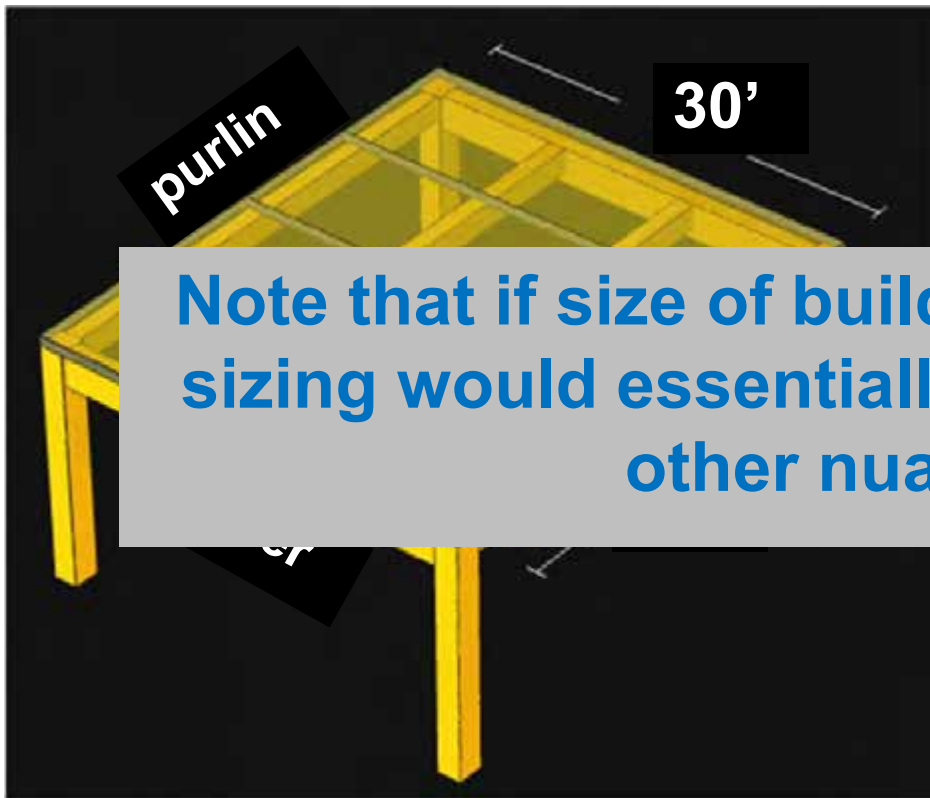
Glulam volume = 120 CF (32% of MT)

CLT volume = 258 CF (68% of MT)

Total volume = 0.51 CF / SF

# Structural Grid

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



## Type IV-HT

0-hr FRR (min sizes per IBC)

Purlin: 5.5"x24" (IBC min = 5"x10.5")

**Note that if size of building had permitted Type IIIB, member sizing would essentially be the same as IV-HT. But there are other nuances between III and IV**

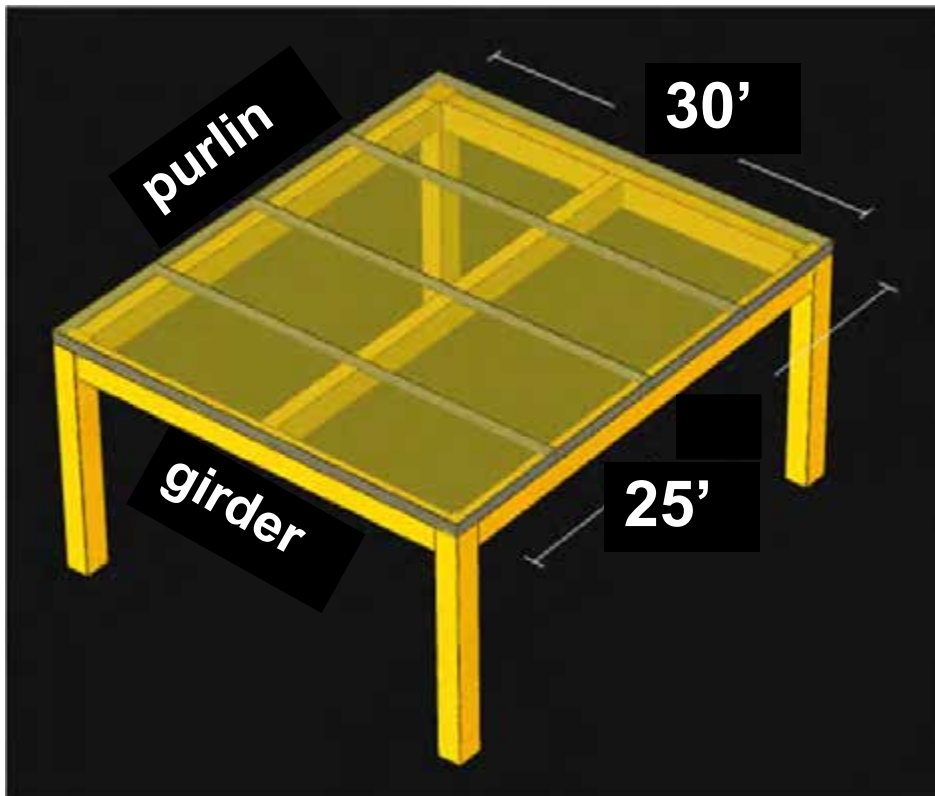
Glulam volume = 120 CF (32% of MT)

CLT volume = 258 CF (68% of MT)

**Total volume = 0.51 CF / SF**

# Structural Grid

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

## Type IV-C

2-hr FRR

Purlin: 8.75"x28.5"

Girder: 10.75"x33"

Column: 13.5"x21.5"

Floor panel: 5-ply

Glulam volume = 183 CF (30% of MT)

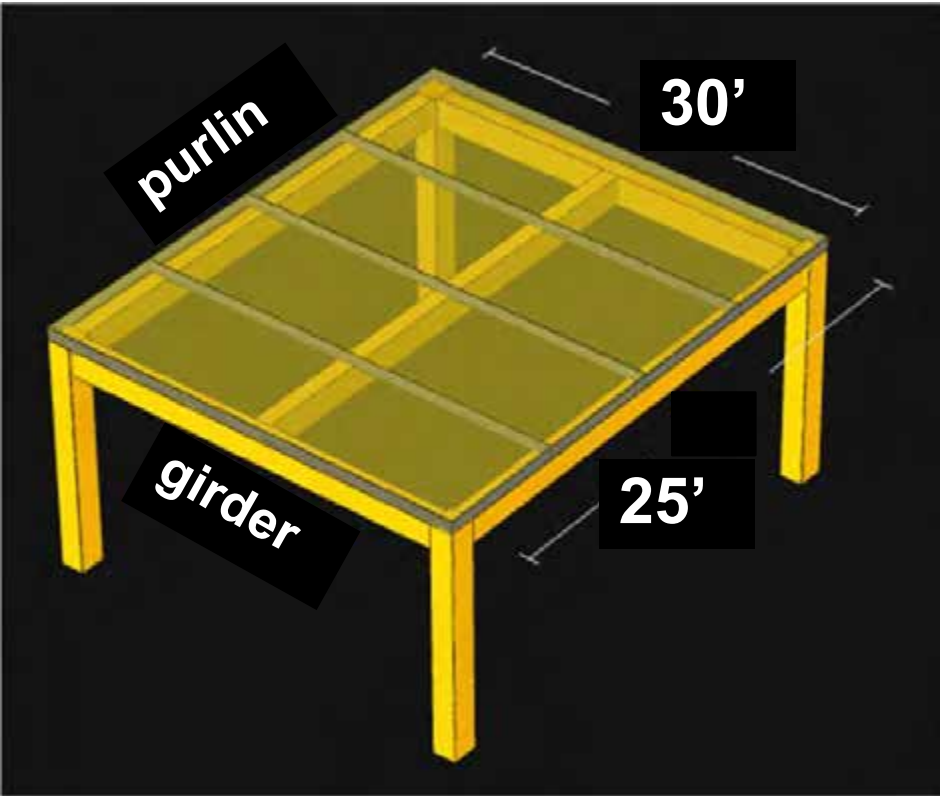
CLT volume = 430 CF (70% of MT)

Total volume = 0.82 CF / SF



# Structural Grid

Which is the most efficient option – 7 story office building



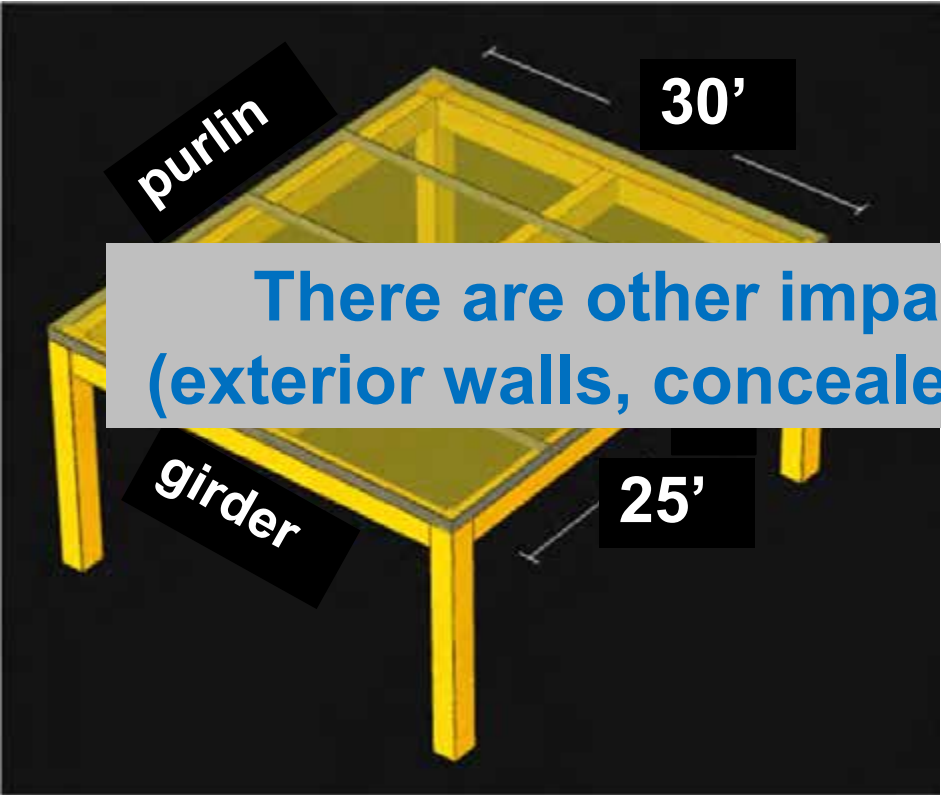
Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

	Timber Volume Ratio	Podium on 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor?
IIIA – Option 1	0.73 CF / SF	Yes
IIIA – Option 2	0.74 CF / SF	Yes
IV-HT	0.51 CF / SF	Yes
IV-C	0.82 CF / SF	No

A general rule of thumb for efficient mass timber fiber volume is no higher than 0.75 CF per SF. Ratios in the 0.85 to 1.0 CF / SF range tend to become cost prohibitive

# Structural Grid

Which is the most efficient option?



There are other impacts of construction type selection (exterior walls, concealed spaces) that should be considered

	Timber Volume Ratio	Podium on 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor?
IIIA – Option 1	0.73 CF / SF	Yes
IV-C	0.82 CF / SF	No

A general rule of thumb for efficient mass timber fiber volume is no higher than 0.75 CF per SF. Ratios in the 0.85 to 1.0 CF / SF range tend to become cost prohibitive

Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

# Structural Grid

## Construction Type Early Decision Example



### 3-story building on college campus

- Mostly Group B occupancy, some assembly (events) space
- NFPA 13 sprinklers throughout
- Floor plate = 7,700 SF
- Total Building Area = 23,100 SF

### Impact of Assembly Occupancy Placement:

Owner originally desires events space on top (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor

- Requires Construction **Type IIIA**

If owner permits moving events space to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

- Could use **Type IIIB**

# Structural Grid

## Construction Type Early Decision Example

3-story building on college campus

### Cost Impact of Assembly Occupancy Placement:



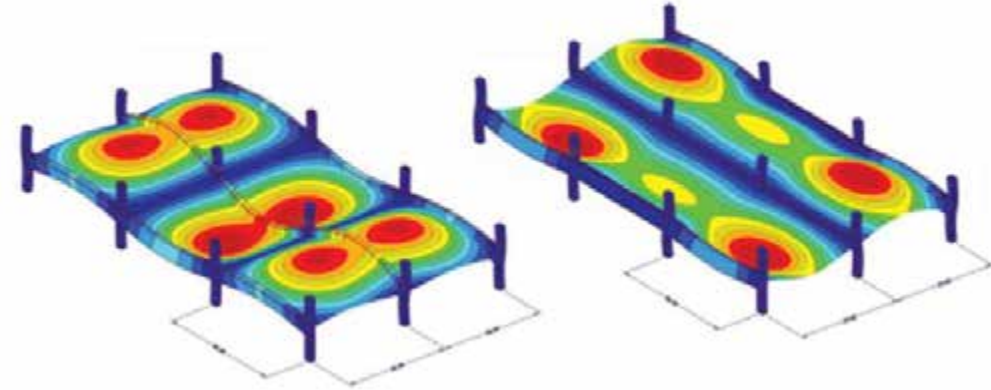
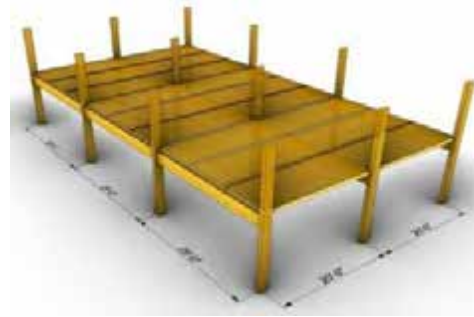
Location of Event Space	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
Construction Type	III-A	III-B
Assembly Group	A-3	A-3
Fire Resistive Rating	1-Hr	0-Hr
Connections	Concealed	Exposed
CLT Panel Thickness	5-Ply	3-Ply
<u>Superstructure Cost/SF</u>	<u>\$65/SF</u>	<u>\$53/SF</u>



Source: PCL Construction

# Structural Grid

## NEW MASS TIMBER FLOOR VIBRATION DESIGN GUIDE



U.S. Mass Timber  
Floor Vibration

**Design Guide**



**Worked office, lab  
and residential  
Examples**

***Covers simple and complex  
methods for bearing wall and  
frame supported floor systems***



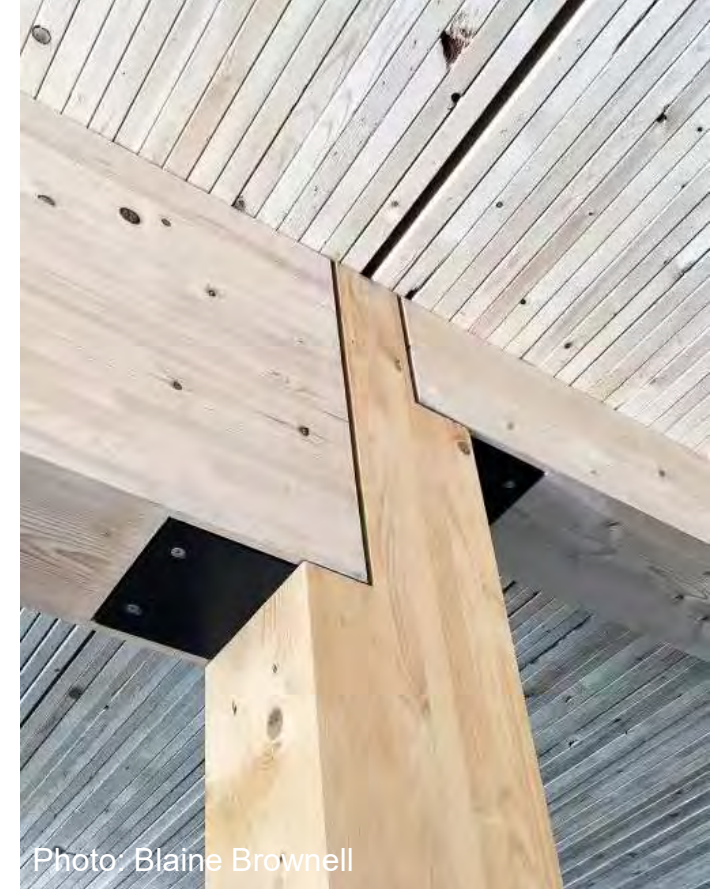
# Connections





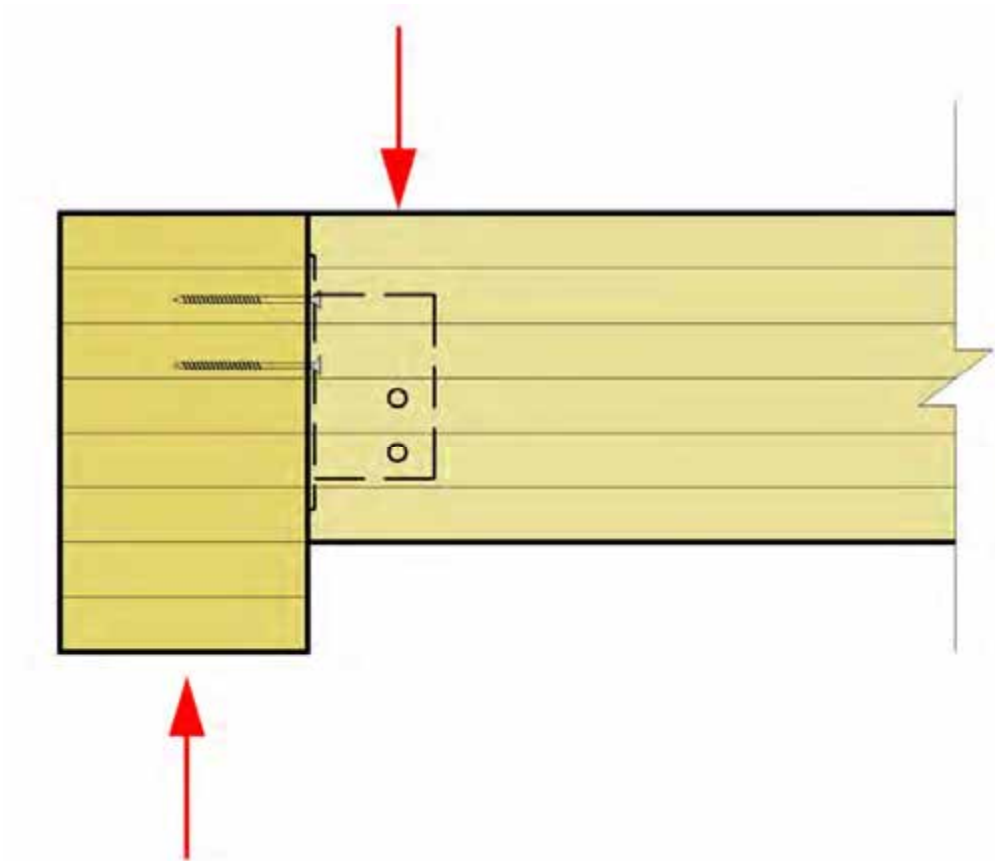
# Connections

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



# Connections

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





# Connections

2017 Glulam Beam to Column Connection Fire Tests under standard ASTM E119 time-temperature exposure



Photo: ARUP/SLB



# Connections

## Softwood Lumber Board Glulam Connection Fire Test Summary Report

Issue | June 5, 2017

Full Report Available at:

<https://www.thinkwood.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/reThink-Wood-Arup-SLB-Connection-Fire-Testing-Summary-web.pdf>

### SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE®

8220 CULEBRA ROAD 78236-5166 • P.O. DRAWER 28510 78228-0510 • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, USA • (210) 884-3111 • WWW.SWRI.ORG

CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DIVISION

FIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
WWW.FIRE.SWRI.ORG  
FAX (210) 522-3377



**FIRE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF A LOAD BEARING  
GLULAM BEAM TO COLUMN CONNECTION, INCLUDING A  
CLT PANEL, TESTED IN GENERAL ACCORDANCE WITH  
ASTM E119-16a, *STANDARD TEST METHODS FOR FIRE TESTS  
OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS***

**FINAL REPORT**  
Consisting of 32 Pages

# Connections

Member to member bearing also commonly used, can avoid some/all steel hardware at connection





# Connections

Member to member bearing also commonly used, can avoid some/all steel hardware at connection



**Style of connection also impacts and is impacted by grid layout and MEP integration**



# Connections



ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN DESIGN  
INTERIOR DESIGN

SWINERTON  
MASS TIMBER

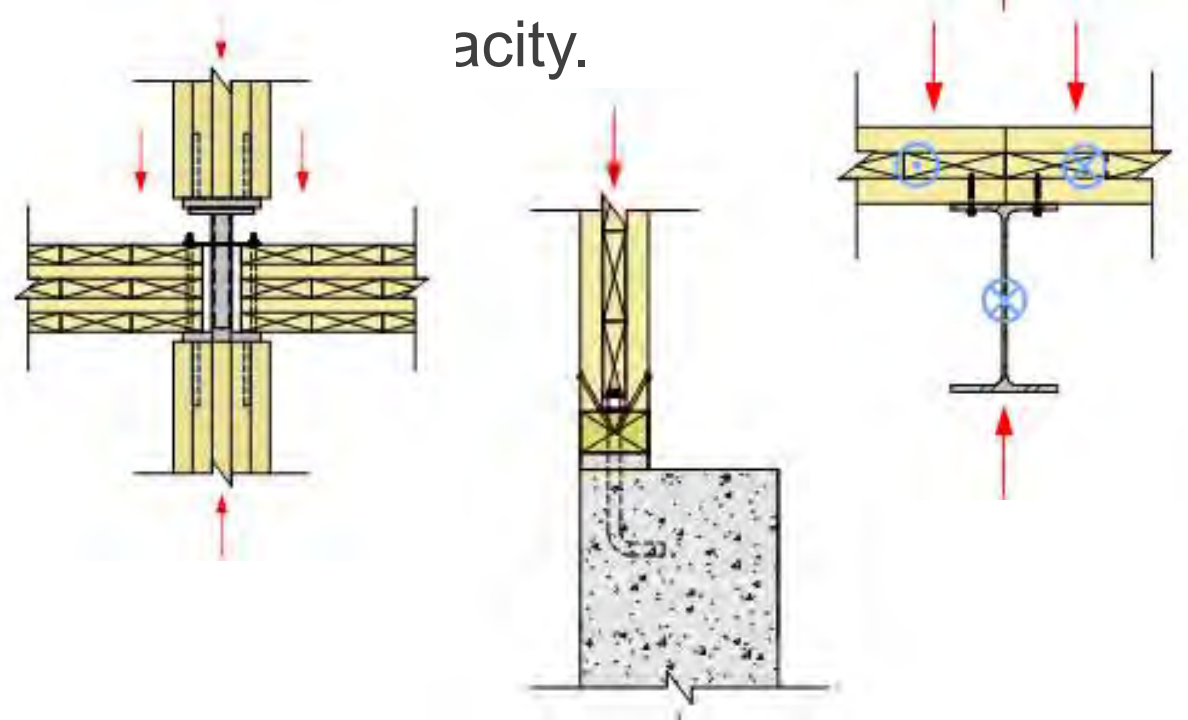


## WoodWorks Index of Mass Timber Connections



## MASS TIMBER CONNECTIONS INDEX

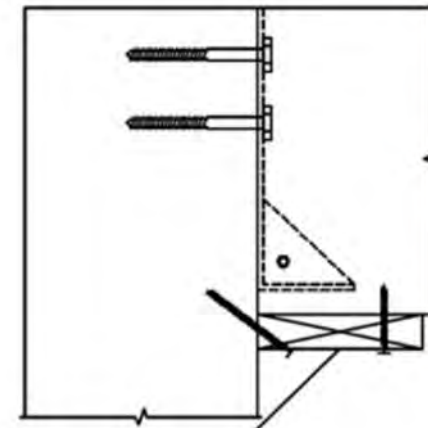
A library of commonly used mass timber connections with designer notes and information on fire resistance, relative cost and load capacity.



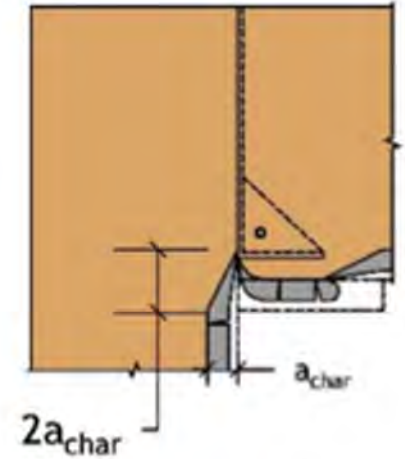
# Connections

**2304.10.1 Connection fire resistance rating.** Fire resistance ratings in Type IV-A, IV-B, or IV-C construction shall be determined by one of the following:

1. Testing in accordance with Section 703.2 where the connection is part of the fire resistance test.
2. Engineering analysis that demonstrates that the temperature rise at any portion of the connection is limited to an average temperature rise of 250° F (139° C), and a maximum temperature rise of 325° F (181° C), for a time corresponding to the required fire resistance rating of the structural element being connected. For the purposes of this analysis, the connection includes connectors, fasteners, and portions of wood members included in the structural design of the connection.



Source: AWC's TR 10





# Connections

## Other connection design considerations:

- Structural capacity
- Shrinkage
- Constructability
- Aesthetics
- Cost



Credit: Alex Schreyer

# Penetrations & Firestopping





# Penetrations & Firestopping

Construction Type Impacts FRR | FRR impacts penetration firestopping requirements

**714.1.1 Ducts and air transfer openings.** Penetrations of fire-resistance-rated walls by ducts that are not protected with *dampers* shall comply with Sections 714.3 through 714.4.3. Penetrations of *horizontal assemblies* not protected with a shaft as permitted by Section 717.6, and not required to be protected with *fire dampers* by other sections of this code, shall comply with Sections 714.5 through 714.6.2. Ducts and air transfer openings that are protected with *dampers* shall comply with Section 717.

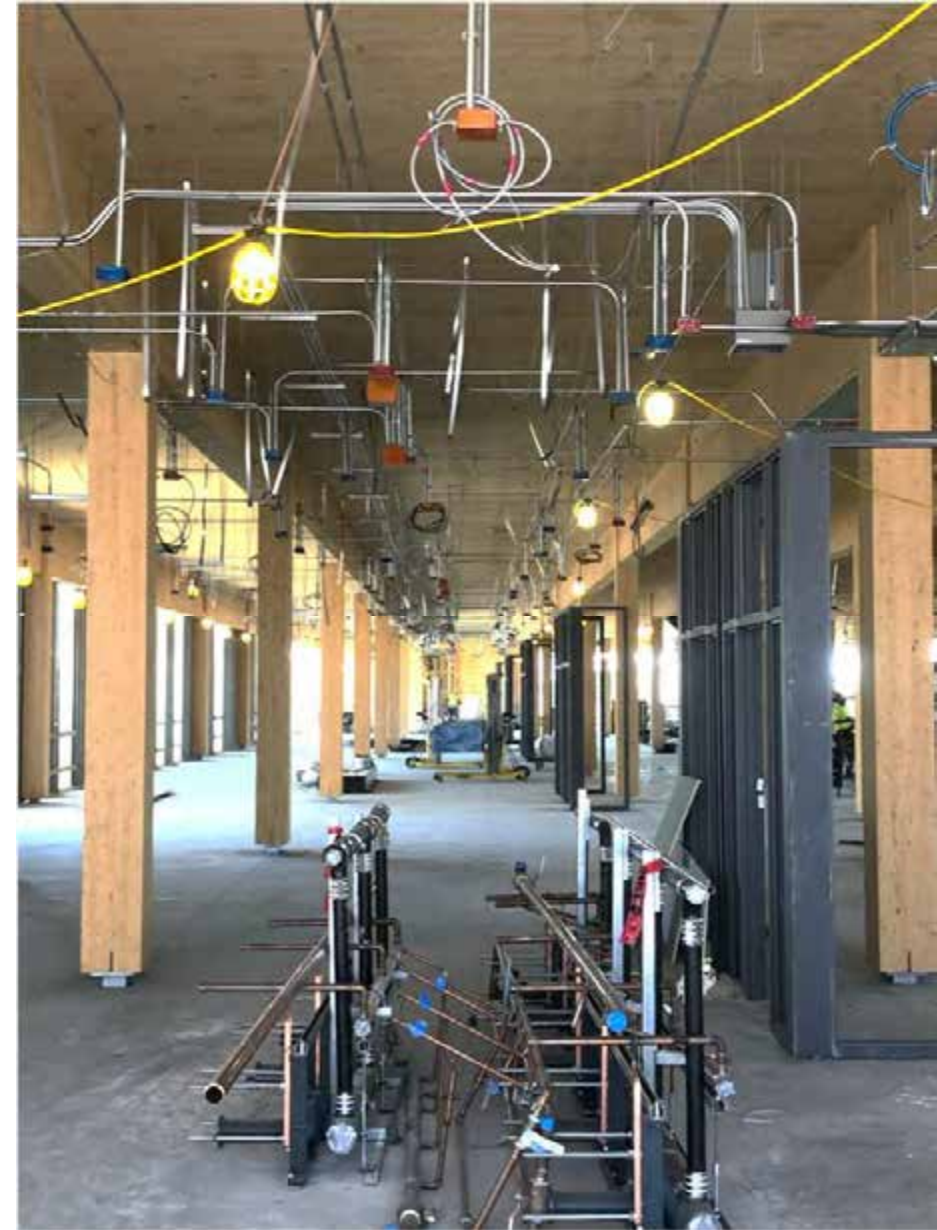


# Penetrations & Firestopping

## Code options for firestopping through penetrations

**714.4.1.1 Fire-resistance-rated assemblies.** *Through penetrations* shall be protected using systems installed as tested in the *approved* fire-resistance-rated assembly.

**714.4.1.2 Through-penetration firestop system.** *Through penetrations* shall be protected by an *approved penetration firestop* system installed as tested in accordance with ASTM E814 or UL 1479, with a minimum positive pressure differential of 0.01 inch (2.49 Pa) of water and shall have an *F rating* of not less than the required *fire-resistance rating* of the wall penetrated.





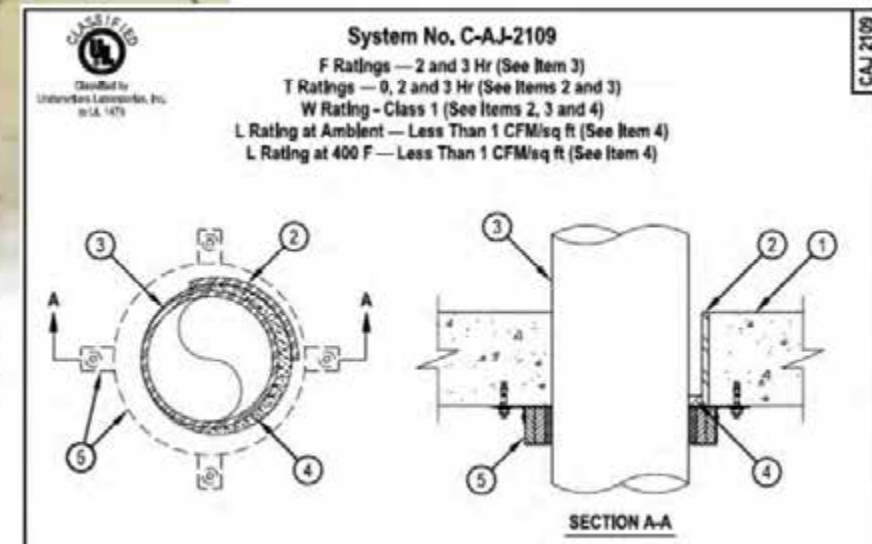
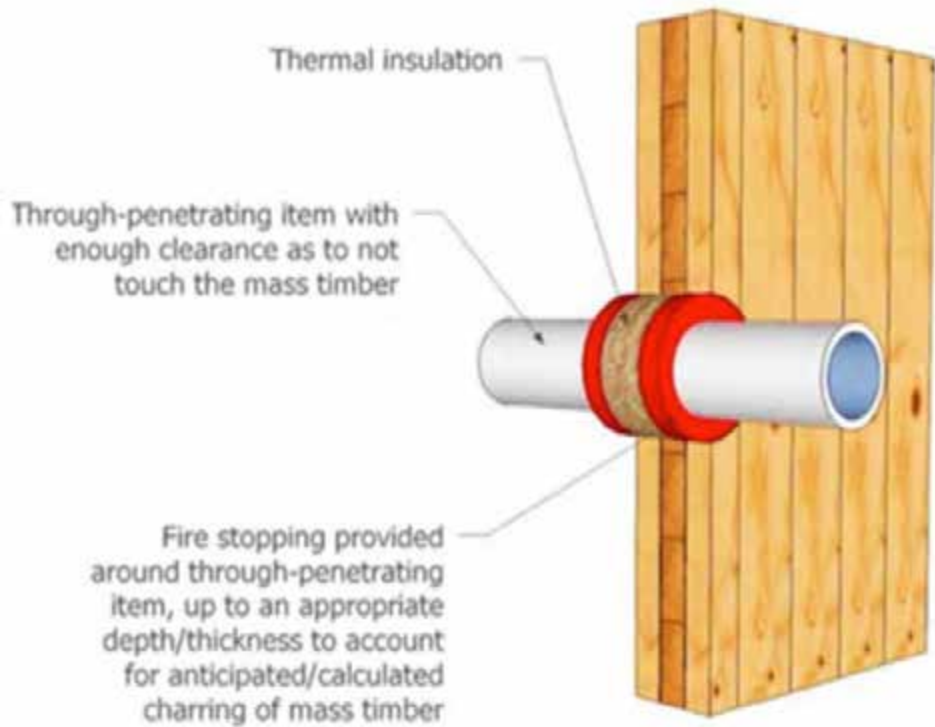
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Option 1: MT penetration firestopping via tested products



# Penetrations & Firestopping

Most firestopping systems include combination of fire safing (eg. noncombustible materials such as mineral wool insulation) plus fire caulk





# Penetrations & Firestopping

## Inventory of Fire Tested Penetrations in MT Assemblies

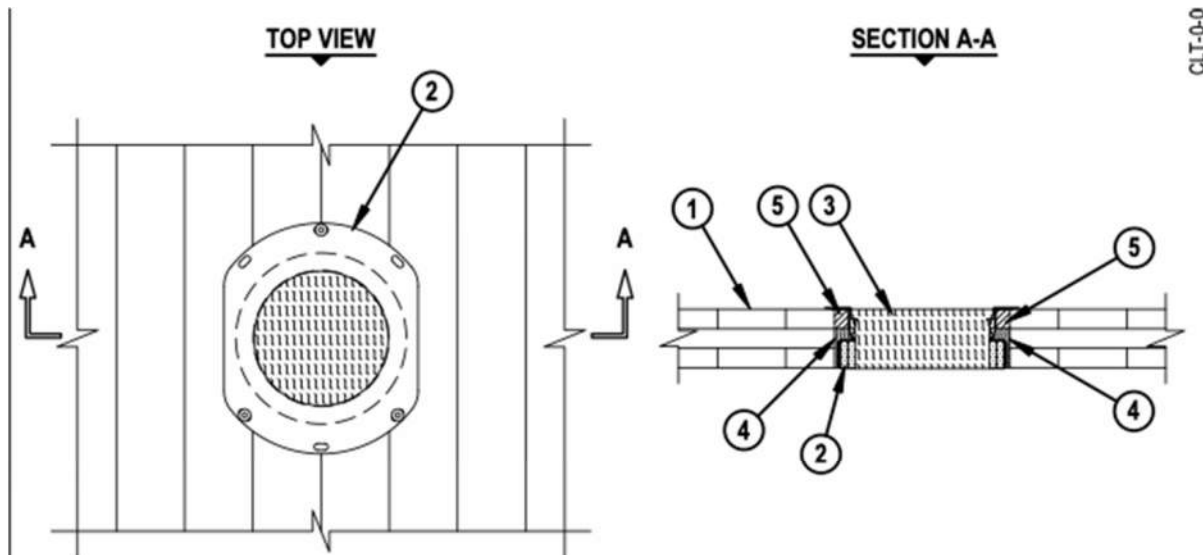


**Table 3: North American Fire Tests of Penetrations and Fire Stops in CLT Assemblies**

CLT Panel	Exposed Side Protection	Penetrating Item	Penetrant Centered or Offset in Hole	Firestopping System Description	F Rating	T Rating	Stated Test Protocol	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	1.5" diameter data cable bunch	Centered	3.5 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the data cables to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	0.5 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	2" copper pipe	Centered	4.375 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the copper pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	2.5" sched. 40 pipe	Centered	4.92 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the schedule 40 pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	6" cast iron pipe	Centered	8.35 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the cast iron pipe to a total depth of approximately 2 – 5/64 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
3-ply (78mm 3.07")	None	Hilti 6 in drop in device. System No.: F-B-2049	Centered	9.01" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 – 1/4 in. annular space around the drop-in device to a total depth of approximately 1 – 7/64 in and the remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top edge of the 9 – 1/64 in. hole in the CLT was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	1 hour	0.75 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	1.5" diameter data cable bunch	Centered	3.5" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the data cables to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	1.5 hours	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	2" copper pipe	Centered	4.375 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the copper pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the mineral wool to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	2.5" sched. 40 pipe	Centered	4.92 in diameter hole. Pipe wrap was installed around the schedule 40 pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	0.5 hour	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	6" cast iron pipe	Centered	8.35 in diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 in. annular space around the cast iron pipe to a total depth of approximately 4 – 5/32 in. The remaining 1 in. annular space starting at the top of the pipe wrap to the top of the floor assembly was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	NA.	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply CLT (131mm 5.16")	None	Hilti 6 in drop in device. System No.: F-B-2049	Centered	9.01" diameter hole. Mineral wool was installed in the 1 – 1/4 in. annular space around the drop-in device to a total depth of approximately 1 – 7/64 in and the remaining 1 in. annular space from the top of the mineral wool to the top edge of the 9 – 1/64 in. hole in the CLT was filled with Hilti FS-One Max caulking.	2 hours	1.5 hours	CANULC S115	26	Intertek March 30, 2016
5-ply (175mm 6.875")	None	1" nominal PVC pipe	Centered	4.21 in diameter with a 3/4 in plywood reducer flush with the top of the slab reducing the opening to 2.28 in. Two wraps of Hilti CP 648-E W45/1-3/4" Firestop wrap strip at two locations with a 30 gauge steel sleeve which extended from the top of the slab to 1 in below the slab. The first location was with the bottom of the wrap strip flush with the bottom of the steel sleeve and the second was with the bottom of the wrap strip 3 in. from the bottom of the slab. The void between the steel sleeve and the CLT and between the steel sleeve and pipe at the top was filled with Roxul Safe mineral wool leaving a 3/4 in deep void at the top of the assembly. Hilti FS-One Max Intumescent Firestop Sealant was applied to a depth of 3/4 in on the top of the assembly between the plywood and steel sleeve as well as the steel sleeve and pipe.	2 hours	2 hours	ASTM E814	24	QAI Laboratories March 3, 2017

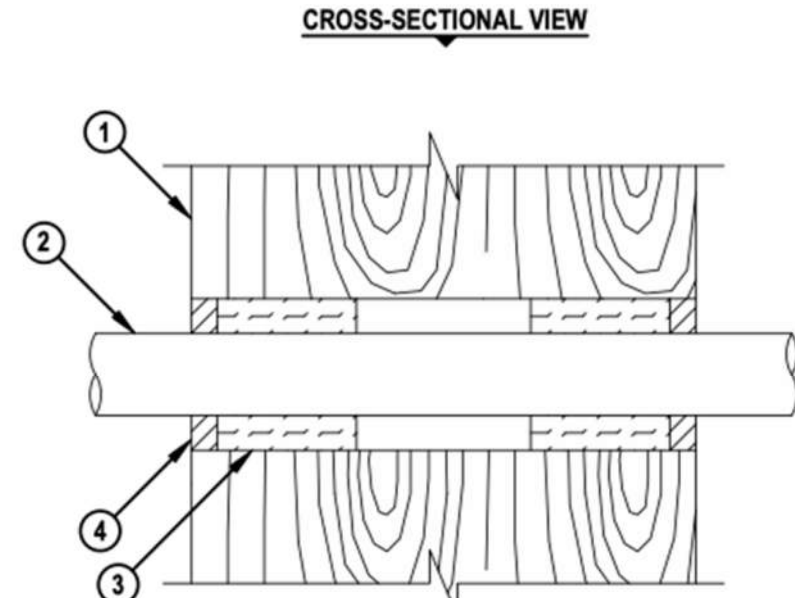
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Option 2: MT penetration firestopping of penetrations via engineering judgement details (contact firestop manufacturer)



1. 3-PLY CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER FLOOR ASSEMBLY (MINIMUM 3" THICK) (1-HR. FIRE-RATING).
2. HILTI CFS-DID FIRESTOP DROP-IN DEVICE INSERTED INTO OPENING (SEE TABLE BELOW) AND SECURED TO TOP SURFACE OF CROSS LAMINATED TIMBER FLOOR ASSEMBLY WITH THREE 1/4" x 1" LONG STEEL WOOD SCREWS WITH WASHERS.
3. MINIMUM 3" THICKNESS MINERAL WOOL (MIN. 4 PCF DENSITY) TIGHTLY PACKED, AND FLUSH WITH TOP AND BOTTOM SURFACE OF CFS-DID FIRESTOP DROP-IN DEVICE.
4. MINERAL WOOL (MIN. 4 PCF DENSITY) TIGHTLY PACKED, RECESSED TO ACCOMMODATE SEALANT, AND COMPLETELY FILLING SPACE BETWEEN CFS-DID FIRESTOP DROP-IN DEVICE AND PERIPHERY OF OPENING.
5. MINIMUM 1" DEPTH HILTI FS-ONE MAX INTUMESCENT FIRESTOP SEALANT BETWEEN CFS-DID FIRESTOP DROP IN DEVICE AND PERIPHERY OF OPENING.

F-RATING = 1-HR. OR 2-HR. (SEE NOTE NO. 3 BELOW)



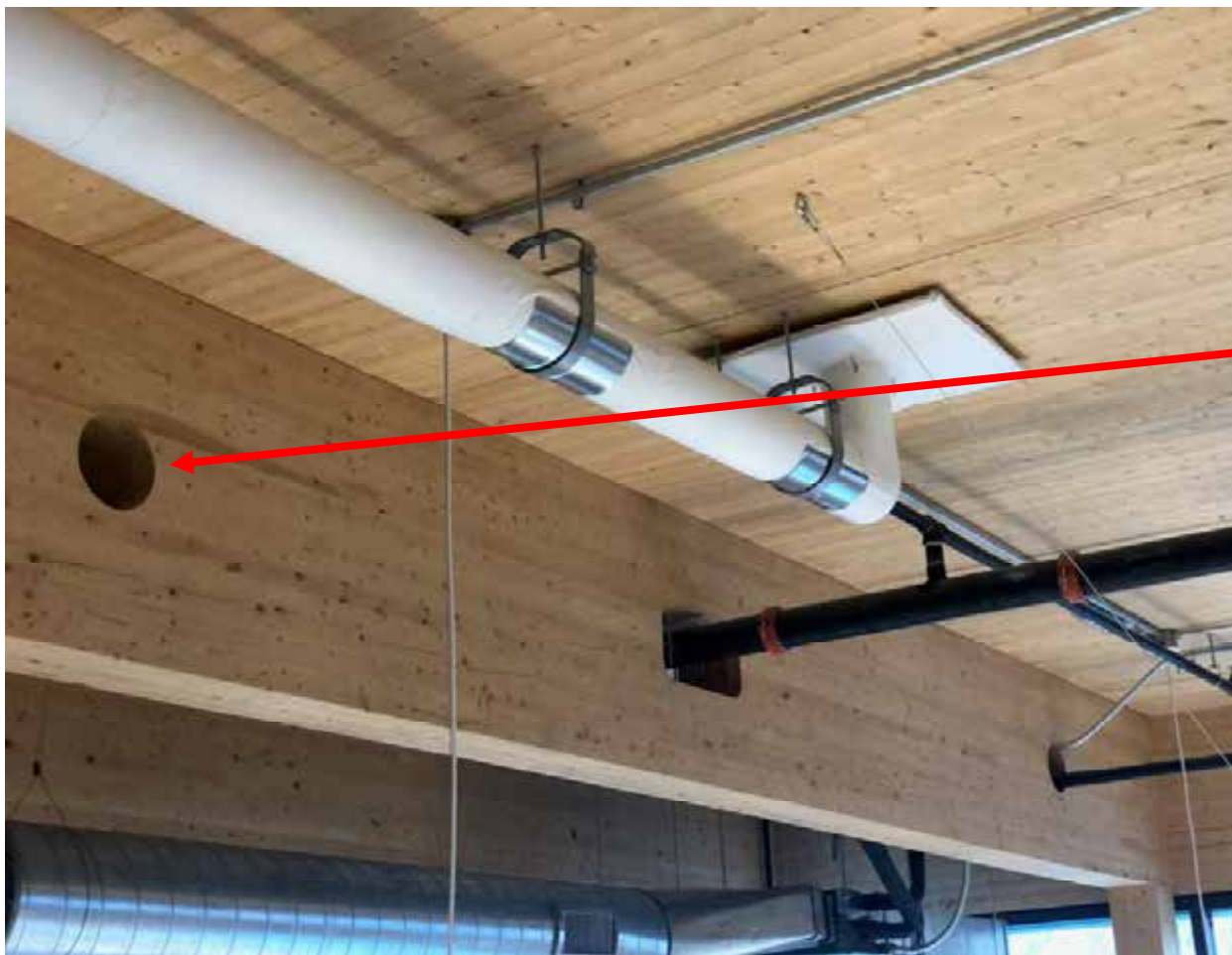
1. MASS TIMBER WALL ASSEMBLY (MINIMUM 12" THICK) (1-HR. OR 2-HR. FIRE-RATING).
2. MAXIMUM 2" NOMINAL DIAMETER PVC PLASTIC PIPE (SCH 40).
3. MINIMUM 4" THICKNESS MINERAL WOOL (MIN. 4 PCF DENSITY) TIGHTLY PACKED AND RECESSED TO ACCOMMODATE SEALANT.
4. MINIMUM 3/4" DEPTH HILTI FS-ONE MAX INTUMESCENT FIRESTOP SEALANT.



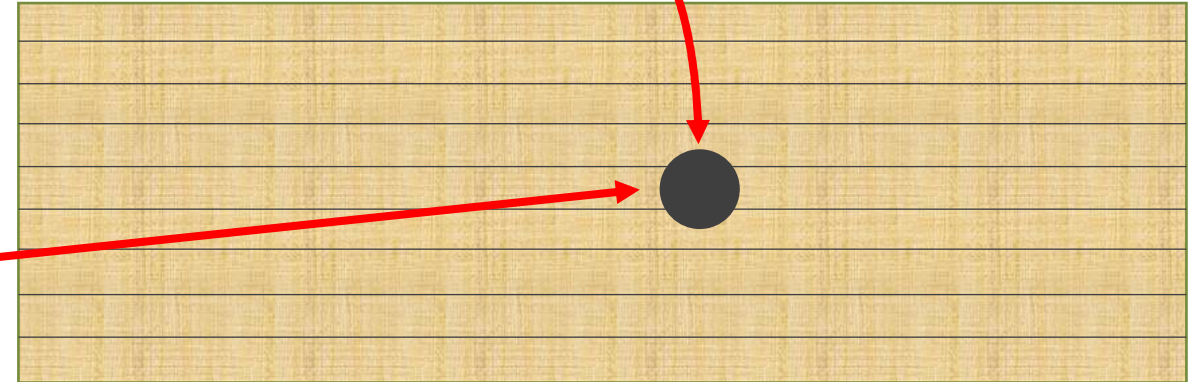
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Beam penetrations:

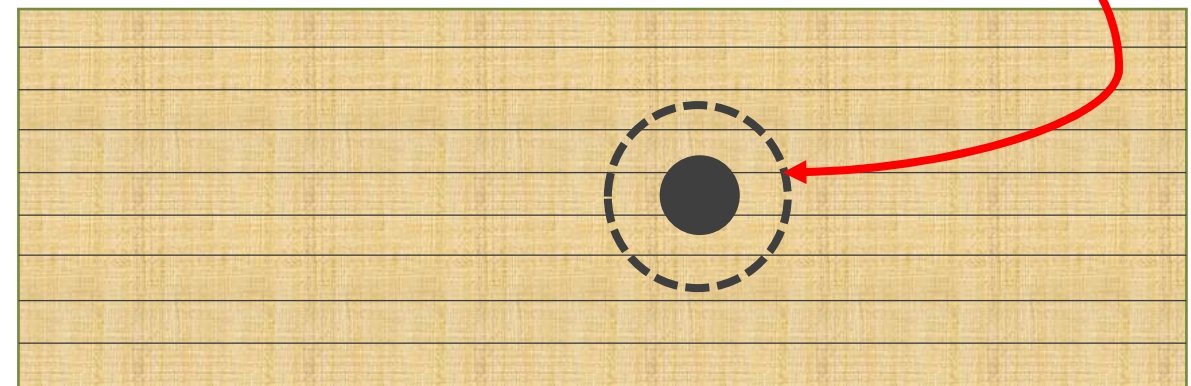
- If FRR = 0-hr, analyze structural impact of hole diameter only
- If FRR > 0-hr, account for charred hole diameter or firestop penetration



Hole diameter



Hole diameter after 1-hr char



# Acoustics & Sound Control

Consider Impacts of:

- Timber & Topping Thickness
- Panel Layout
- Gapped Panels
- Connections & Penetrations
- MEP Layout & Type



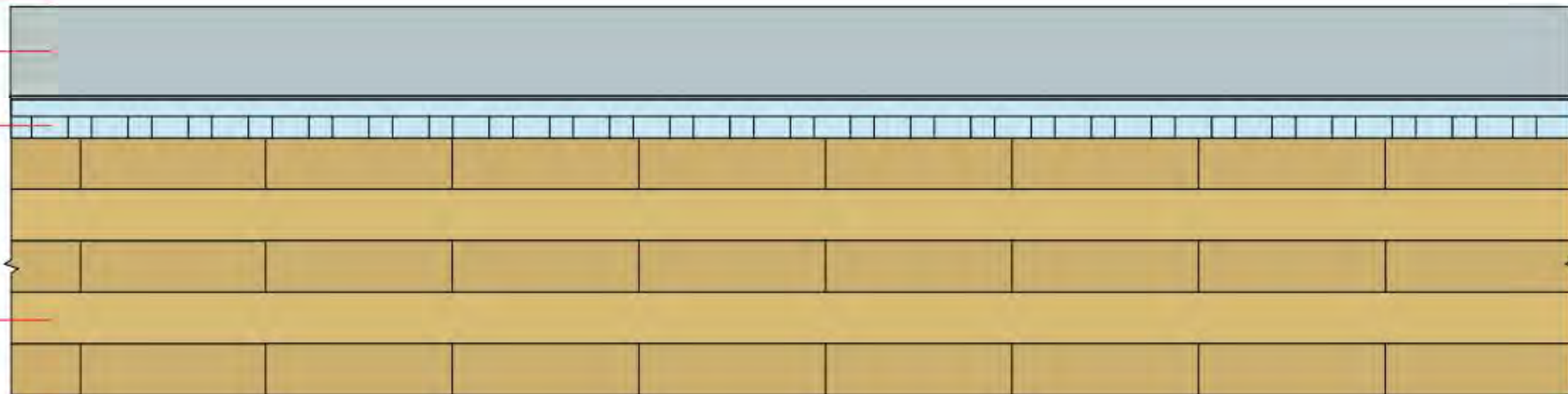
Credit: Rothoblaas

# Acoustics & Sound Control



Images: Maxxon

- Finish Floor if Applicable
- Concrete/Gypsum Topping
- Acoustical Mat Product
- CLT Panel
- No direct applied or hung ceiling



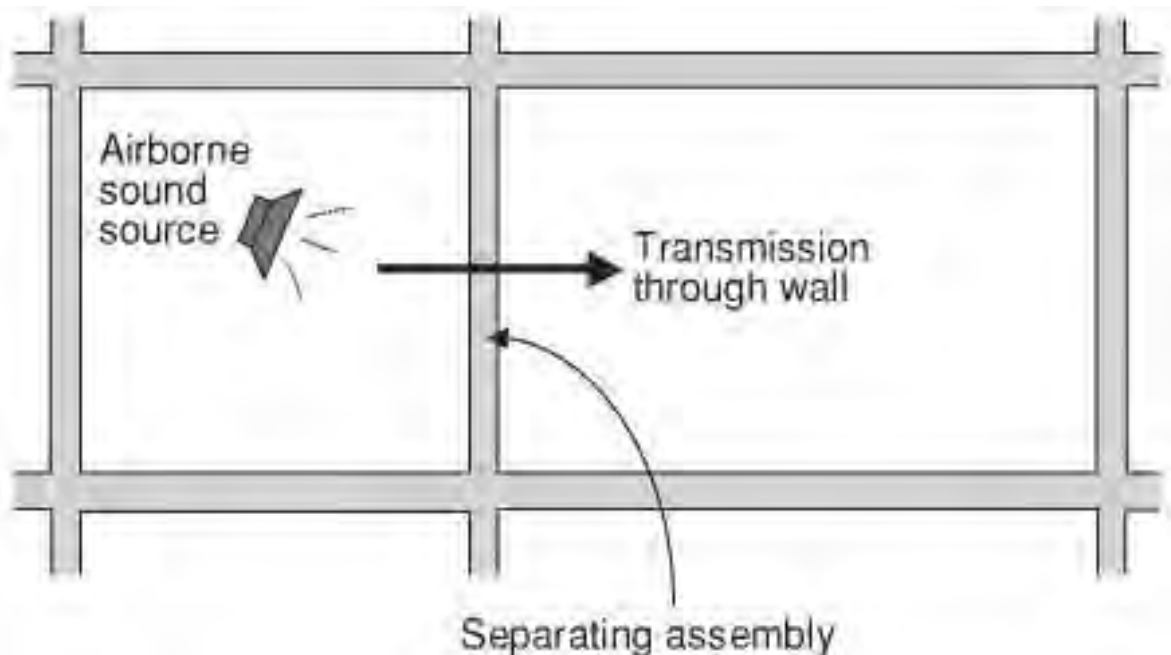


# Acoustics & Sound Control

## 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

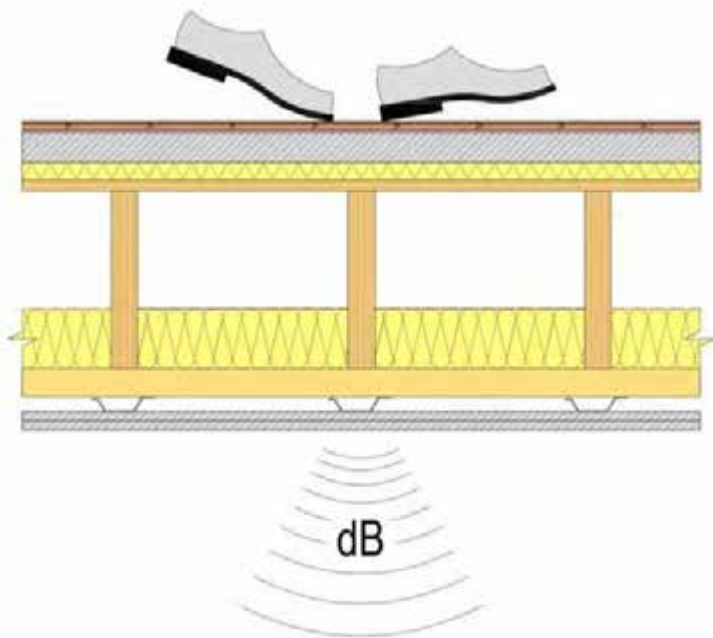


# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Structure-borne sound:

### Impact Insulation Class (IIC)

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





# Acoustics & Sound Control

Code requirements only address residential occupancies:

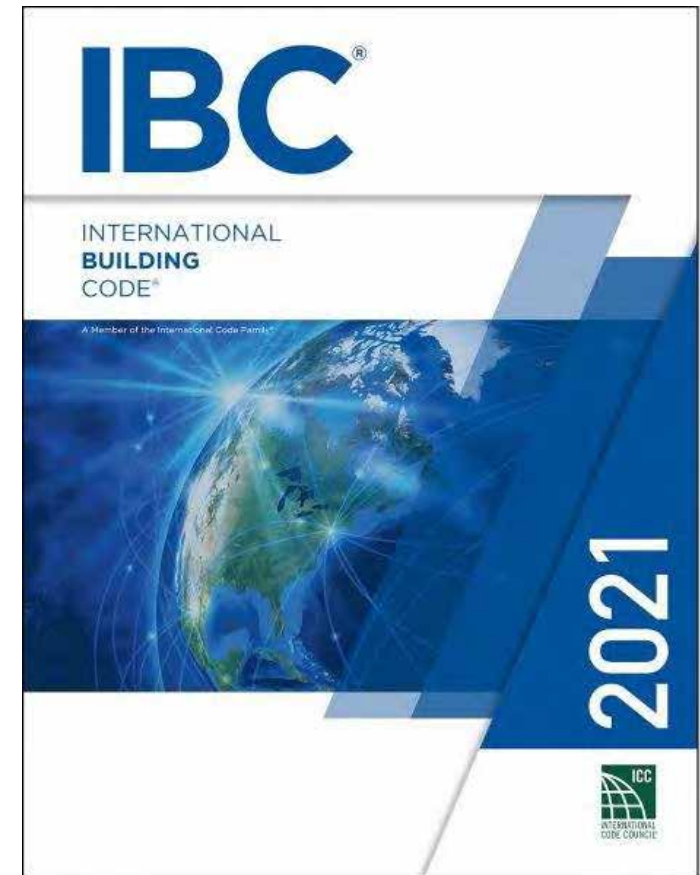
For unit to unit or unit to public or service areas:

**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



# Acoustics & Sound Control

**TABLE 1:**  
**Examples of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Panels**

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

*Source: Inventory of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Assemblies, WoodWorks<sup>7</sup>*

# Acoustics & Sound Control

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

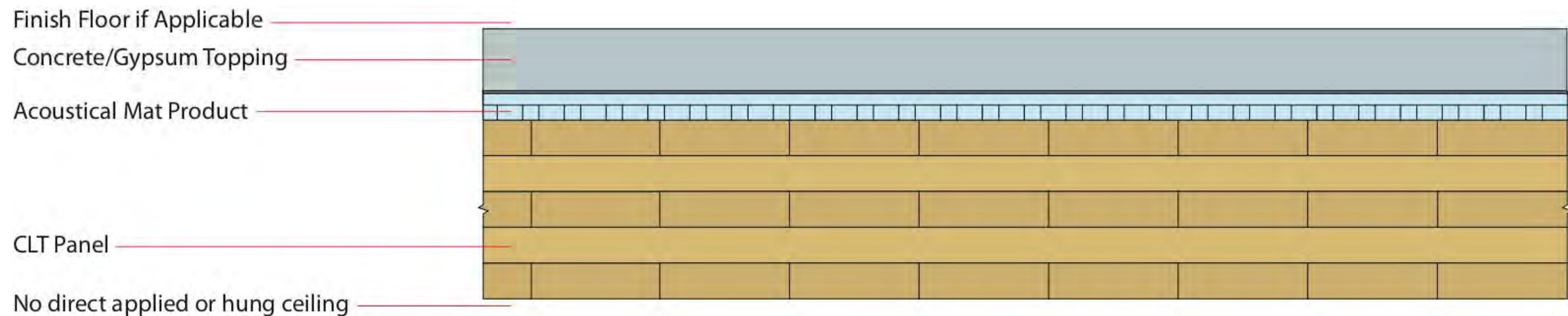


1. Add mass



2. Add noise barriers

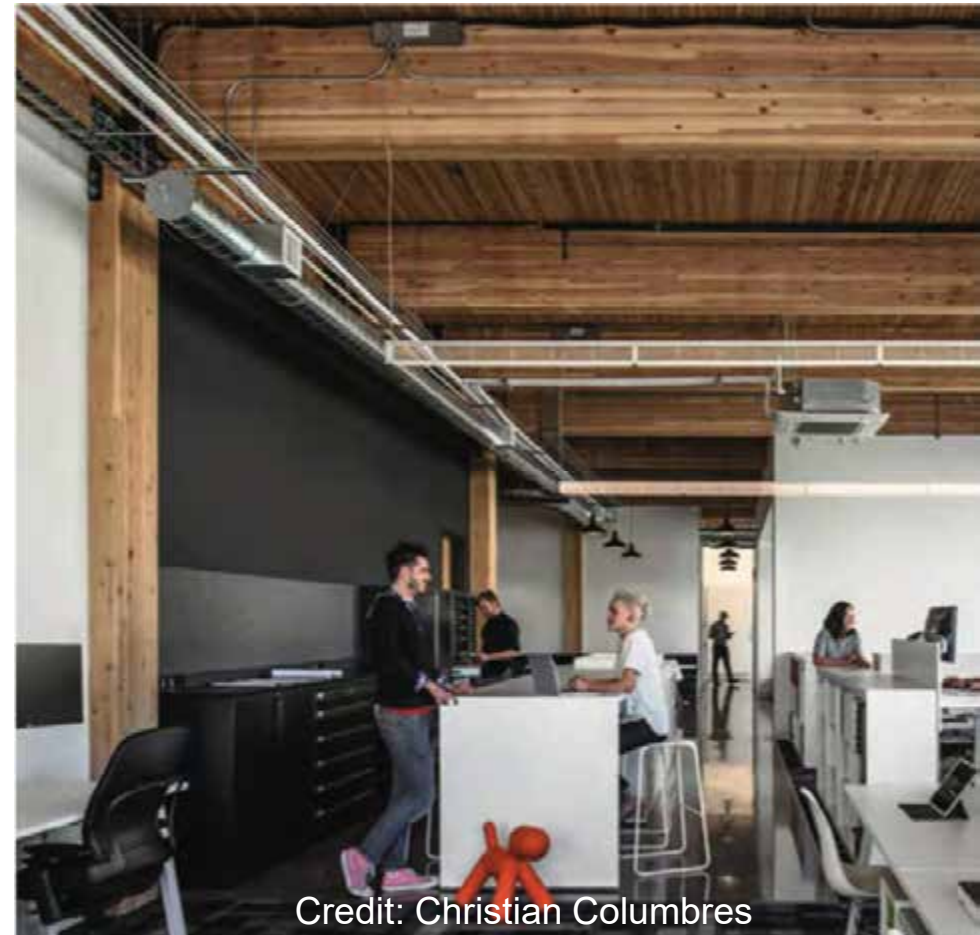
3. Add decouplers



# Acoustics & Sound Control

**Mass timber has relatively low “mass”**

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



Credit: Christian Columbres

# Acoustics & Sound Control



Concrete Slab:

6" Thick

80 PSF

STC 53



CLT Slab:

6-7/8" Thick

18 PSF

STC 41





# Acoustics & Sound Control

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  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1"+



Credit: Maxxon

# Acoustics & Sound Control

Acoustical floor underlayments

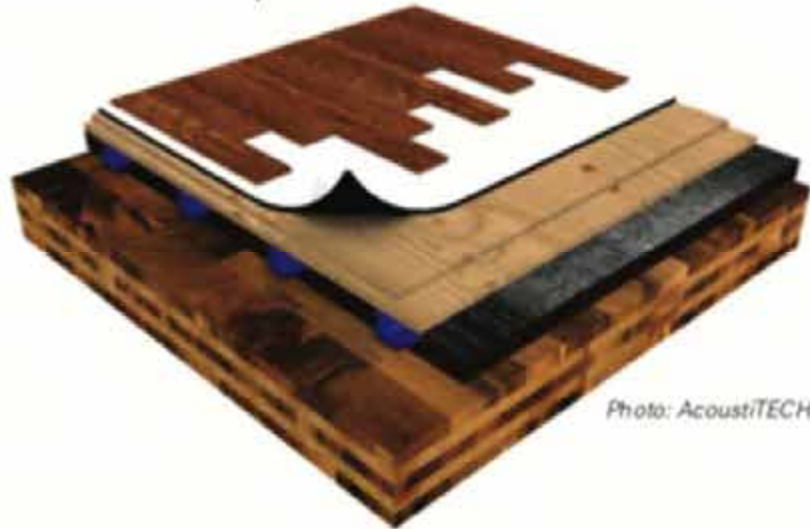


Photo: AcoustiTECH™



Photo: Kinetics Noise Control, Inc.,<sup>11</sup>



Photo: Maxxon Corporation



Photo: Pileq Inc.,<sup>12</sup>

# Acoustics & Sound Control

## 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





# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Solutions Paper



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

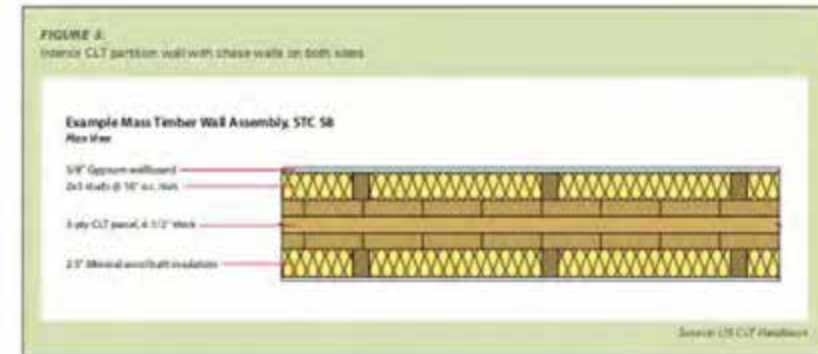
Richard McLaren, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks



T3 Minnesota  
Architect: MSA | Michael (Dick) Ash/Jacobs, DOR Group  
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Karmali Architects  
Design Partner • Built: StructureCore

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.



#### 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\"/>

#### 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 dovetail-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 bearing 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.



Acoustical isolation strips

Photo: Karmali

# Acoustics & Sound Control

## 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](mailto:help@woodworks.org) or contact the [WoodWorks](#) Regional Director nearest you: <http://www.woodworks.org/project-assistance>

#### Contents:

Table 1: CLT Floor Assemblies with Concrete/Gypsum Topping, Ceiling Side Exposed .....	2
Table 2: CLT Floor Assemblies without Concrete/Gypsum Topping, Ceiling Side Exposed.....	7
Table 3: CLT Floor Assemblies without Concrete/Gypsum Topping, with Wood Sleepers, Ceiling Side Exposed .....	9
Table 4: NLT, GLT & T&G Decking Floor Assemblies, Ceiling Side Exposed.....	11
Table 5: Mass Timber Floor Assemblies with Ceiling Side Concealed.....	14
Table 6: Single CLT Wall .....	21
Table 7: Single NLT Wall .....	26
Table 8: Double CLT Wall .....	29
Sources.....	32
Disclaimer .....	34



# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Inventory of Tested Assemblies

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



<div><div>Finish Floor if Applicable</div><div>Concrete/Gypsum Topping</div><div>Acoustical Mat Product</div><div>CLT Panel</div><div>No direct applied or hung ceiling</div></div>						
CLT Panel	Concrete/Gypsum Topping	Acoustical Mat Product Between CLT and Topping	Finish Floor	STC <sup>1</sup>	IIC <sup>1</sup>	Source
CLT 5-ply (6.875")	1-1/2" Gyp-Crete*	Maxxon Acousti-Mat® 3/4	None	47 <sup>2</sup> ASTC	47 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	1
			LVT	-	49 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
			Carpet + Pad	-	75 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top*	-	52 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
			Eng Wood on Acousti-Top*	-	51 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
		Maxxon Acousti-Mat® ¾ Premium	None	49 <sup>2</sup> ASTC	45 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
			LVT	-	47 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top*	-	49 <sup>2</sup> AIIC	
	1-1/2" Levelrock*	USG SAM N25 Ultra	None	45 <sup>6</sup>	39 <sup>6</sup>	15
			LVT	48 <sup>6</sup>	47 <sup>6</sup>	16
			LVT Plus	48 <sup>6</sup>	49 <sup>6</sup>	58
			Eng Wood	47 <sup>6</sup>	47 <sup>6</sup>	59
			Carpet + Pad	45 <sup>6</sup>	67 <sup>6</sup>	60
			Ceramic Tile	50 <sup>6</sup>	46 <sup>6</sup>	61
			None	45 <sup>6</sup>	42 <sup>6</sup>	15
			LVT	48 <sup>6</sup>	44 <sup>6</sup>	16

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### **7-story, 84 ft tall multi-family building**

- Parking & Retail on 1<sup>st</sup> floor, residential units on floors 2-7
- NFPA 13 sprinklers throughout
- Floor plate = 18,000 SF
- Total Building Area = 126,000 SF



Credit: Monte French Design Studio

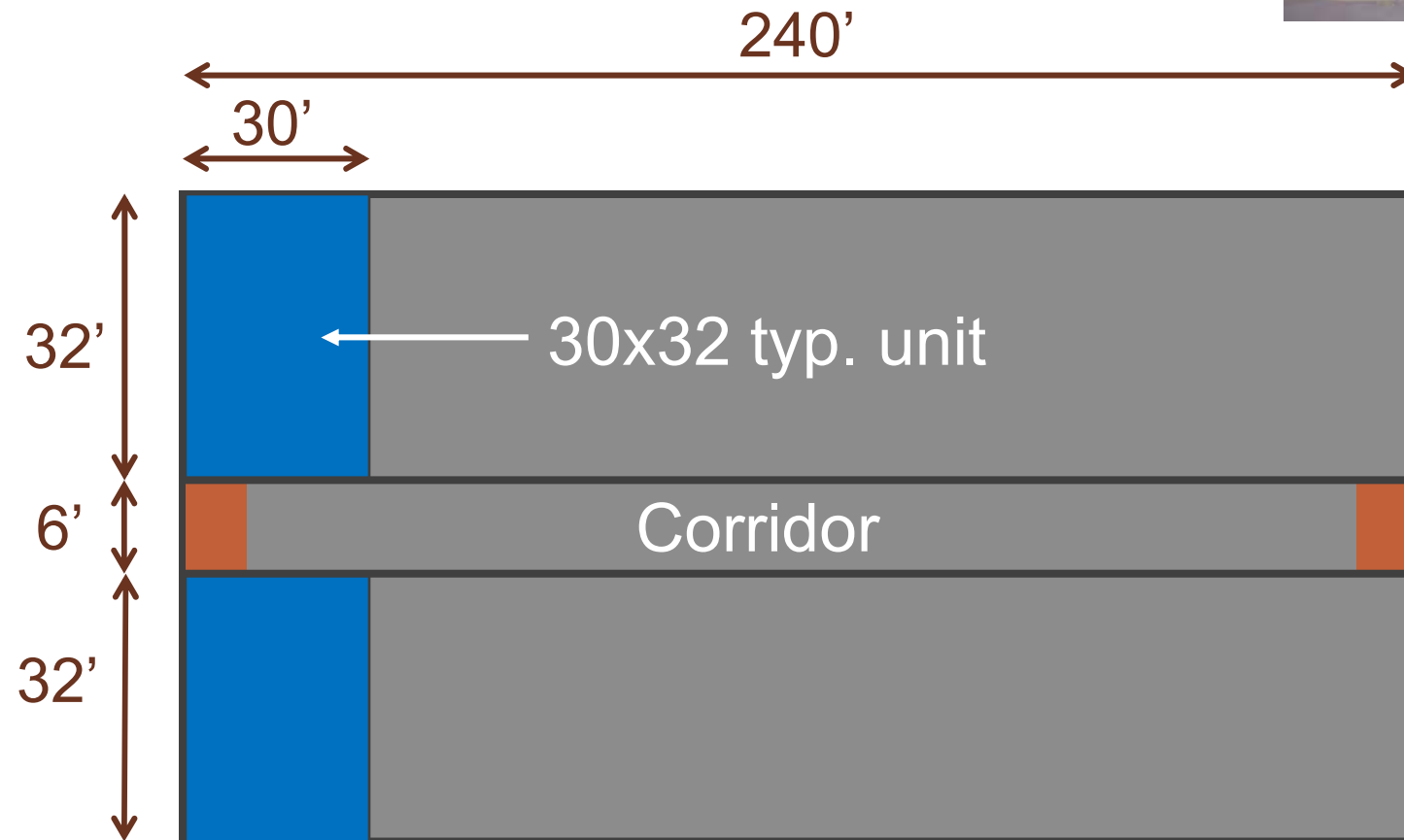


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

7-story, multi-family building, typ. floor plan:

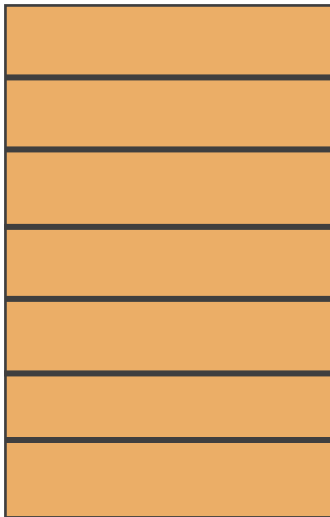


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium





# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example



Credit: Monte French Design Studio

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium

### Implications of Type IV-C:

- 2 hr FRR, all exposed floor panels, beams, columns
- Likely will need at least 5-ply CLT / 2x6 NLT/DLT
- Efficient spans in the 14-17 ft range
- Efficient grids of that or multiples of that (i.e. 30x25, etc)
- No podium required
- CLT exterior walls permitted
- Materials are mass timber or non-combustible (no light-frame wood permitted!)

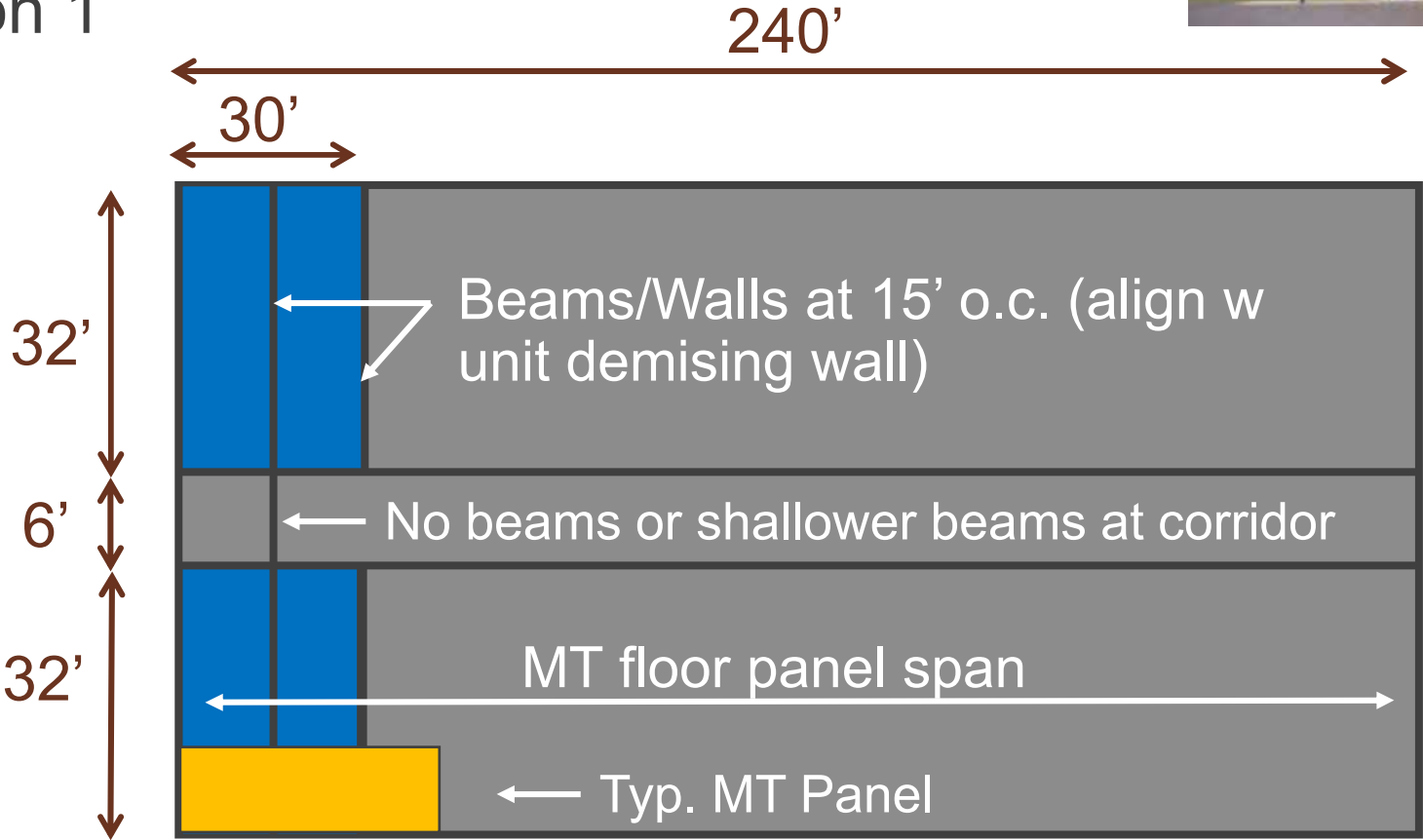


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

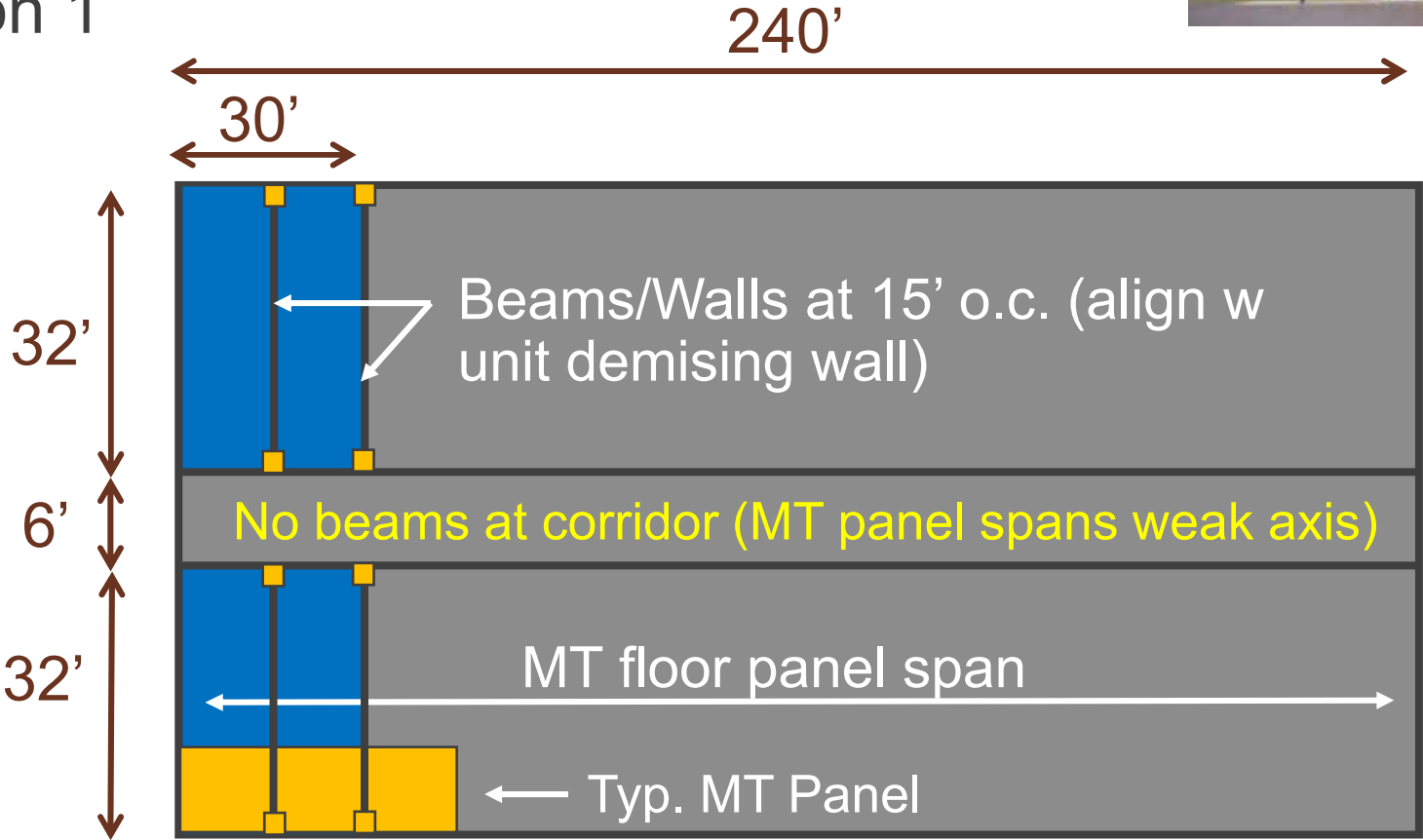


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

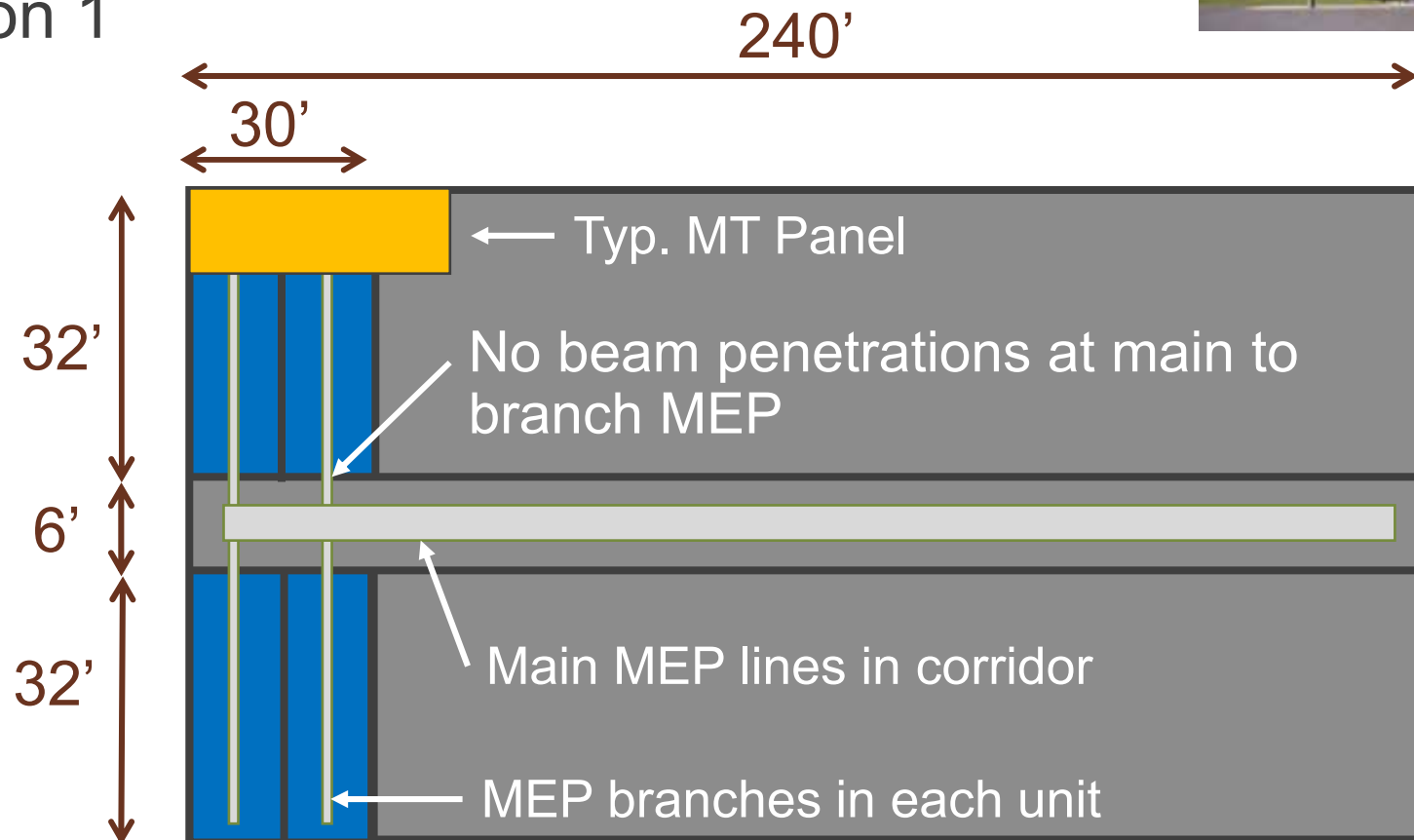


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

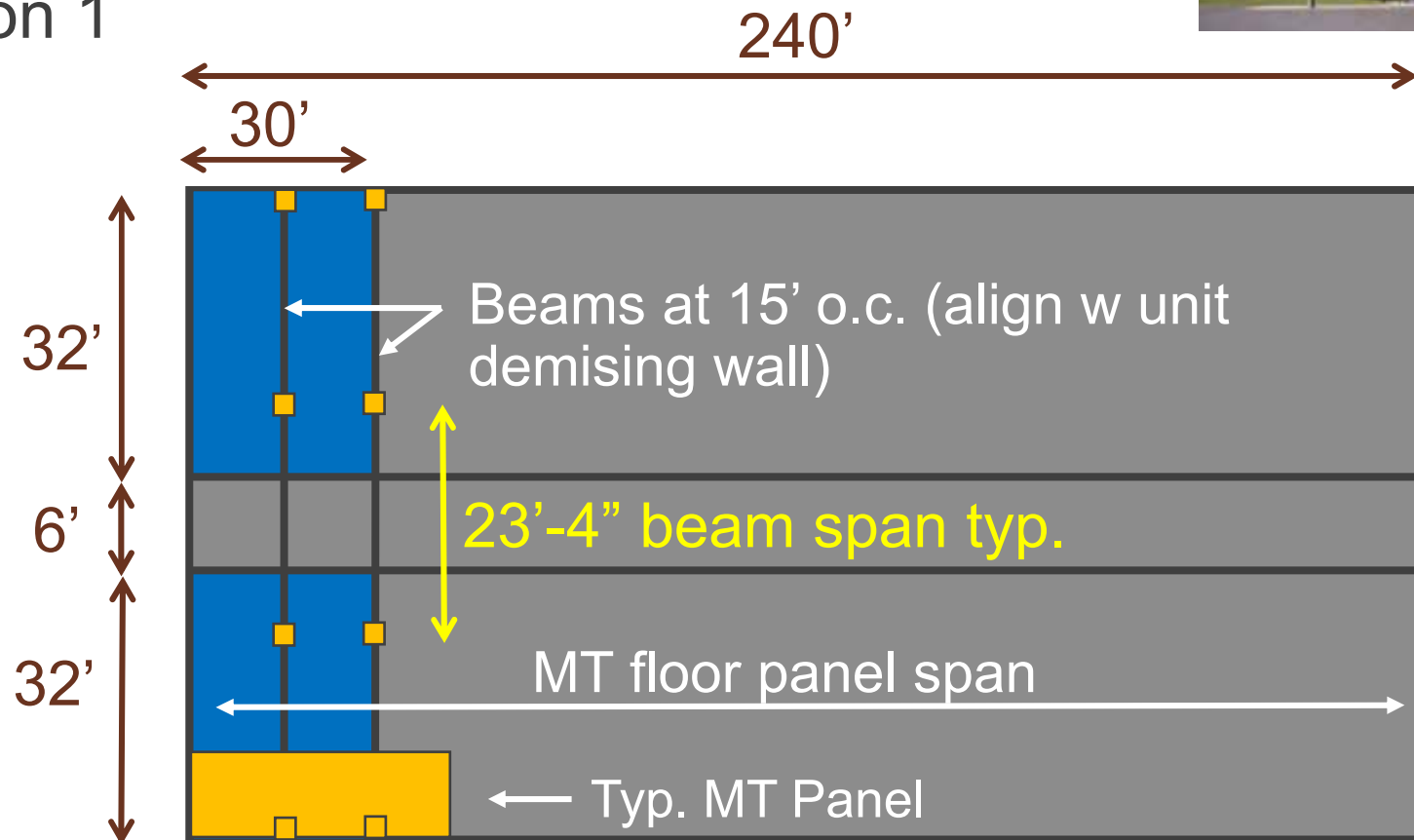


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

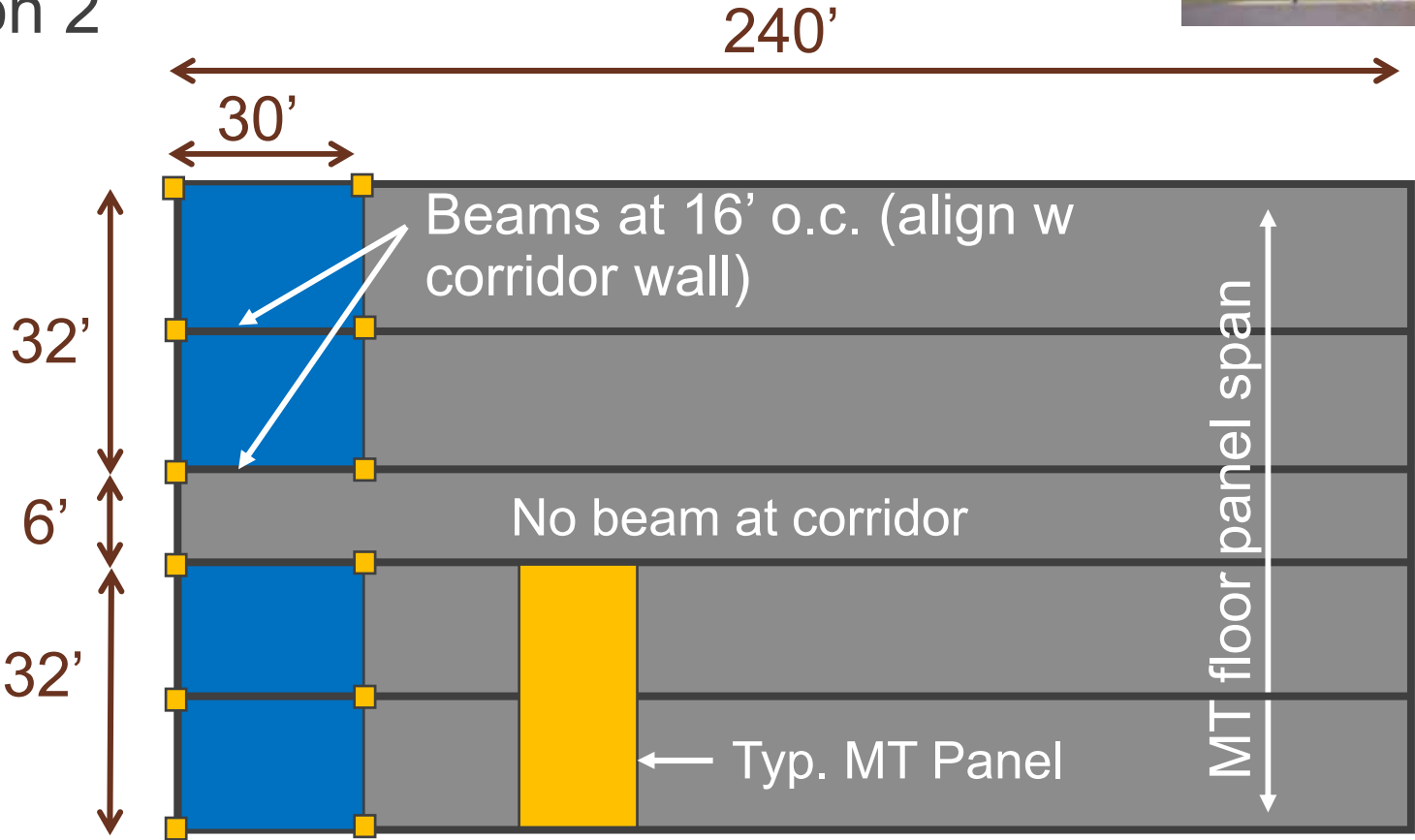


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 2



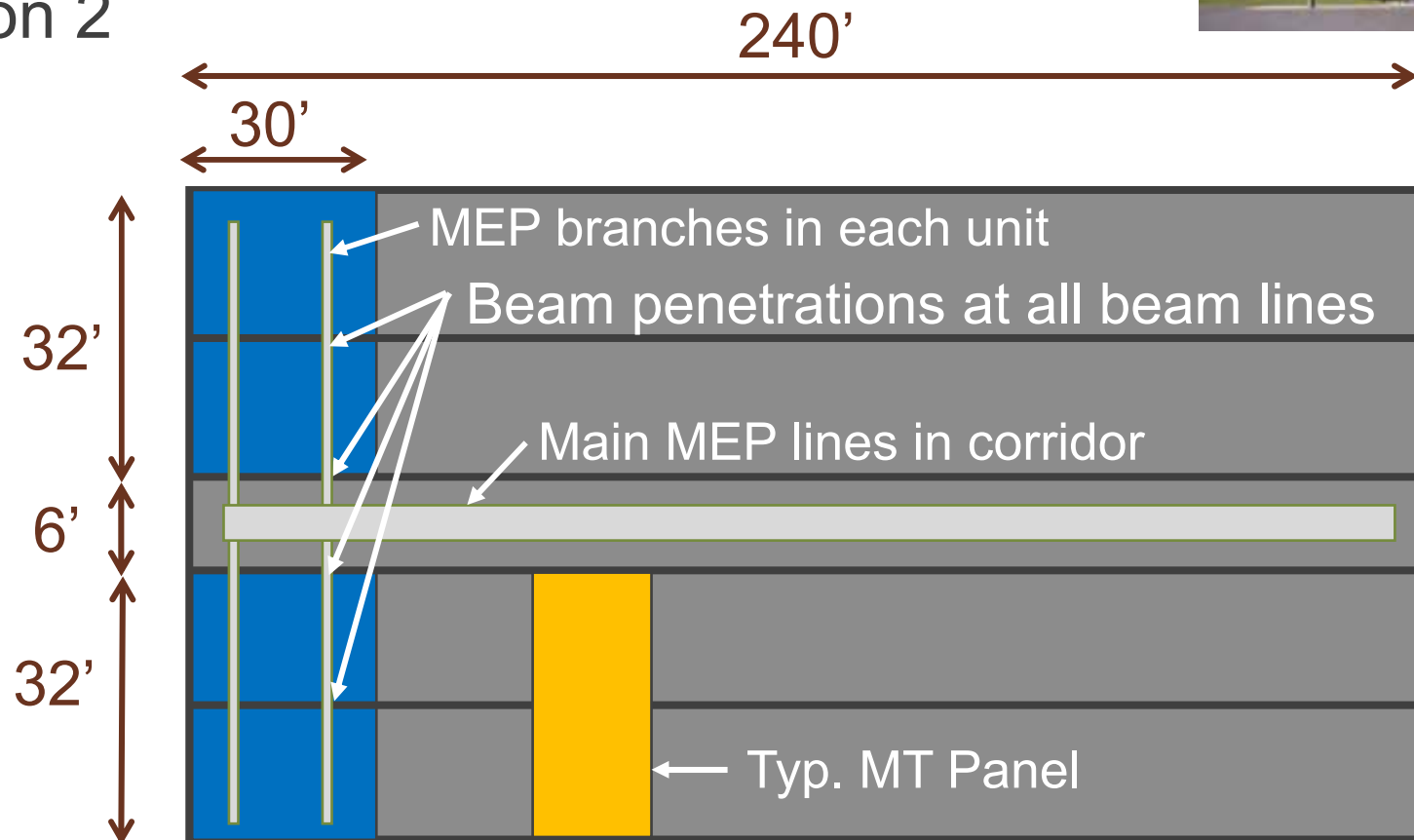


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

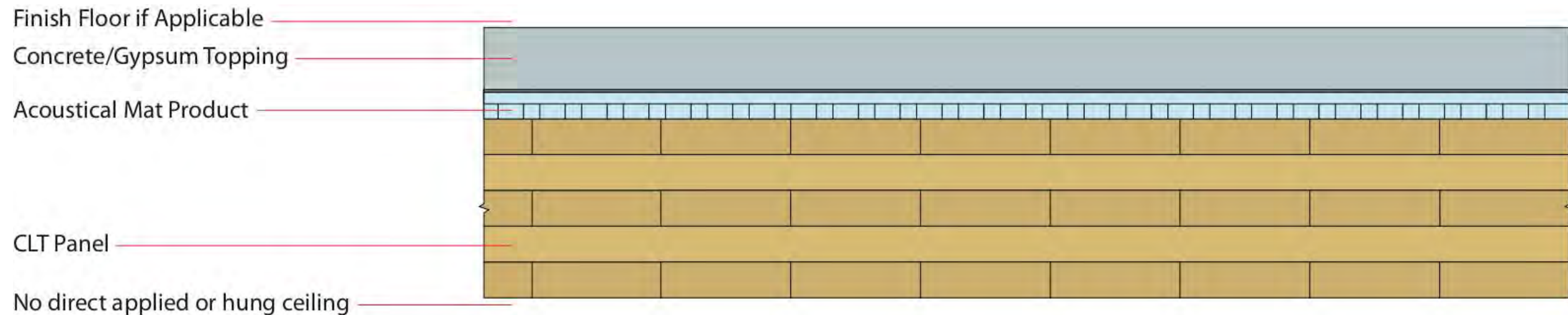
- Option 2



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Floor Assembly Options



- 2-hr FRR: 5-ply CLT or 7-ply CLT
- STC & IIC 50 min: 2" topping (5-ply CLT) or 1.5" topping (7-ply CLT)

Note: many other acoustic mat and topping options exist, one example shown here

Note: 5-ply is most efficient for the 15-16 ft panel spans shown

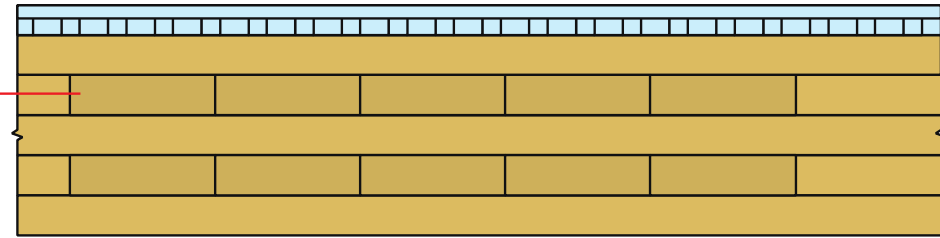
# Concealed Spaces in Type IV-C

## Without Dropped Ceiling

Noncombustible material not required

Mass timber floor panel

Noncombustible material not required



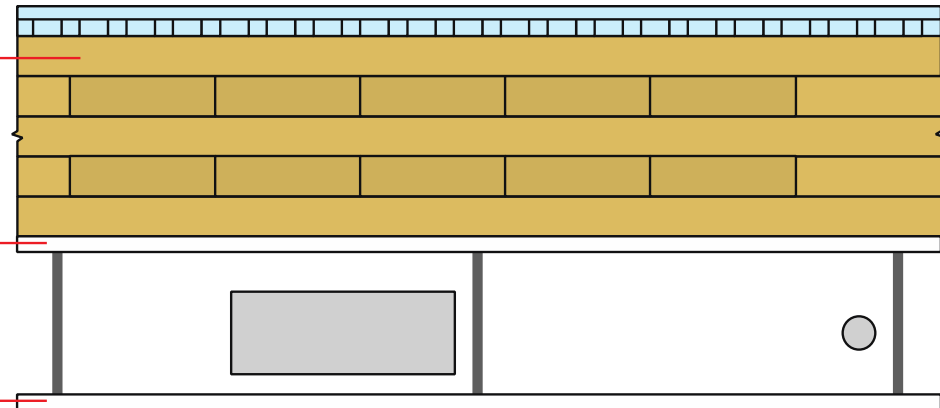
## With Dropped Ceiling

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



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium

### Implications of Type IIIA:

- 1 hr FRR
- 5-ply CLT, maybe thinner
- 1 story Type IA podium required
- CLT exterior walls not permitted, non-combustible or FRT wood only
- Can use light-frame wood framing for interior walls
- If <65 feet for wood portion, light frame wood shear walls are an option

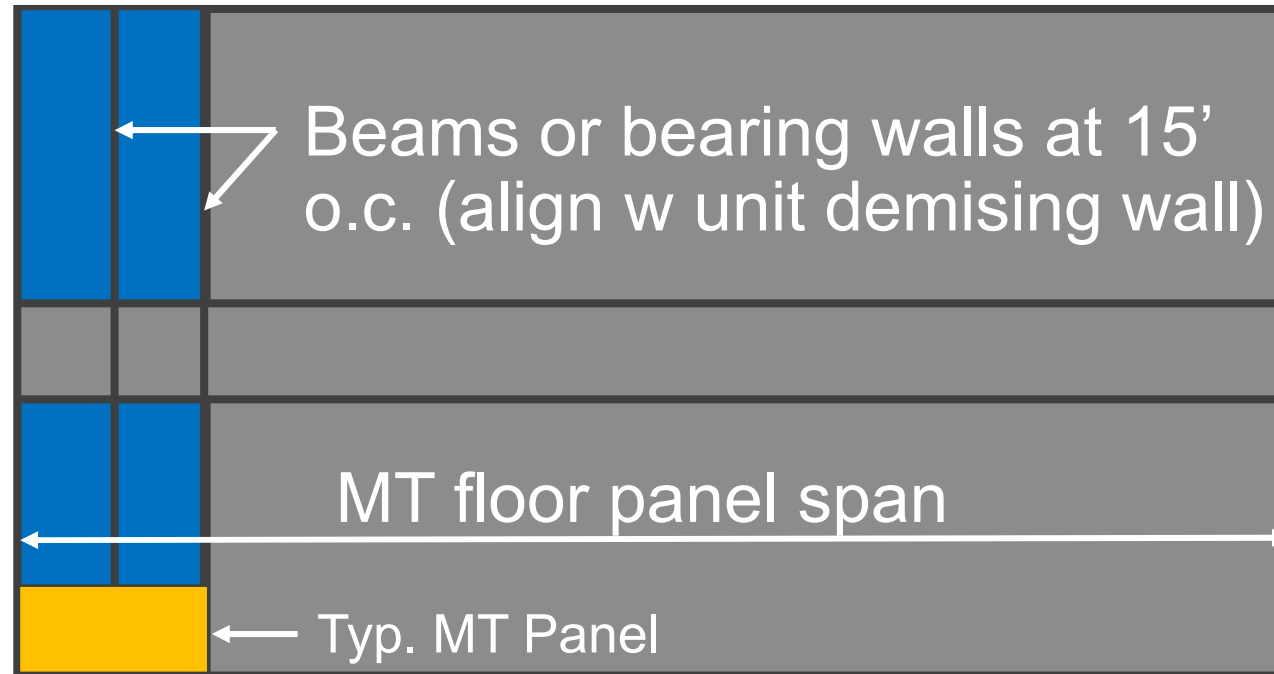


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IIIA Grid Options

- Can use beams or bearing walls gravity support





# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium

### Type IV-HT in Group R Occupancy:

- Separation walls (fire partitions) and horizontal separation (horizontal assemblies) between dwelling units require a 1-hour rating.
- Floor panels require a 1-hour rating in addition to minimum sizes
- Essentially the same panel and grid options as IIIA

Ref. IBC 420.2, 420.3, 708.3, 711.2.4.3



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### MT Construction Type Options:

- 7 stories of IV-C
- 5 stories of IIIA over 2 stories of IA podium
- 5 stories of IV-HT over 2 stories of IA podium

### Implications of Type IV-HT:

- 1 hr FRR and min. sizes
- Potential to use 3-ply or thin 5-ply CLT
- Efficient spans vary with panel thickness
- Efficient grids are that or multiples of that span
- 1 story Type IA podium required
- CLT exterior walls permitted



# Reduce Risk

## Optimize Costs

- For the entire project team, not just builders
- Lots of reference documents

## Mass Timber Cost and Design Optimization Checklists

WoodWorks has developed the following checklists to assist in the design and cost optimization of mass timber projects.

The *design optimization* checklists are intended for building designers (architects and engineers), but many of the topics should also be discussed with the fabricators and builders. The *cost optimization* checklists will help guide coordination between designers and builders (general contractors, construction managers, estimators, fabricators, installers, etc.) as they are estimating and making cost-related decisions on a mass timber project.

Most resources listed in this paper can be found on the WoodWorks website. Please see the end notes for URLs.

First Tech Federal  
Credit Union  
Hudson, NY  
ARCHITECT:  
HKS  
ENGINEERS:  
Kramer, Gribben & Associates  
Equilibrium Consulting  
CONTRACTOR:  
Swinerton



**Download Checklists at**  
**[www.woodworks.org](http://www.woodworks.org)**

[www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood\\_solution\\_paper-Mass-Timber-Design-Cost-Optimization-Checklists.pdf](http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-Mass-Timber-Design-Cost-Optimization-Checklists.pdf)



# Keys to Mass Timber Success:

Know Your WHY

Design it as Mass Timber From the Start

Leverage Manufacturer Capabilities

Understand Supply Chain

Optimize Grid

Take Advantage of Prefabrication & Coordination

Expose the Timber

Discuss Early with AHJ

Work with Experienced People

Let WoodWorks Help for Free

Create Your Market Distinction

# Questions?



**Chelsea Drenick, SE**

**Regional Director N. CA, NV, UT**

303.588.1300

[chelsea.drenick@woodworks.org](mailto:chelsea.drenick@woodworks.org)

**Mike Romanowski, SE**

**Regional Director S. CA, AZ, NM**

619.206.6632

[mike.romanowski@woodworks.org](mailto:mike.romanowski@woodworks.org)

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





# Copyright Materials

This presentation is protected by US  
and International Copyright laws.

Reproduction, distribution, display and use of  
the presentation without written permission  
of the speaker is prohibited.

© The Wood Products Council 2021

**Disclaimer:** The information in this presentation, including, without limitation, references to information contained in other publications or made available by other sources (collectively “information”) should not be used or relied upon for any application without competent professional examination and verification of its accuracy, suitability, code compliance and applicability by a licensed engineer, architect or other professional. Neither the Wood Products Council nor its employees, consultants, nor any other individuals or entities who contributed to the information make any warranty, representative or guarantee, expressed or implied, that the information is suitable for any general or particular use, that it is compliant with applicable law, codes or ordinances, or that it is free from infringement of any patent(s), nor do they assume any legal liability or responsibility for the use, application of and/or reference to the information. Anyone making use of the information in any manner assumes all liability arising from such use.