



# Mass Timber: Early Design Decisions for Successful Multi-Family Housing

Presented by  
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Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.



# Course Description

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Mass timber is often attached to the stigma of being more expensive than other building materials. Because of this, some people assume it only makes sense for one-off projects where innovation is celebrated but repeatability is not. Is this true, or do its other benefits result in overall cost efficiency? If it is true, how can we expect to build the number of new housing units needed across our country in a sustainable and affordable manner? Typical multi-family housing developments are in the range of 4-6 stories, often utilizing podium or pedestal construction with 1-2 stories of steel and concrete topped with 3-5 stories of light wood framing. Beyond these heights, building codes have historically required steel or concrete framing and, to justify the added costs of these materials, projects often go much taller. This has created a critical gap in housing developments in the range of 6-12 stories. Can mass timber multi-family projects make financial sense in the 4-6 story range, used in conjunction with light wood-frame systems? What new opportunities will the 2021 International Building Code create for mass timber housing in the 6-18 story range? This presentation will answer these questions and much more.

# Learning Objectives

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1. Evaluate the code opportunities for mass timber structures in residential mid-rise projects.
2. Discuss code-compliant options for exposing mass timber, where up to 2-hour fire-resistance ratings are required, and demonstrate design methodologies for achieving these ratings.
3. Review code requirements unique to hybrid mass timber and light-frame housing projects, and emphasize solutions for criteria such as construction type, fire-resistance ratings and acoustics design.
4. Highlight the unique benefits of using exposed mass timber in taller multi-family buildings.



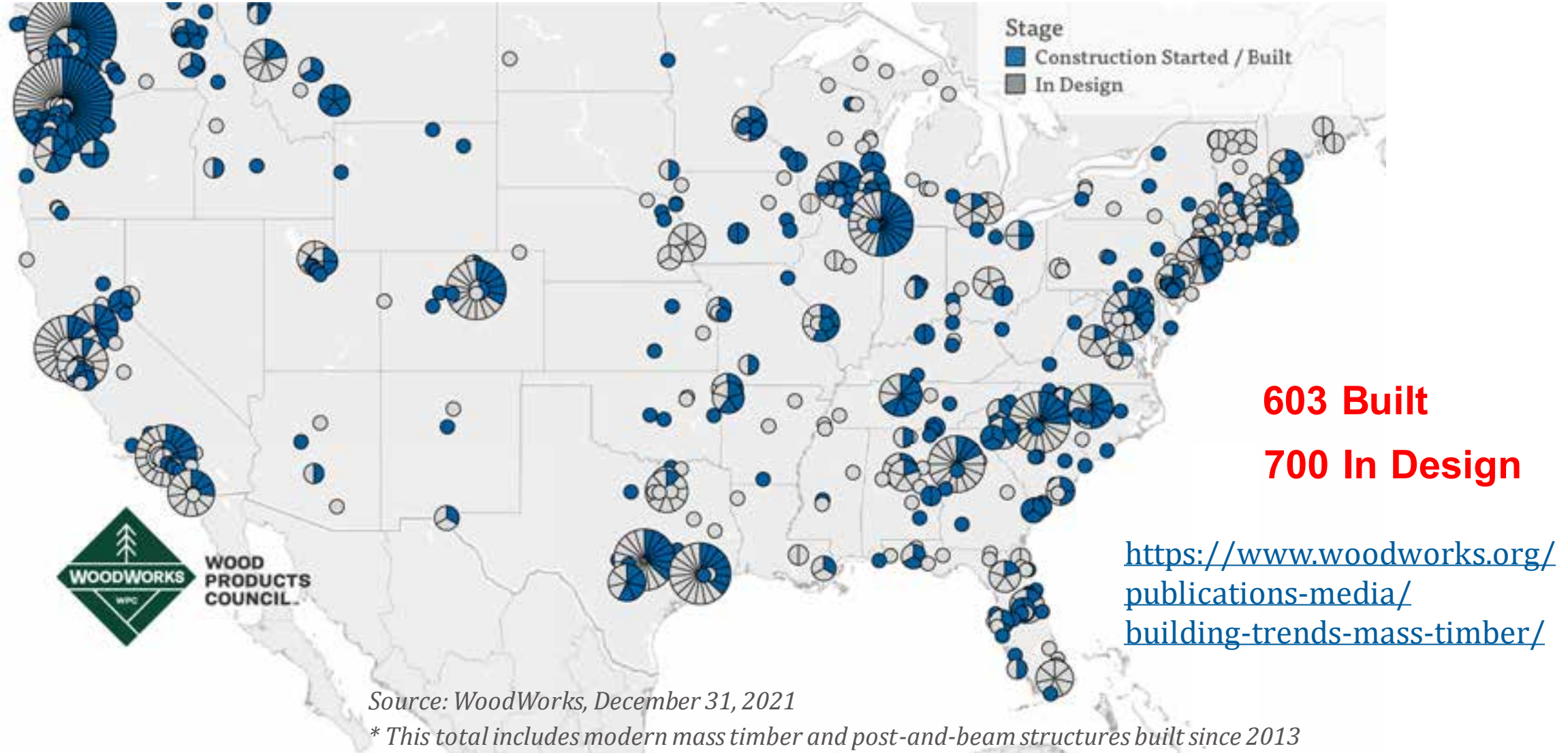
# Is Mass Timber a Good Fit for Your Multi-Family Project?



Ascent, Milwaukee, WI  
Source: Korb & Associates Architects

# Current State of Mass Timber Projects

As of December 2021, in the US, **1,303** multi-family, commercial, or institutional projects have been constructed with, or are in design with, mass timber.



# Current State of Mass Timber Projects

As of December 2021, in the US, **1,303** multi-family, commercial, or institutional projects have been constructed with, or are in design with, mass timber.

**Of these 1,303 projects:  
324 are Multi-Family (25%)**



*Source: WoodWorks, December 31, 2021*

*\* This total includes modern mass timber and post-and-beam structures built since 2013*



# Current State of Mass Timber Projects

As of December 2021, in the US, 1,303 multi-family, commercial, or institutional projects have been constructed with, or are in design with, mass timber.

It's NOT One Size Fits All:

Of these 324 Mass Timber Multi-Family Projects:

**204 are 1-5 Stories (63%)**

**106 are 6-12 Stories (33%)**

**13 are 13+ Stories (4%)**



*Source: WoodWorks, December 31, 2021*

*\* This total includes modern mass timber and post-and-beam structures built since 2013*



MASS TIMBER IN MULTI-FAMILY

**EVOLUTION**

**OR**

**REVOLUTION?**

# Multi-Housing Typologies





# Multi-Housing Typologies

## MT Floors & Roofs on LWF Bearing Walls



Credit: KL&A Engineers & Builders

## MT Floors & Roofs on Post & Beam Framing



Credit: ADX Creative and Engberg Anderson

## MT Floors & Roofs on MT Bearing Walls



Credit: Grey Organschi Architecture and Spiritos Properties

# EVOLUTION

INCREMENTAL CHANGE



# REVOLUTION

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE



# Low- and Mid-Rise Multi-Family



Credit: ADX Creative and Engberg Anderson



Photo: John Klein

**HYBRID LIGHT-FRAME + MASS TIMBER**



# CONDOS AT LOST RABBIT, MS



3 Story, 30,000 SF  
Units Completed in 3 Phases  
Completed in 4 Months

Lost Rabbit, MS  
Credit: Everett Consulting Group



# CIRRUS, DENVER, CO



5 over 2, Type IIIA project  
285,000 SF  
5-ply and 7-ply Panels Used



# CANYONS, PORTLAND, OR



Credit: Jeremy Bittermann & Kaiser + Path



5 over 1, Type IIIA project  
70 apartments over 6 retail suites, 113,314 SF  
Business Case Study – Achieved 46% Higher Leasing for 1-BR



# THE DUKE, AUSTIN, TX



# WESSEX WOODS, PORTLAND, ME



ASCE 7-22 Seismic  
Design values for  
CLT Shear Walls.

Height Restricted to  
65 feet

Credit: Avesta Housing





Photo: Ema Peter

**POST, BEAM + PLATE**



# 360 WYTHE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY



Credit: Flank



5 Stories, retail, office and residential  
65,000SF, NLT floors w/ post and beam



# BARRACUDA CONDOS, MADISON, WI



5 over 2, GLT floors w/ steel beams and columns  
19 luxury 2BR/ 2BA, 1,400-1,730SF





Photo: Lendlease

## MASS TIMBER BEARING WALLS

# Model C, Roxbury, MA



5 story affordable housing project  
19,000 SF, passive house project  
CLT walls w/ post and beam, CLT floors and roof

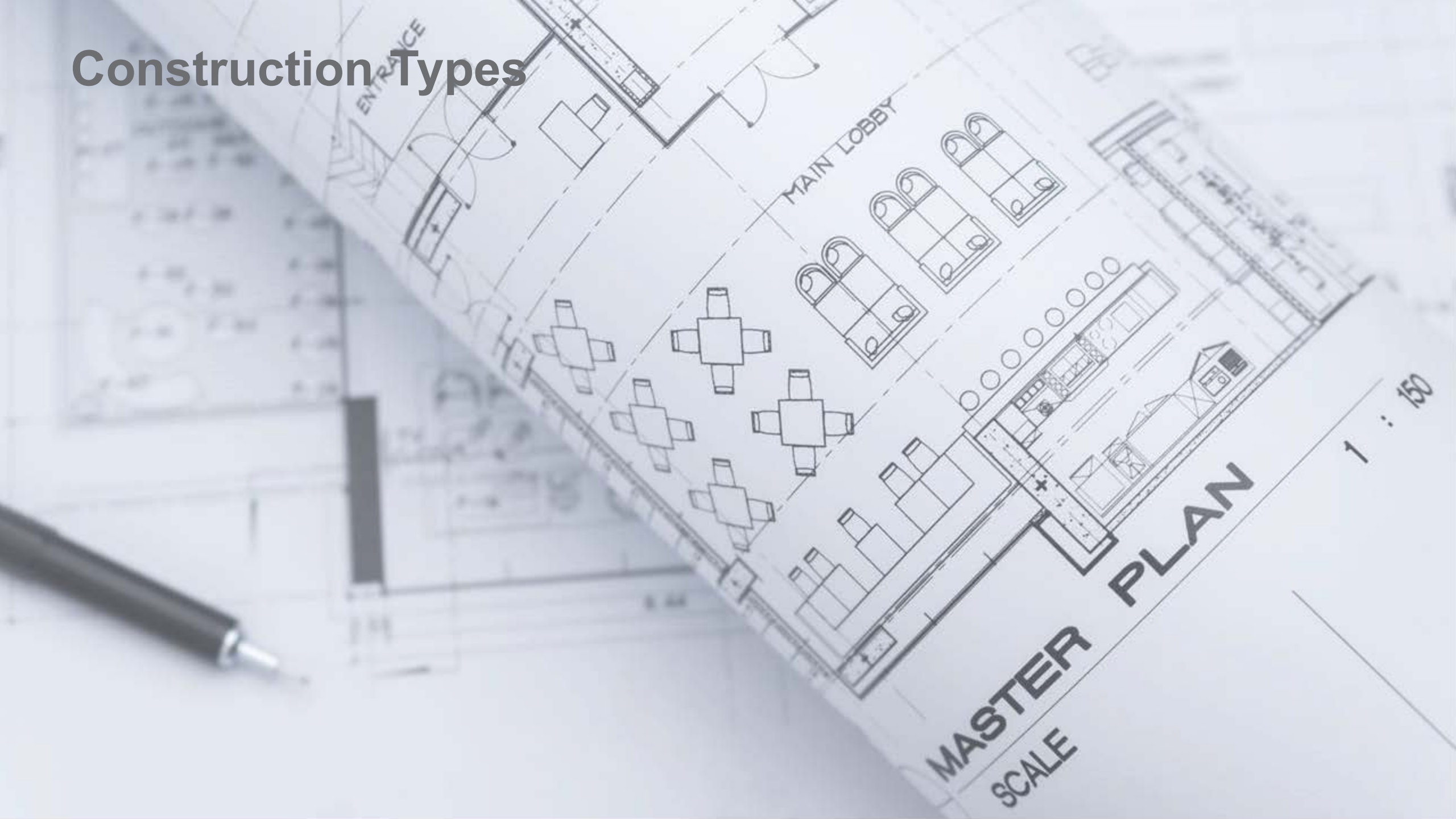




Left: 69 A Street, Boston, MA Credit: Greg Folkins  
Above: Timber Lofts, Milwaukee, WI  
Credit: ADX Creative and Engberg Anderson Architects

## VERTICAL ADDITIONS AND ADAPTIVE REUSE

# Construction Types





# Construction Types

**When does the code allow mass timber to be used in low- and mid-rise multi-family projects?**

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

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



# Construction Types

All wood framed building options:

## Type III

Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW)

Interior elements any allowed by code, including mass timber

## Type V

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

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

## Type IV (Heavy Timber)

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

Interior elements qualify as Heavy Timber (min. sizes, no concealed spaces except in 2021 IBC)



# Construction Types

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

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

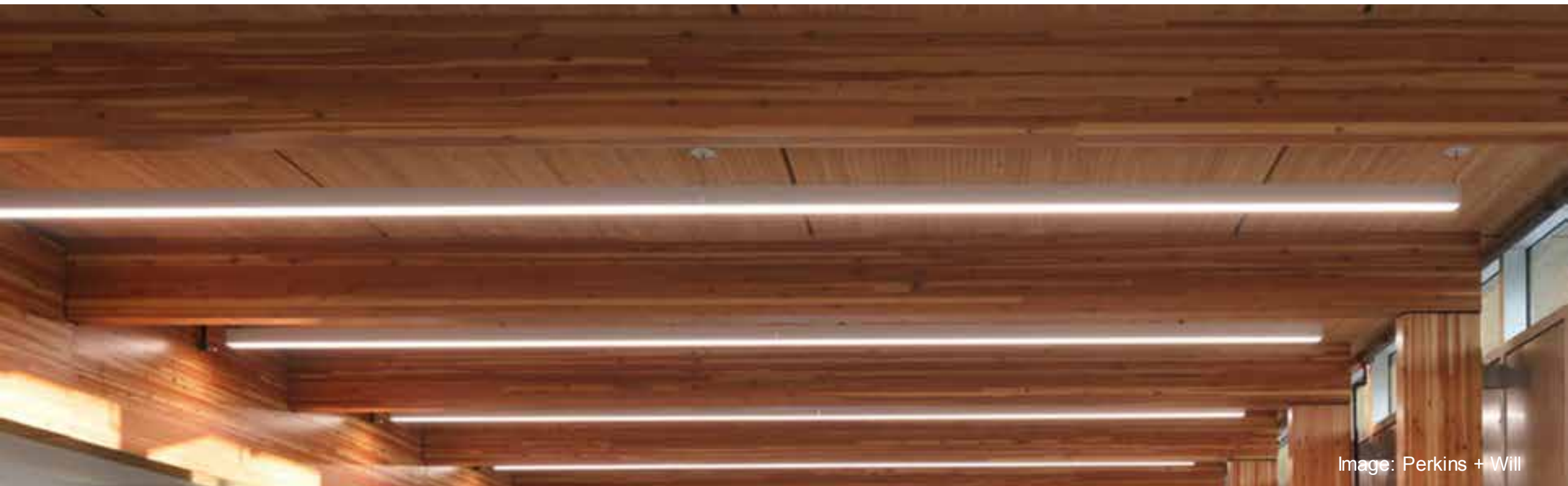


Timber Lofts, ADX Creative and Engberg Anderson Architects

# Construction Types

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

- Type IV: Any exposed interior elements & roofs, must meet min. sizes; exterior walls if CLT or FRT. Concealed space limitations (varies by code version)

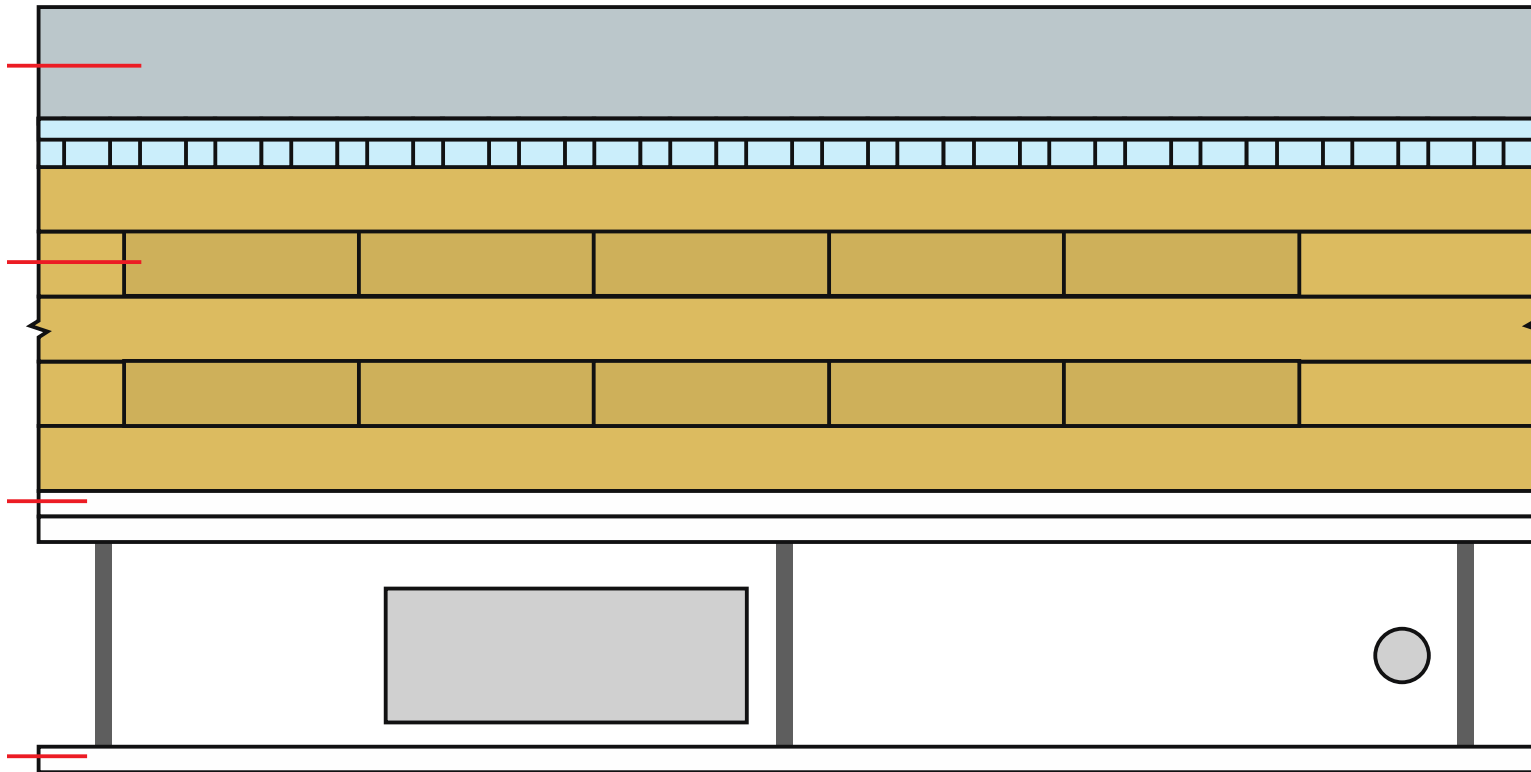




# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed spaces

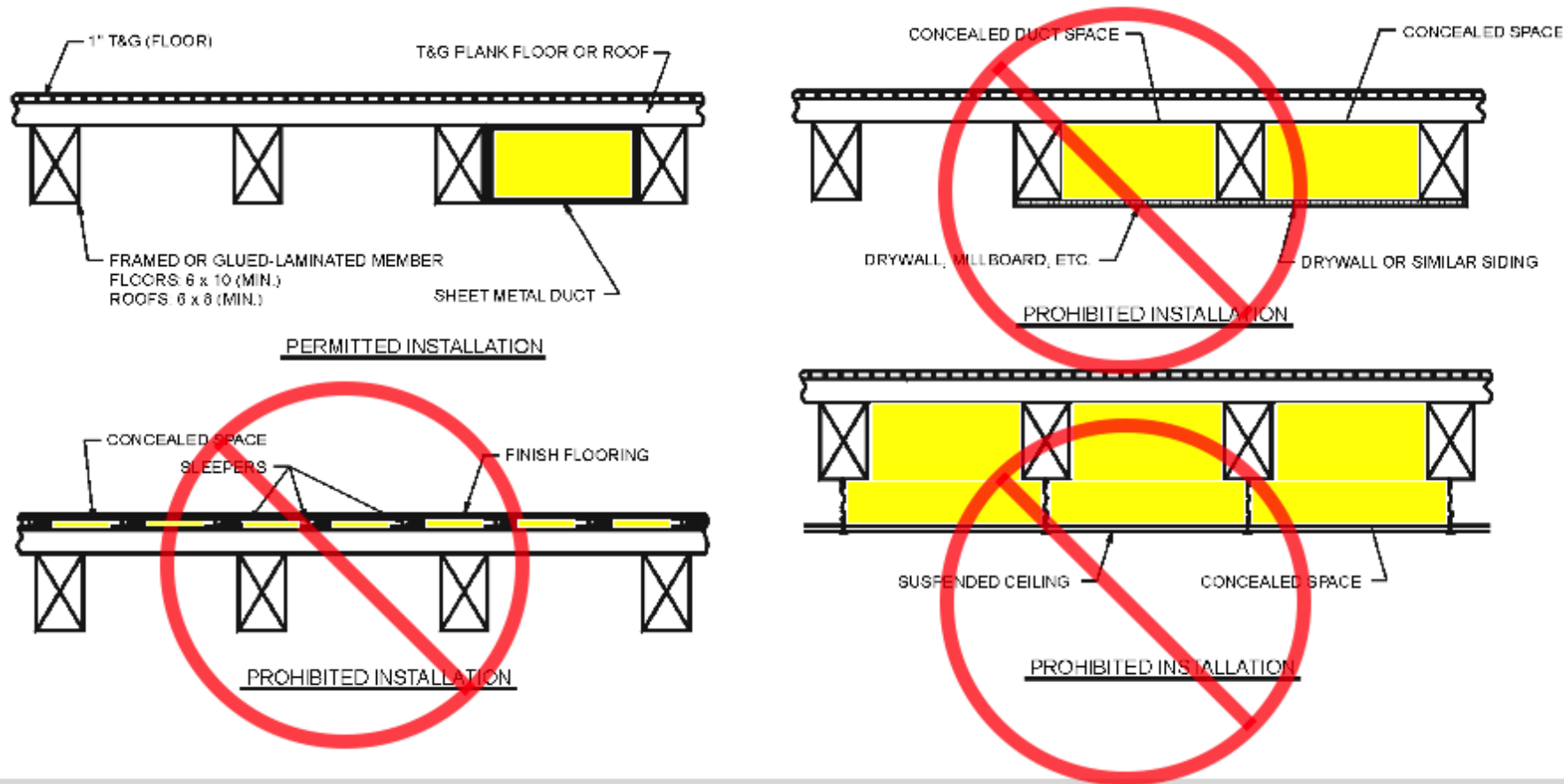
Can I have a dropped ceiling? Raised access floor?



# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed spaces

Until 2021 IBC, Type IV-HT provisions prohibited concealed spaces





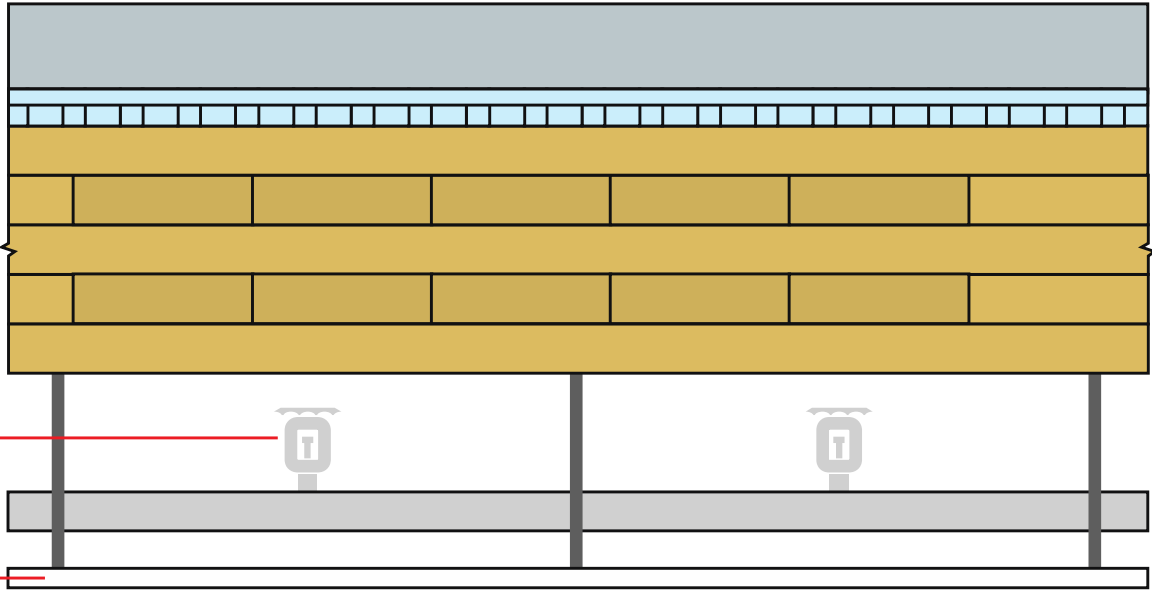
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

### Option 1:

Sprinklers in concealed spaces

Dropped ceiling



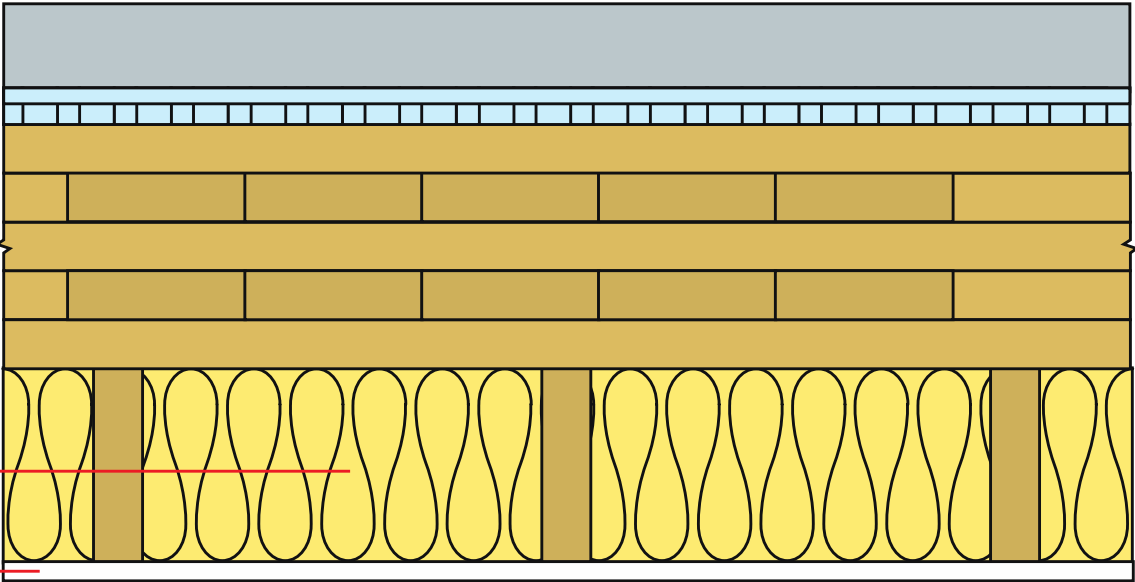
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

**Option 2:**

Noncombustible insulation

Dropped ceiling





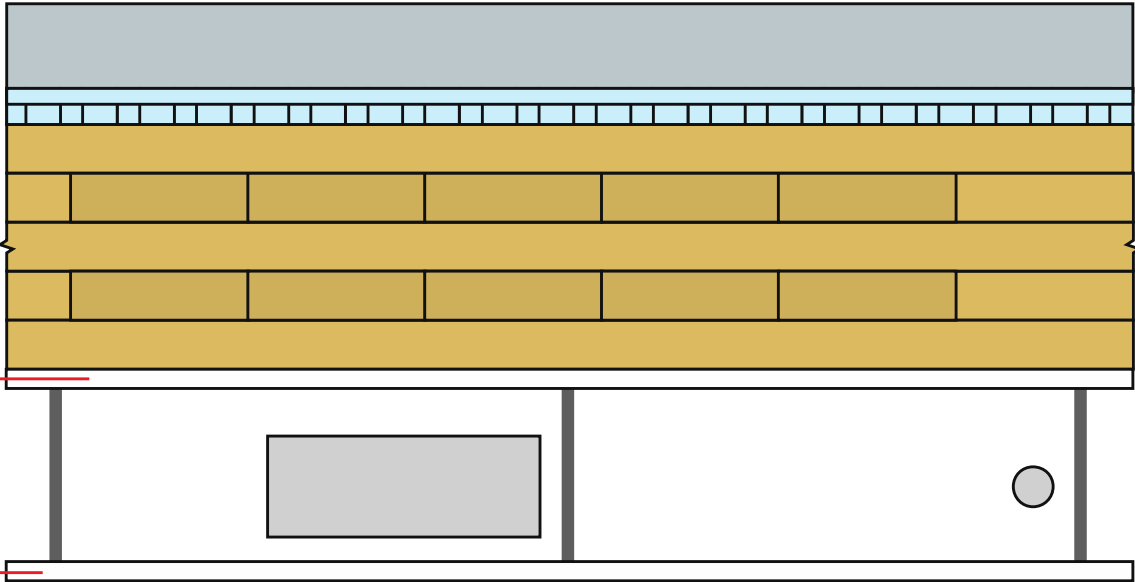
# Construction Types

## Type IV concealed space options within 2021 IBC

### Option 3:


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

Dropped ceiling



# Construction Types

## Concealed spaces solutions paper

**WoodWorks™**  
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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

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Richard Moran, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • for 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.

INTSO, Cleveland | Cleveland, Ohio  
Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors  
HRA Architecture





[https://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood\\_solution\\_paper-Concealed\\_Spaces\\_Timber\\_Structures.pdf](https://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-Concealed_Spaces_Timber_Structures.pdf)



# Construction Types

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

- Type V: All interior elements, roofs & exterior walls



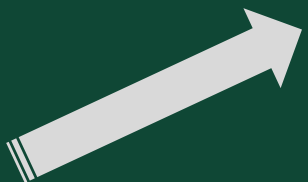
Image: Christian Columbres Photography

# EVOLUTION

INCREMENTAL CHANGE

# REVOLUTION

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE





# Tall Mass Timber Multi-Family



Credit: Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, Purple Film, INTRO, Cleveland, OH



# CARBON 12, PORTLAND, OR



Credit: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture



8 Story, 85ft, 14 residential units on 7 floors



# 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

Type IV-B  
Variance to expose ~50% ceilings

9 Stories | 115 ft  
8 Timber Over 1 Podium





# ASCENT, MILWAUKEE



493,000 SF  
259 APARTMENTS, MIXED-USE



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



# ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

**25 STORIES**

**19 TIMBER OVER 6 PODIUM, 284 FT**

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





# 11 E LENOX, BOSTON, MA

## 7 STORIES

70 FT

Passive House  
Multi-Family



Credit: H + O Structural Engineering

Credit: Monte French Design Studio



# 11 E LENOX, BOSTON, MA



Credit: H + O Structural Engineering





ATF Lab Tests, 2017  
Photo: LendLease



ATF Lab Tests, 2017  
Photo: LendLease





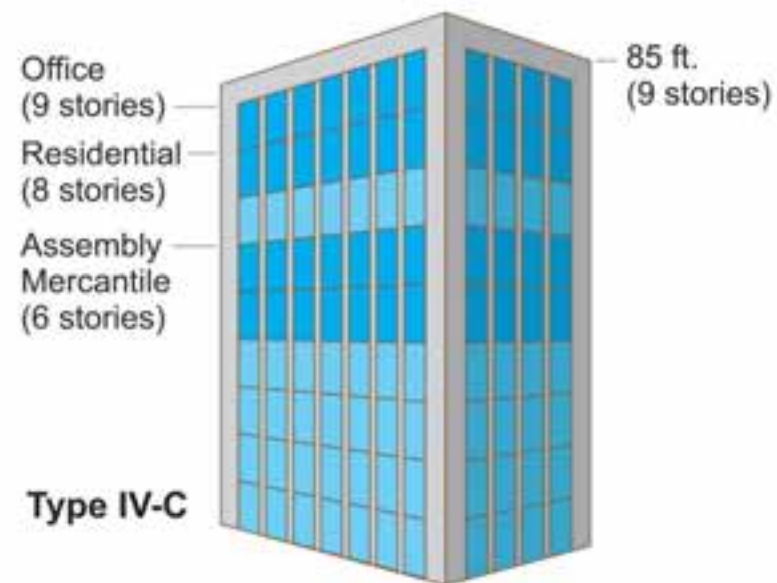
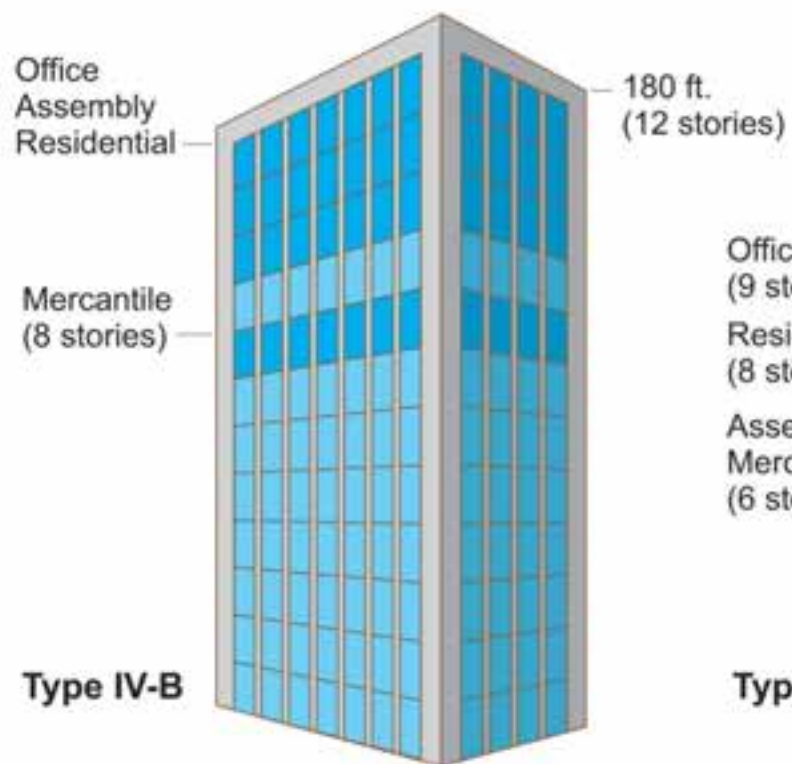
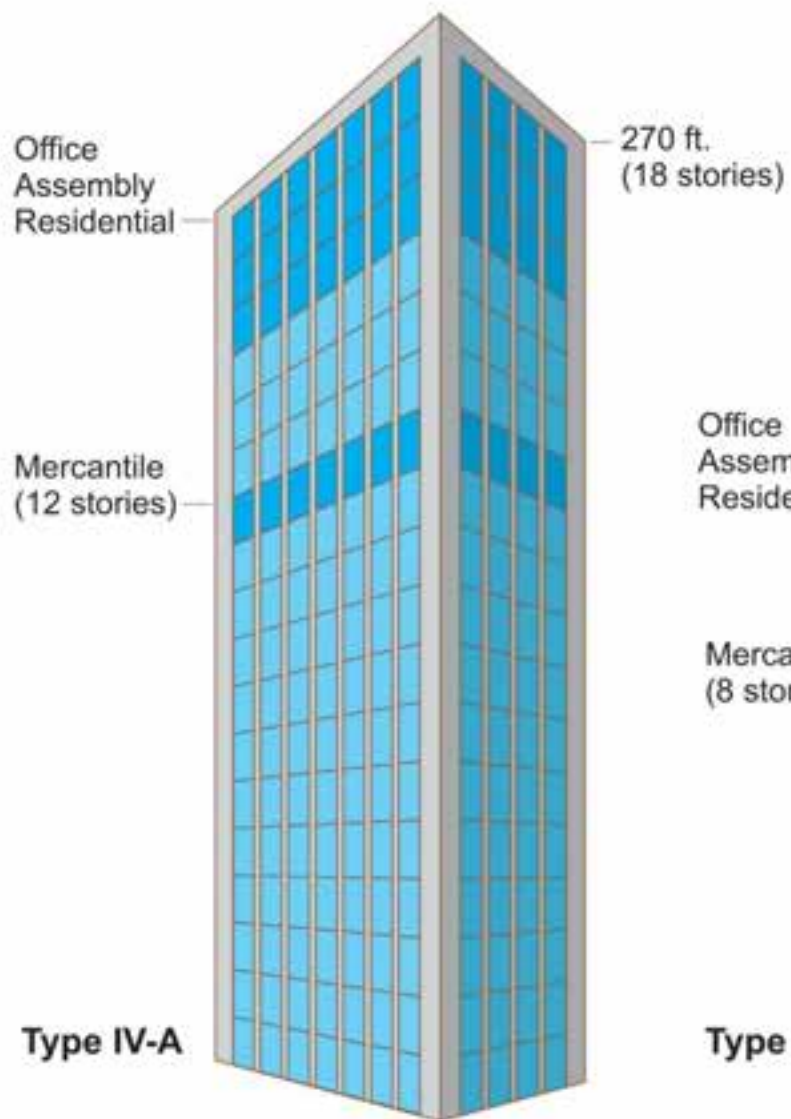
ATF Lab Tests, 2017  
Photo: LendLease





ATF Lab Tests, 2017  
Photo: LendLease

# PRESCRIPTIVE BUILDING CODES





# 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

# IV-C

## Type IV-C Height and Area Limits



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

TYPE IV-C

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 1 stories permitted due to enhanced FRR**

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



# IV-C

## Type IV-C Protection vs. Exposed



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



Credit: Kaiser+Path, Ema Peter

**All Mass Timber surfaces may be exposed**

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

IV-C





IV-C



# Type 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: LEVER Architecture





# IV-B

## Type IV-B Height and Area Limits

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**



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

# IV-B

## Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed



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**



# 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

- $U_{ac} = (800 \text{ SF}) * (0.20) = 160 \text{ SF}$
- $U_{aw} = (800 \text{ SF}) * (0.40) = 320 \text{ SF}$
- 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



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

$$U_{tw} = 120 \text{ SF}$$

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



IV-B

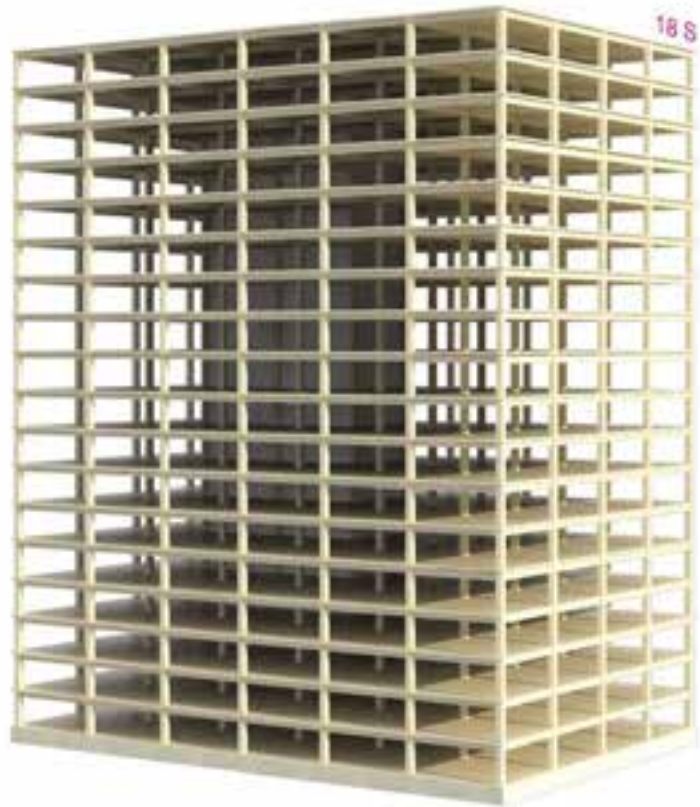


IV-B





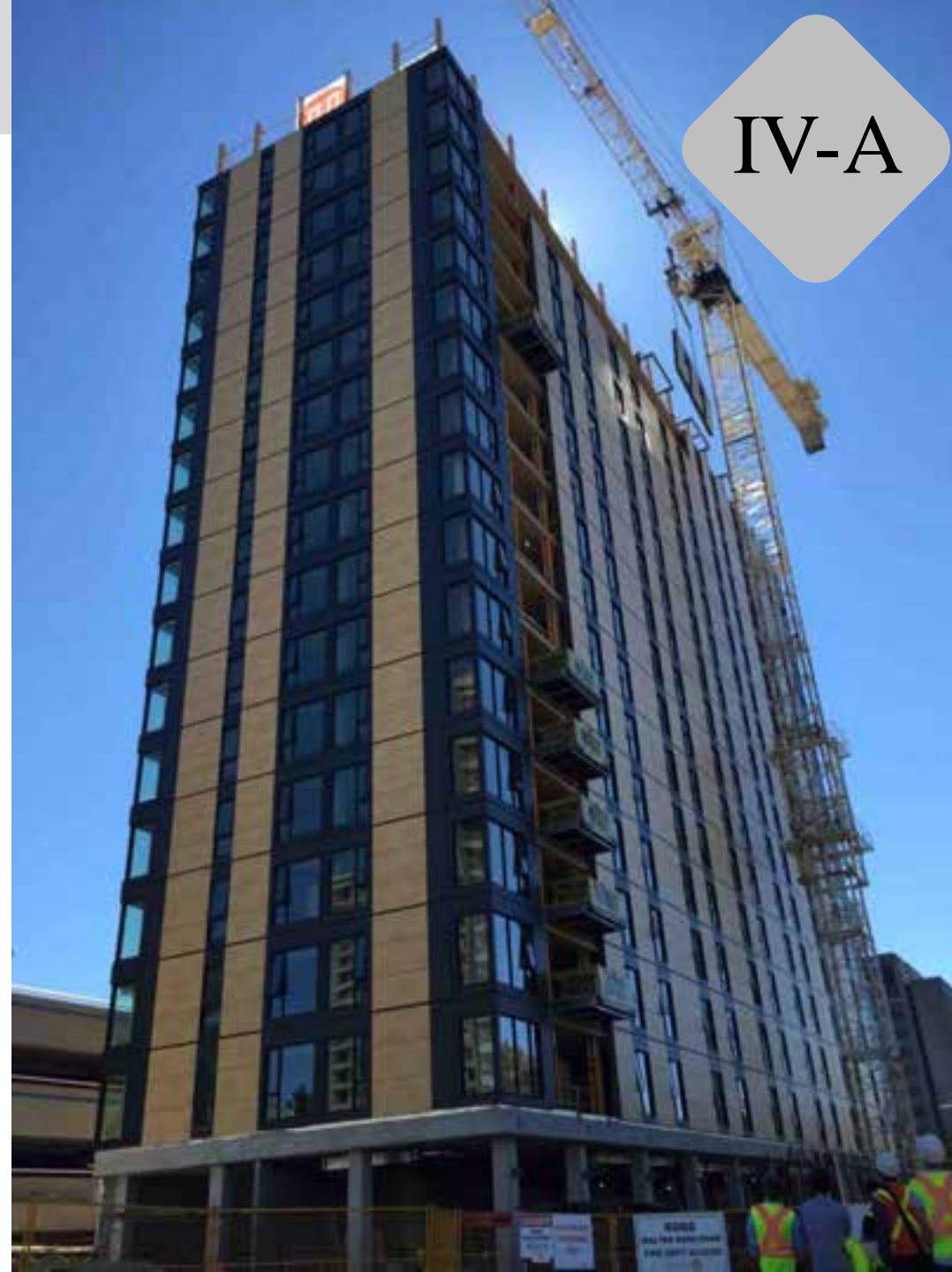
# Type IV-A



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

# IV-A

## Type IV-A Height and Area Limits



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

TYPE IV-A

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**



IV-A

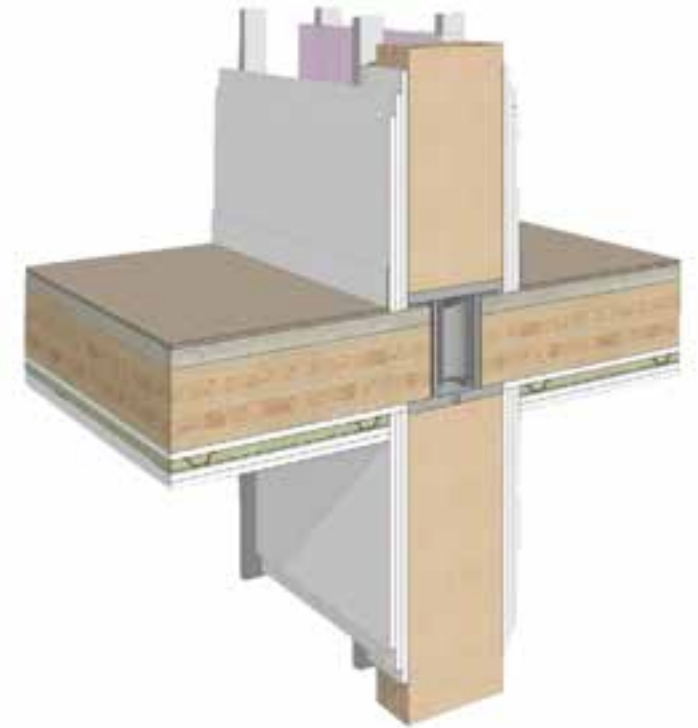
# Type IV-A Protection vs. Exposed



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

TYPE IV-A

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



**100% NC protection on all surfaces of  
Mass Timber**

Credit: Acton Ostry Architects, Fast + Epp

IV-A





# 2024 IBC Changes



RISE Tests, 2020  
Photo: RISE

Speed of Construction

Market Distinction

KNOW  
YOUR  
WHY

Sustainability

Lightweight

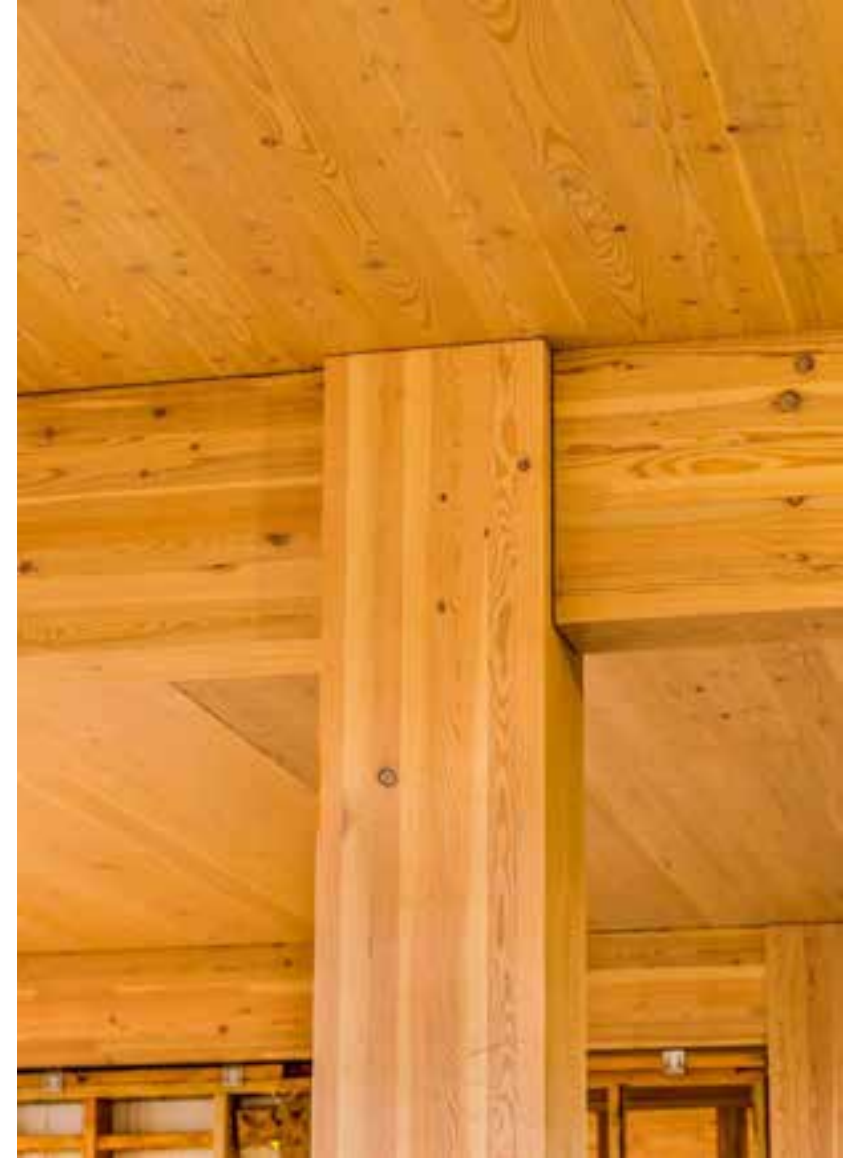
Leasing Velocity

Cost

Urban Density



# Mass Timber: Structure Often is Finish



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

# MASS TIMBER APPEAL

MATERIAL MASS

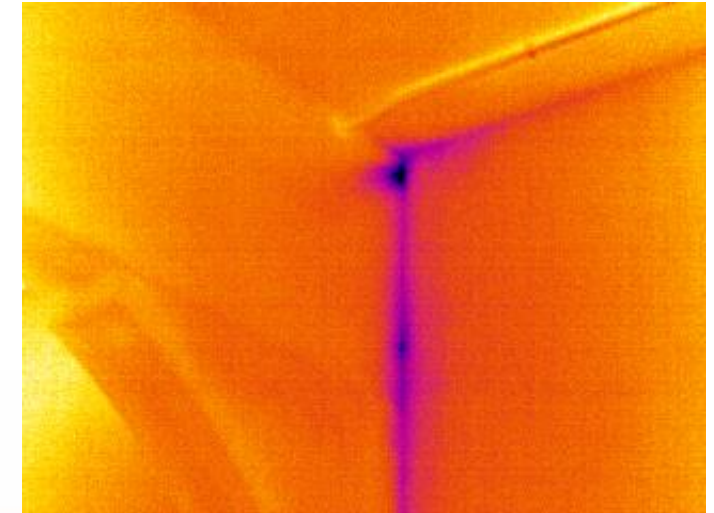
75% LIGHTER WEIGHT THAN CONCRETE





# MASS TIMBER APPEAL

ENERGY EFFICIENT



*Table 2*

Thermal resistance of typical softwood at various thicknesses and 12% moisture content

Thickness	1 in. (25 mm)	4 in. (100 mm)	6 in. (150 mm)	8 in. (200 mm)
R-value ( $\text{h}\cdot\text{ft}^2\cdot^\circ\text{F}\cdot\text{Btu}^{-1}$ )	1.25	5.00	7.50	10.00
RSI ( $\text{m}^2\cdot\text{K}\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$ )	0.22	0.88	1.30	1.80

**CLT HAS AN R-VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY 1.25 PER INCH OF THICKNESS.**

**SOURCE: US CLT HANDBOOK**



Source: Generate Architecture + Technologies



# Holistic Cost Assessment



**Reference 1**  
Concrete Slabs on Steel Deck;  
Steel Frame; Concrete Cores



**Reference 2**  
Concrete Flat Slab;  
Concrete Frame; Concrete Cores



**Timber Use 1**  
Timber Floors; Steel Frame;  
Concrete Cores



**Timber Use 2**  
Timber Post, Beam, & Plate;  
Concrete Cores



**Timber Use 3**  
Timber Floors; LGM Framing;  
Steel Frame Podium



**Timber Use 4**  
Timber Floors & Shear Walls;  
Steel Frame Podium

Source: Generate Architecture  
+ Technologies

# Sustainability Impacts



**GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL & MATERIAL MASS**  
(PER BUILDING ASSEMBLY)

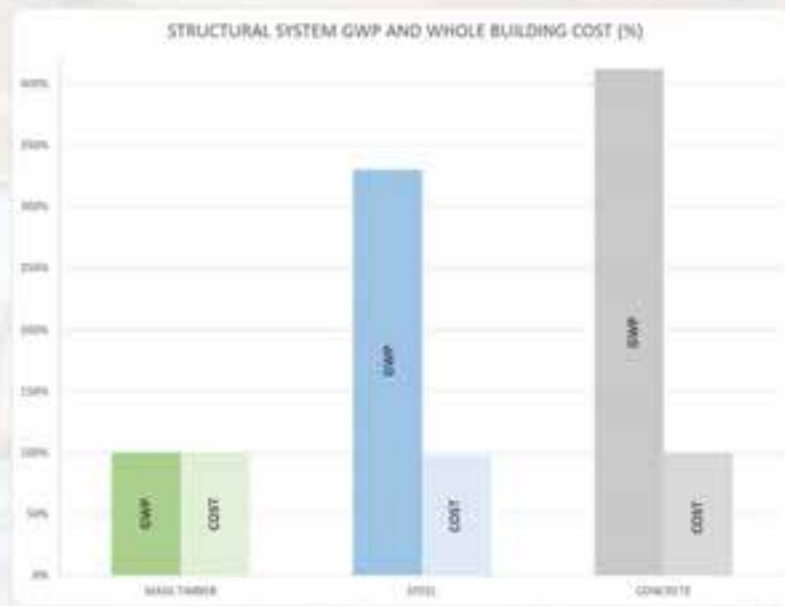
The total global warming potential (GWP) of each option is shown with a breakdown by building assembly. The Concrete With Steel Frame and Concrete Flat Slab options have the highest GWP, with the bulk of the impact embedded in the floor slabs. The Timber Use 1 (Floor Slabs; Steel Frame) option offers a slight reduction in GWP, with the most of the savings also embedded in the floor slabs. The Timber Use 2 (Post, Beam, and Plate) option offers a relatively typical approach to building with timber, showing savings in floor slabs, beams and columns. Since Timber Use 3 and 4 are cellular approaches with steel bearing walls, these options included steel podiums to accommodate the ground floor program. Timber Use 3 shows how a hybrid approach with light gauge metal yields GWP savings in structural walls and exterior walls, despite the addition of the podium. Lastly, Timber Use 4 emphasizes how a completely cellular CLT timber approach yields impressive reductions in nearly every category.



# Carbon and Sustainability Value Add Services



PROJECT DETAILS  
LOCATION:  
Denver, Colorado  
SIZE:  
Five stories, 150,418 square feet



Rendering: Hickok Cole Architects



# Seattle Mass Timber Tower: Detailed Cost Comparison

## Fast Construction



- Textbook example done by industry experts
- Mass timber vs. PT conc
- Detailed cost, material takeoff & schedule comparisons

“The initial advantage of Mass Timber office projects in Seattle will come through the

**leasing velocity**

that developers will experience.”

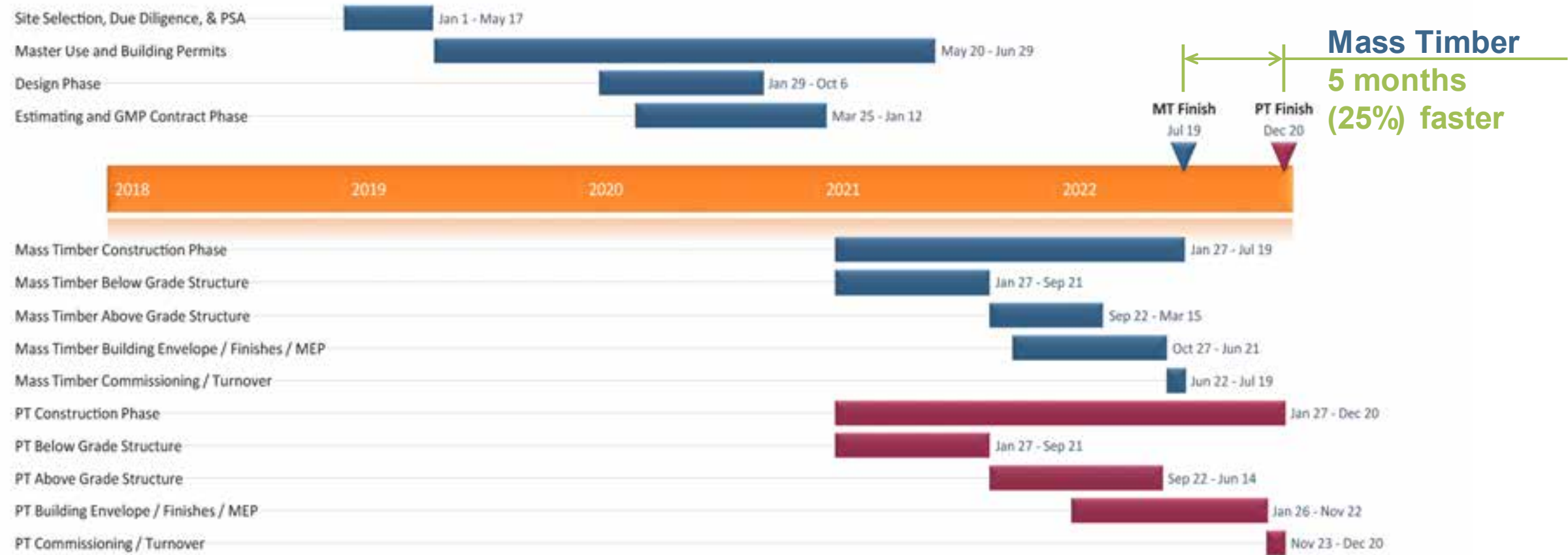
- Connor McClain, Colliers



# Seattle Mass Timber Tower

## Fast Construction

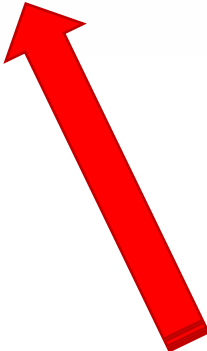
### Construction Schedule:



# Seattle Mass Timber Tower

Faster Construction + Higher Material Costs = Cost Competitive

System	Mass Timber Design	PT Concrete Design	Mass Timber Savings
Direct Cost of Work	\$86,997,136	\$85,105,091	2.2%
Project Overhead	\$ 9,393,750	\$11,768,750	-20.2%
Add-Ons	\$ 8,387,345	\$ 8,429,368	-0.5%
Total	\$104,778,231	\$105,303,209	-0.5%

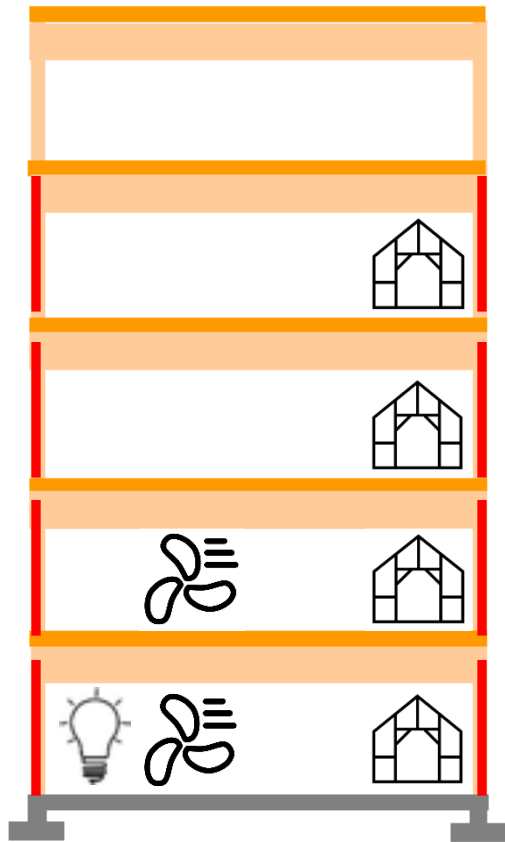


Source: DLR Group | Fast + Epp | Swinerton Builders

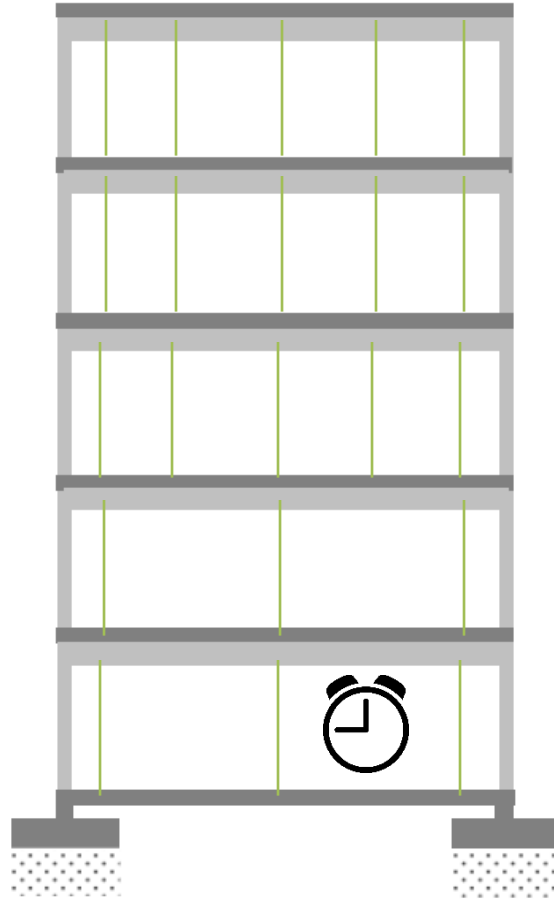


# Schedule Savings for Rough-In Trades

## Fast Construction



NO curing  
(mass timber)

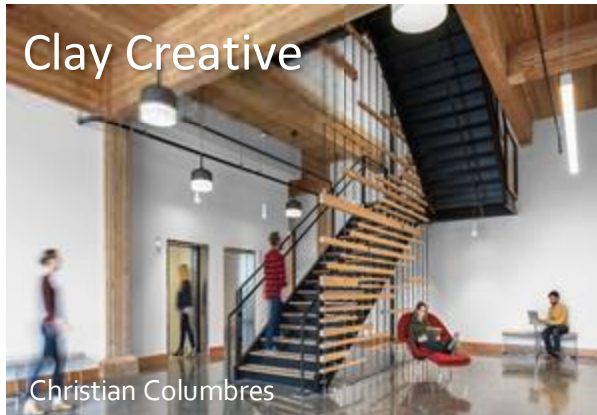
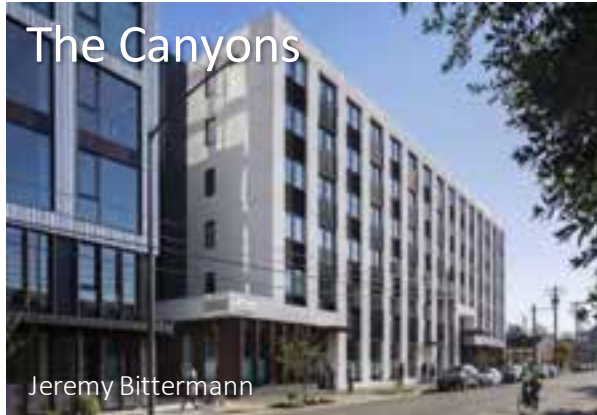


Curing & maze of  
shores (concrete)



Photo: WoodWorks

# Mass Timber Business Case Studies



**\$ Costs**  
**\$ Returns**  
**Challenges**  
**Lessons Learned**  
**Successes**



**Download online:**

[www.woodworks.org/mass-timber-business-case-studies](http://www.woodworks.org/mass-timber-business-case-studies)





# 10-Minute Break!

Presented by  
John O'Donald II, PE, WoodWorks  
June 15, 2022



# KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



INTRO, Cleveland, OH. Credit: Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors



# Key Early Design Decisions

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**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

---

## 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



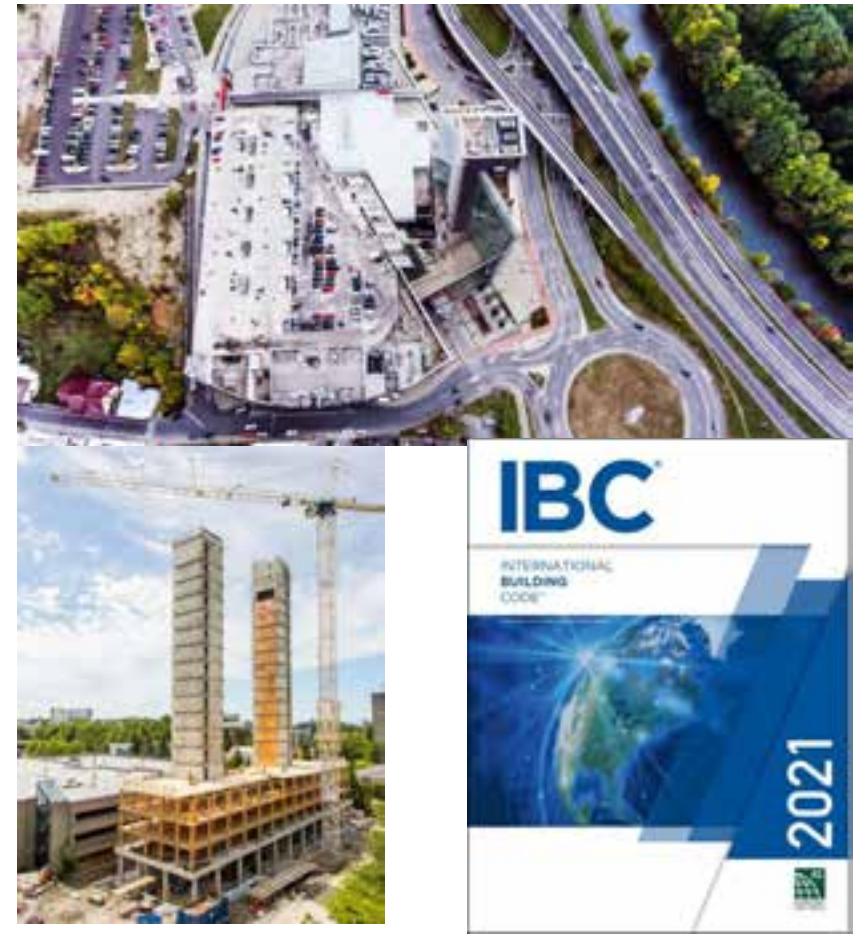


# Key Early Design Decisions

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There are several project-specific factors that influence how early decisions are made, and in some cases, the order in which they are made:

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



# Key Early Design Decisions

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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

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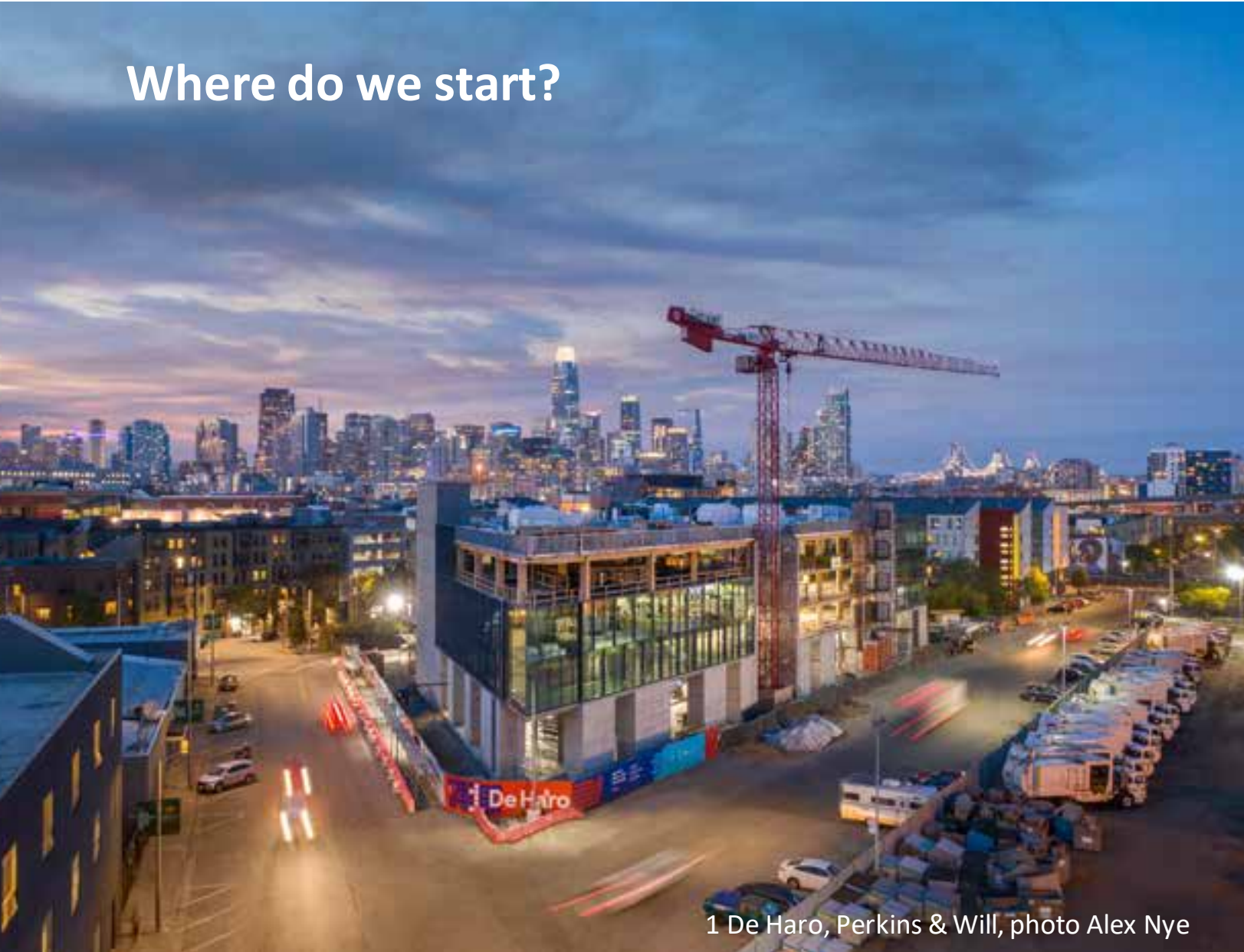
## Other impactful decisions:

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



# Key Early Design Decisions

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
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	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

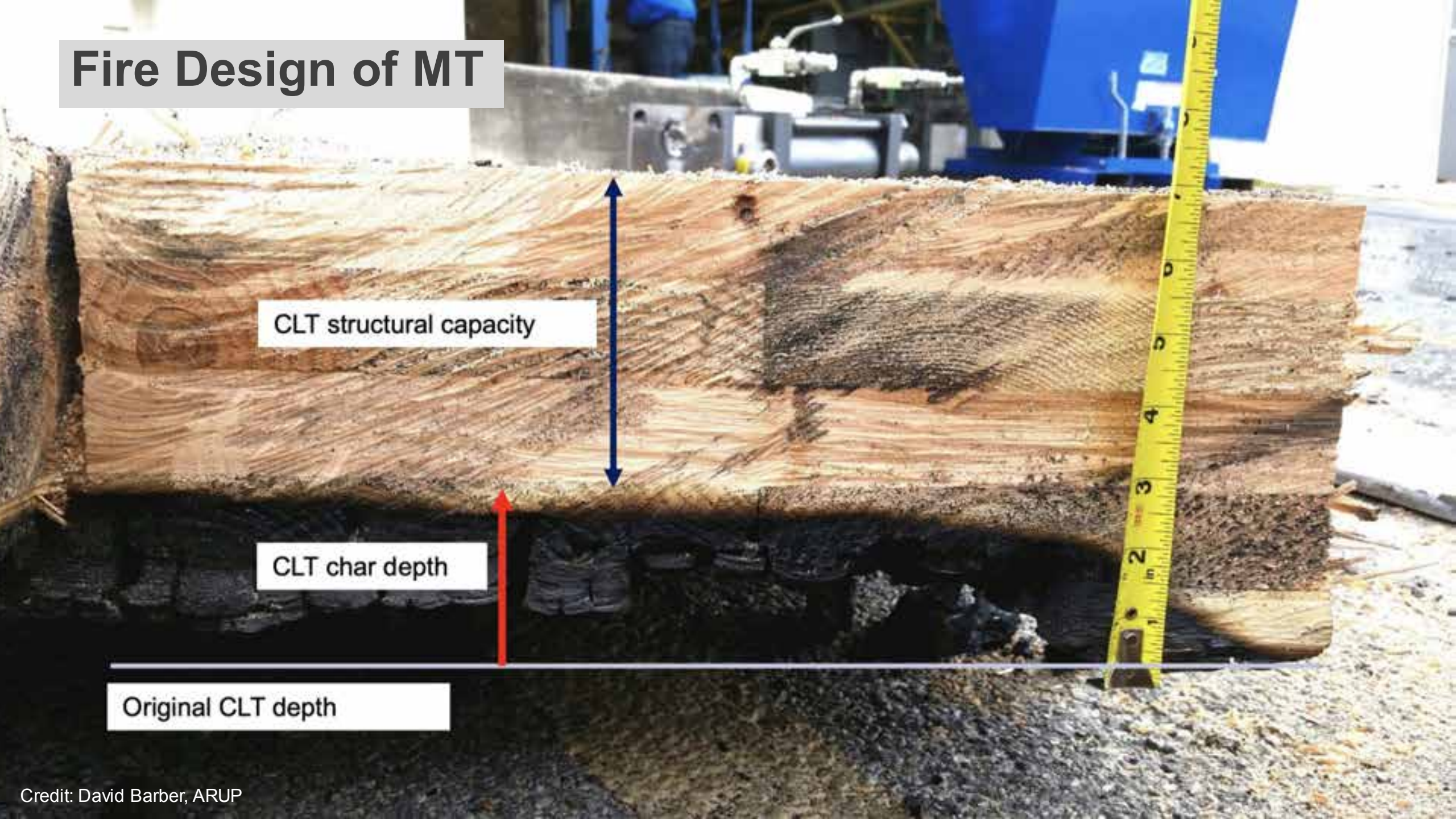
## Fire-Resistance Ratings

- Driven primarily by construction type
- Rating achieved through timber alone or non-com 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>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>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>c</sup>	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0	1½	1	1	HT	1 <sup>b, c</sup>	0

# Fire Design of MT

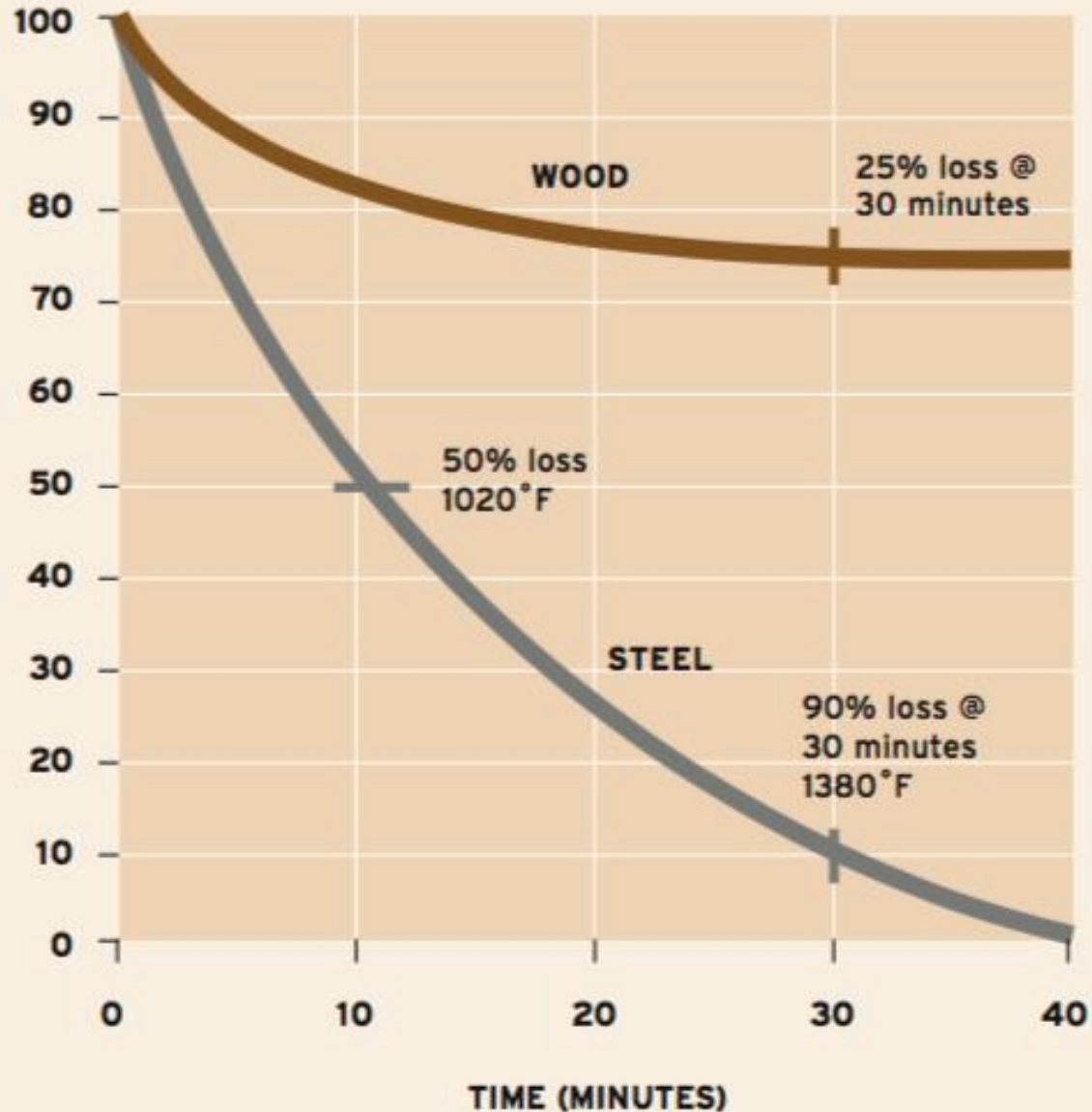




# MASS TIMBER DESIGN

## FIRE RESISTANCE

COMPARATIVE STRENGTH LOSS OF WOOD VERSUS STEEL



Results from test sponsored by National Forest Products Association at the Southwest Research Institute

SOURCE: AITC



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Fire-Resistance Ratings

- Driven primarily by construction type
- Rating achieved through timber alone or non-com 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>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>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>c</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

# Key Early Design Decisions

Construction type influences FRR

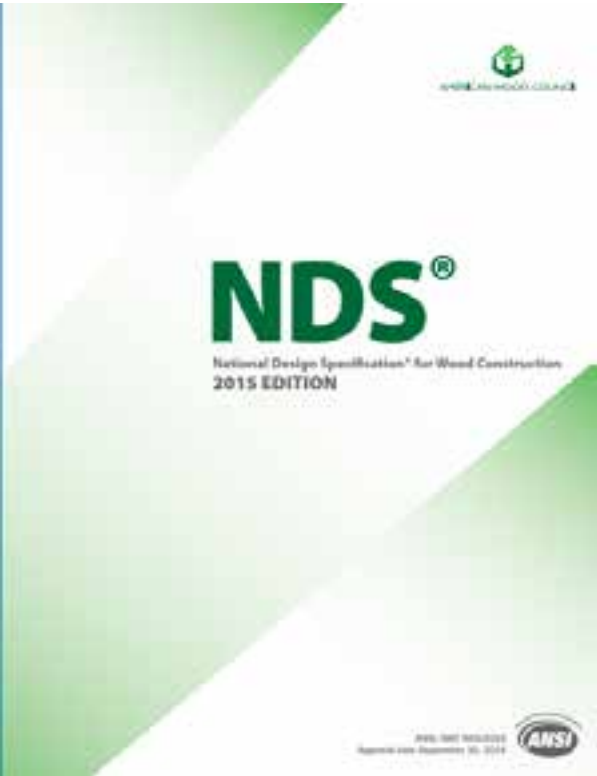
- Type IV-HT Construction (minimum sizes)
- **Other than type IV-HT**: Demonstrated fire resistance

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





# FRR Design of MT



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  $\beta_n=1.5\text{in./hr.}$ )**

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



# FRR Design of MT

## 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 Connection in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.49 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5 E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 30% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105mm 4.13 in)	Structuram	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 3/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	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	EI	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under J-channels and furring strips with 3 1/8" dimensional joists	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	3	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	EI	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	EI	1 layer 3/8" 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	EI	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 1/8" Joists with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between joists	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structuram	EI MS MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Grete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 30% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structuram	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 3/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (245mm 9.65")	Structuram	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% 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	VI	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 3)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	VI	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 (175mm 6.875")	KIH	CVIM1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI



# FRR Design of MT



## Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McCann, P.E., S.E. • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks  
Scott Zimmerman, P.E., S.E. • 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 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 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-retarded-treated wood (FRTTW) 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



Carbon12 | Portland, Oregon  
Kaiser Group | Beth Architecture  
Munroe Structural Engineering

## Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

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

# Structural Grid

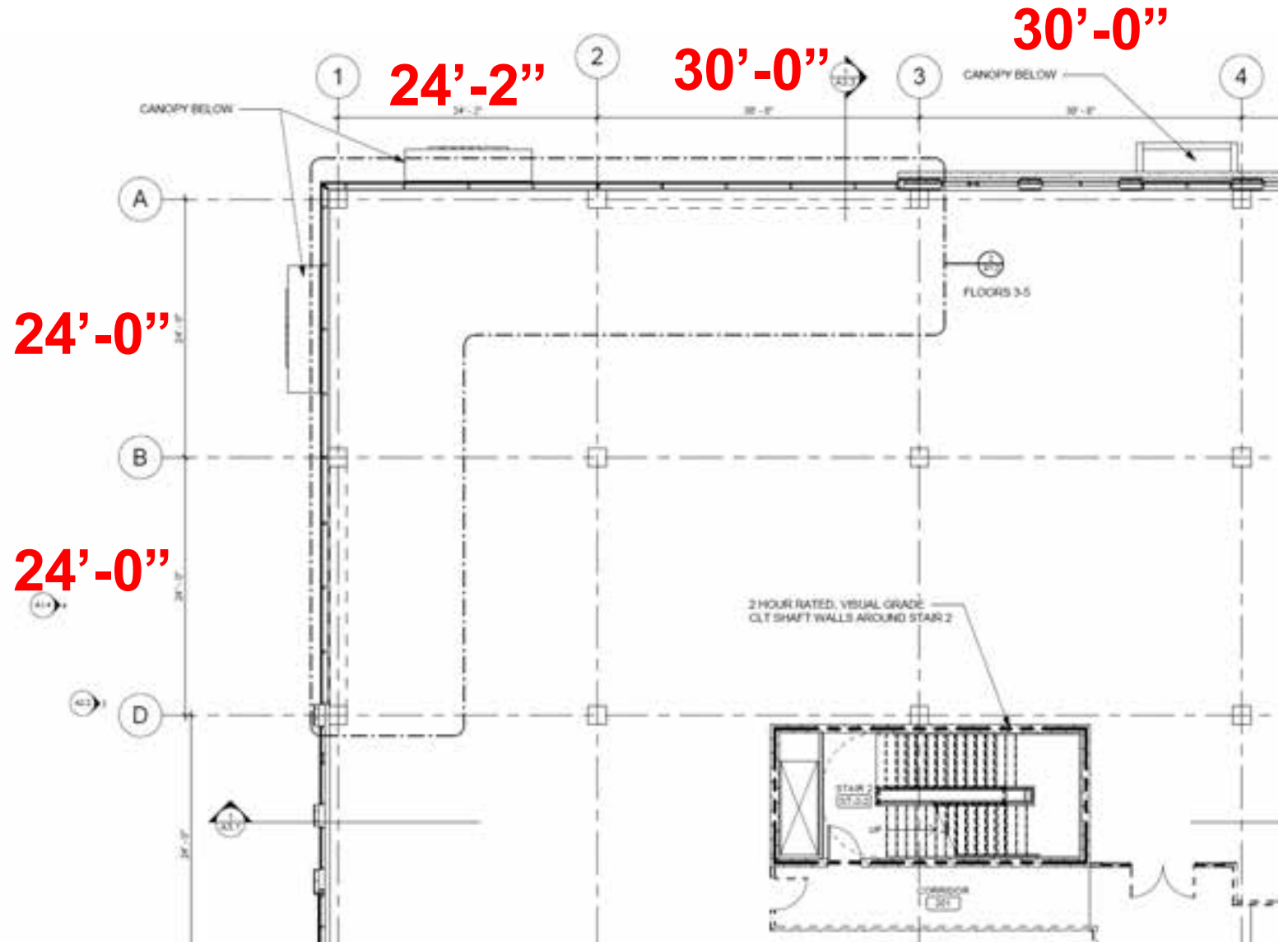




# Structural Grid

## Grids & Spans

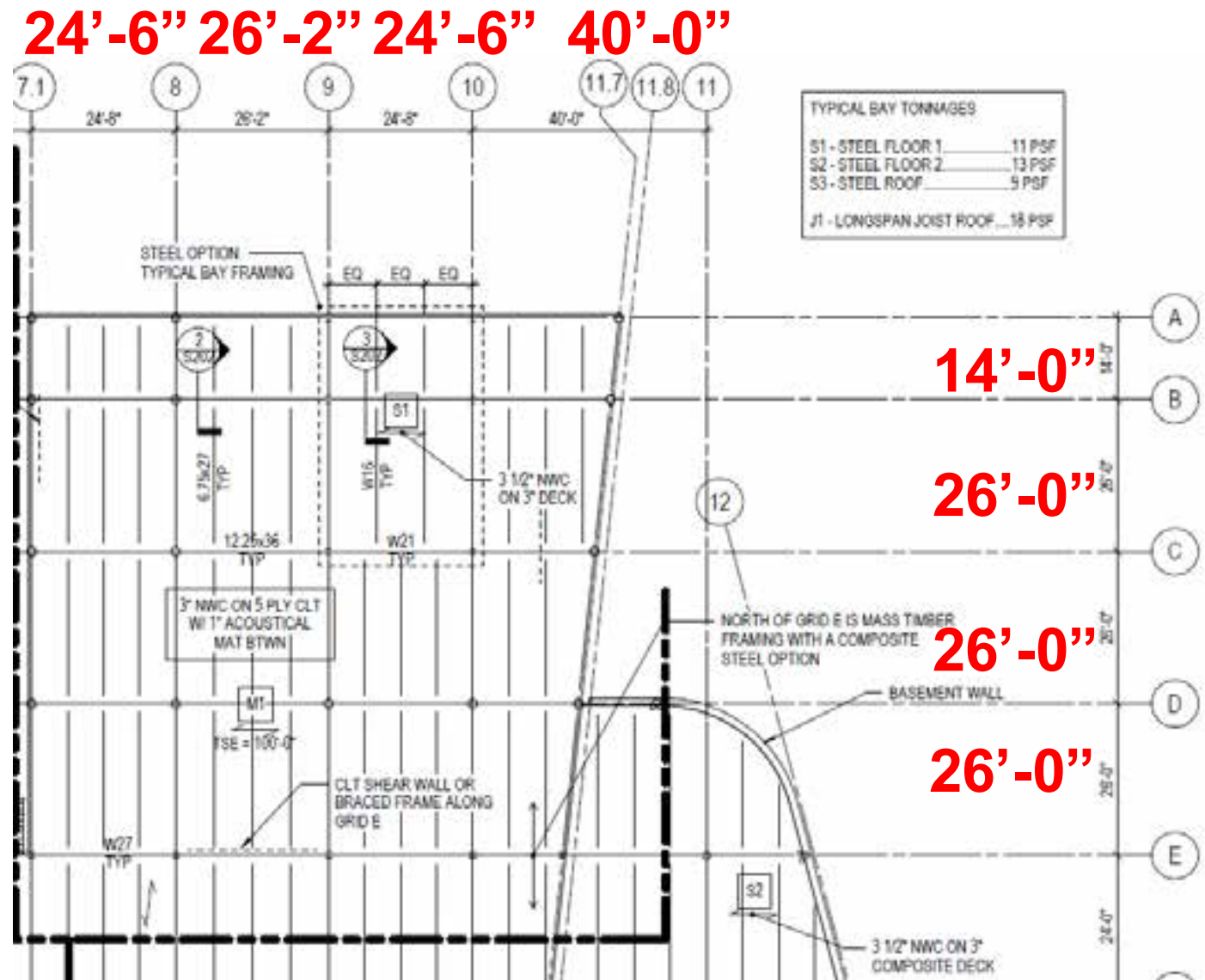
- Consider Efficient Layouts
- Repetition & Scale
- Manufacturer Panel Sizing
- Transportation



# 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



# Key Early Design Decisions

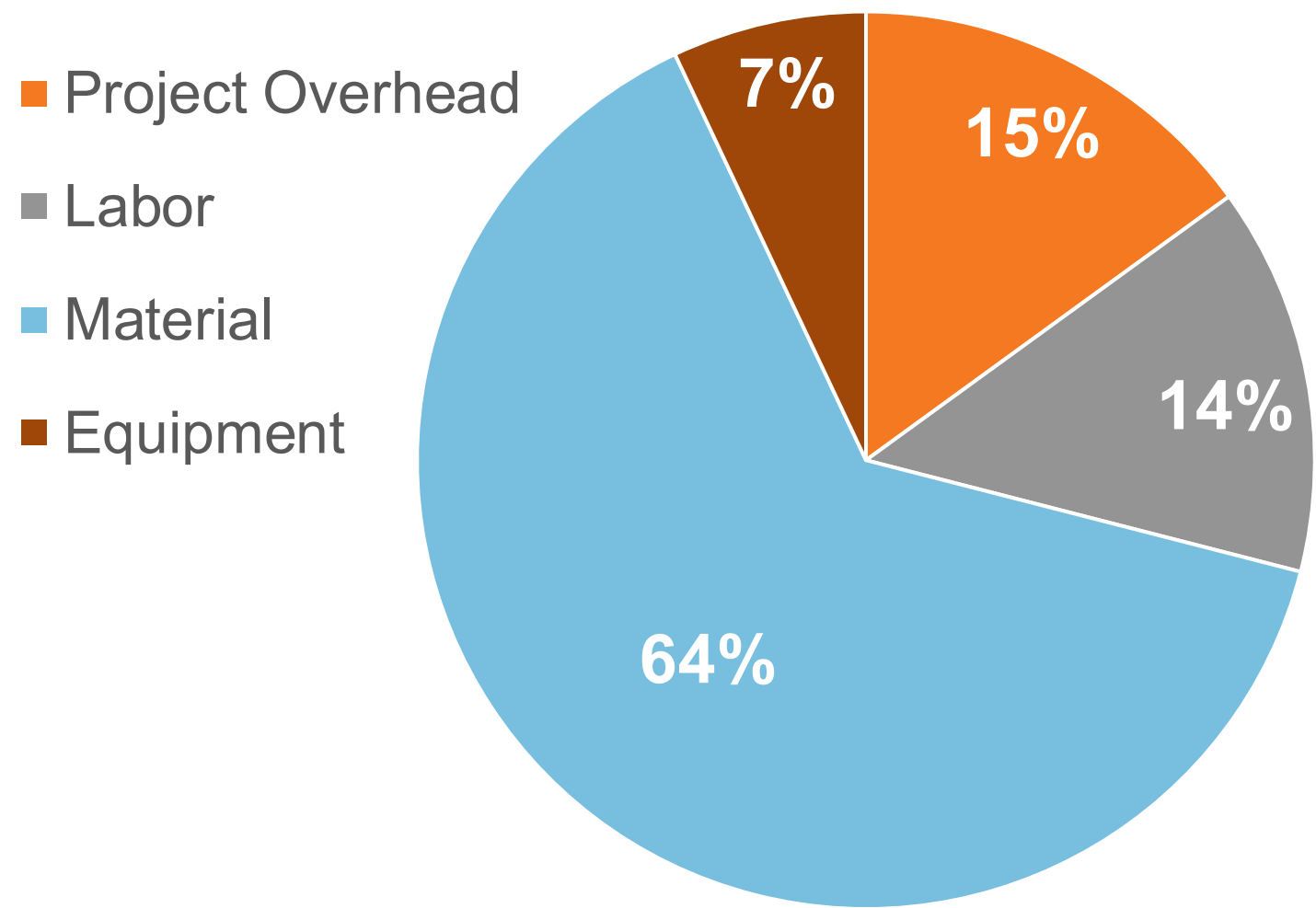
**Why so much focus on panel thickness?**



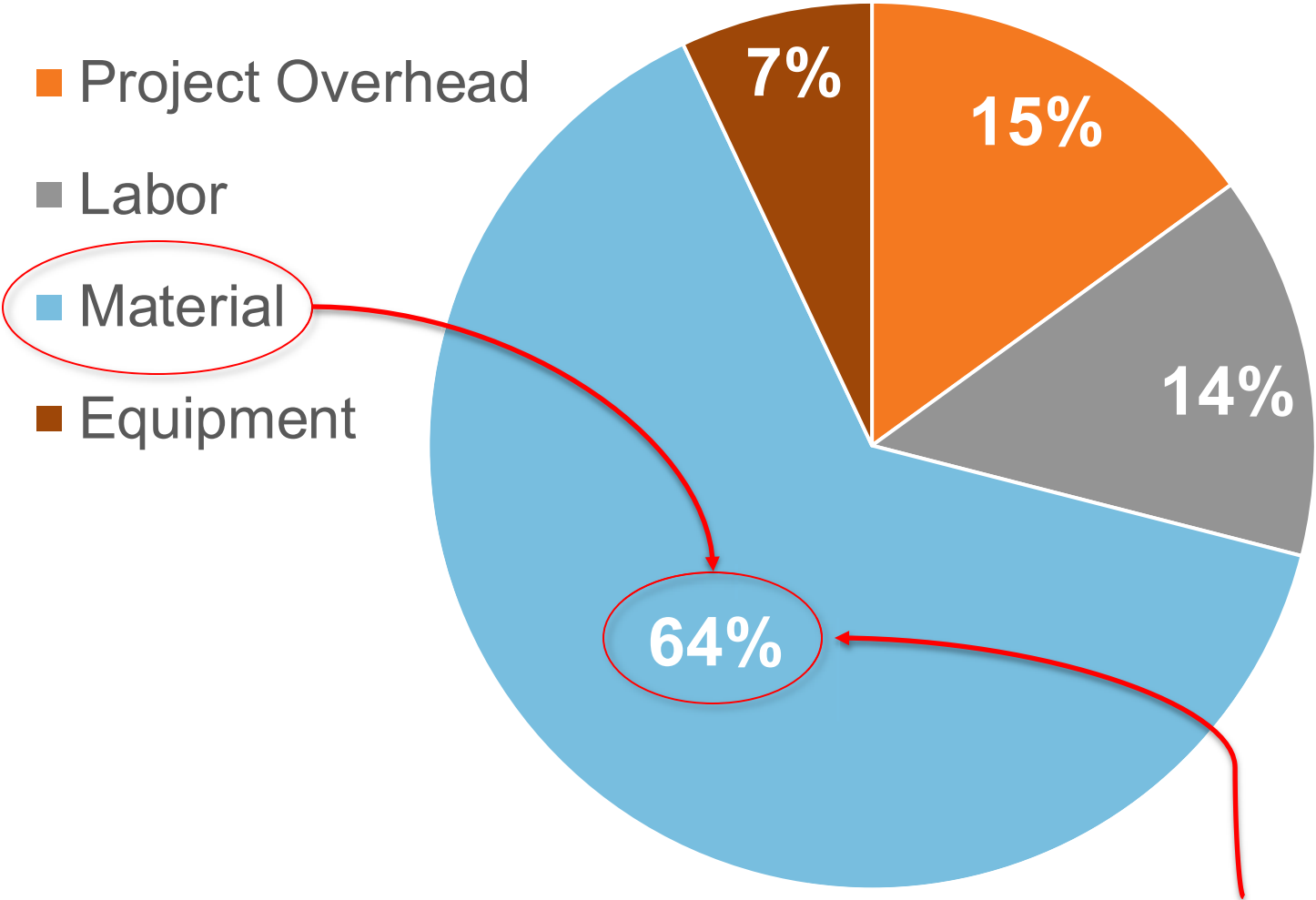


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Typical MT Package Costs



# Key Early Design Decisions



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

# Key Early Design Decisions

## Construction Type Early Decision Example



### 7-story building on health campus

- Group R-2 occupancy, NFPA 13 sprinklers throughout
- Floor plate = 22,300 SF
- Total Building Area = 156,100 SF

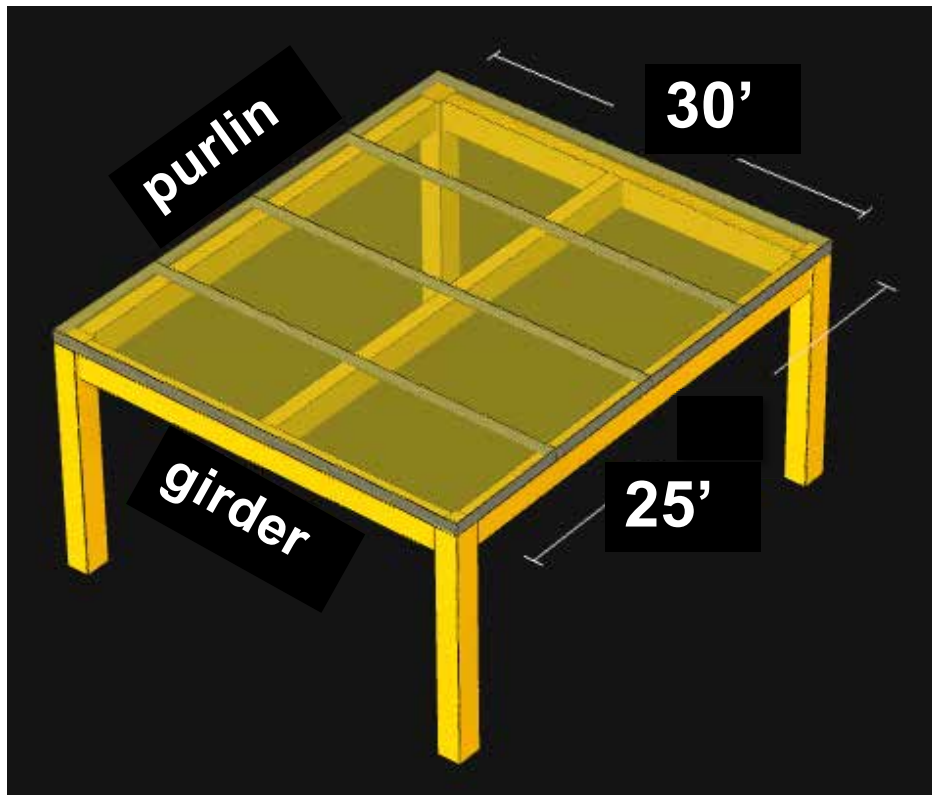
### MT Construction Type Options:

- **If Building is < 85 ft**
  - 7 stories of IV-C
  - 5 stories of IIIA or IV-HT over 2 story IA podium
- **If Building is > 85 ft**
  - 7 stories of IV-B



# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



## 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)

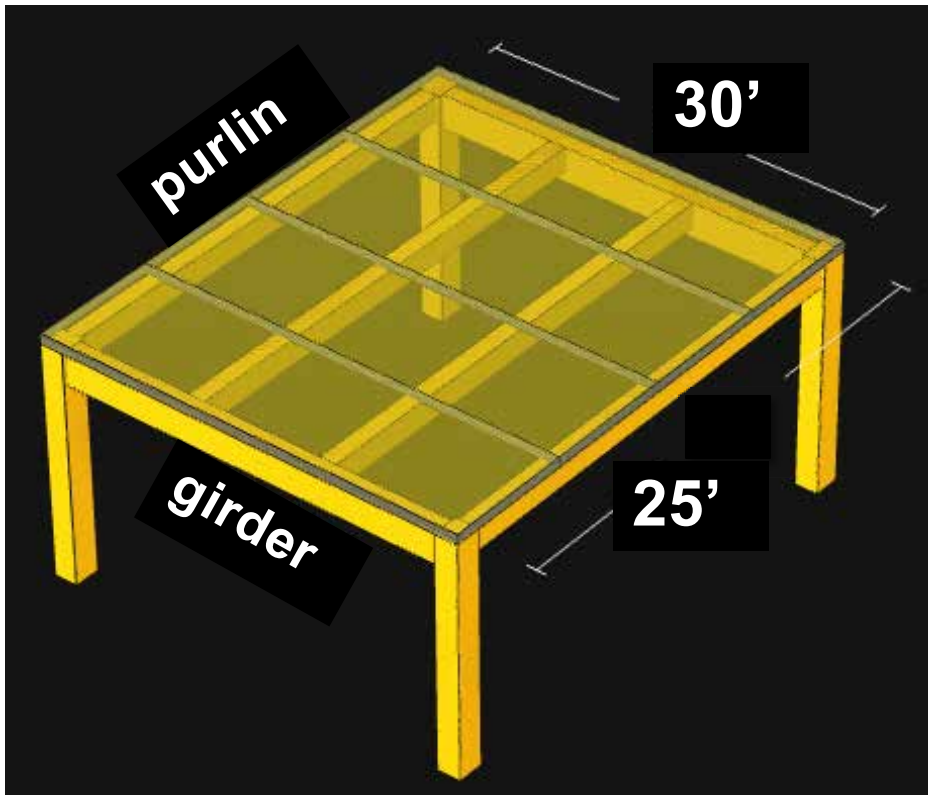
CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

Total volume = 0.73 CF / SF

Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

# Key Early Design Decisions

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)

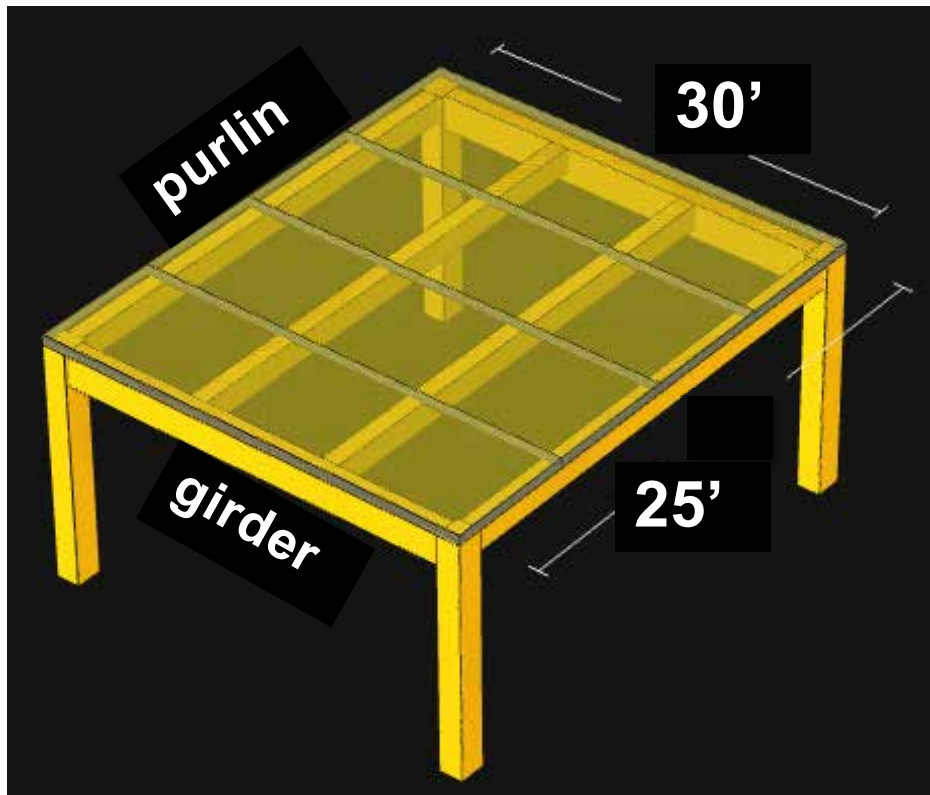
CLT volume = 430 CF (78% of MT)

Total volume = 0.74 CF / SF

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

# Key Early Design Decisions

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)

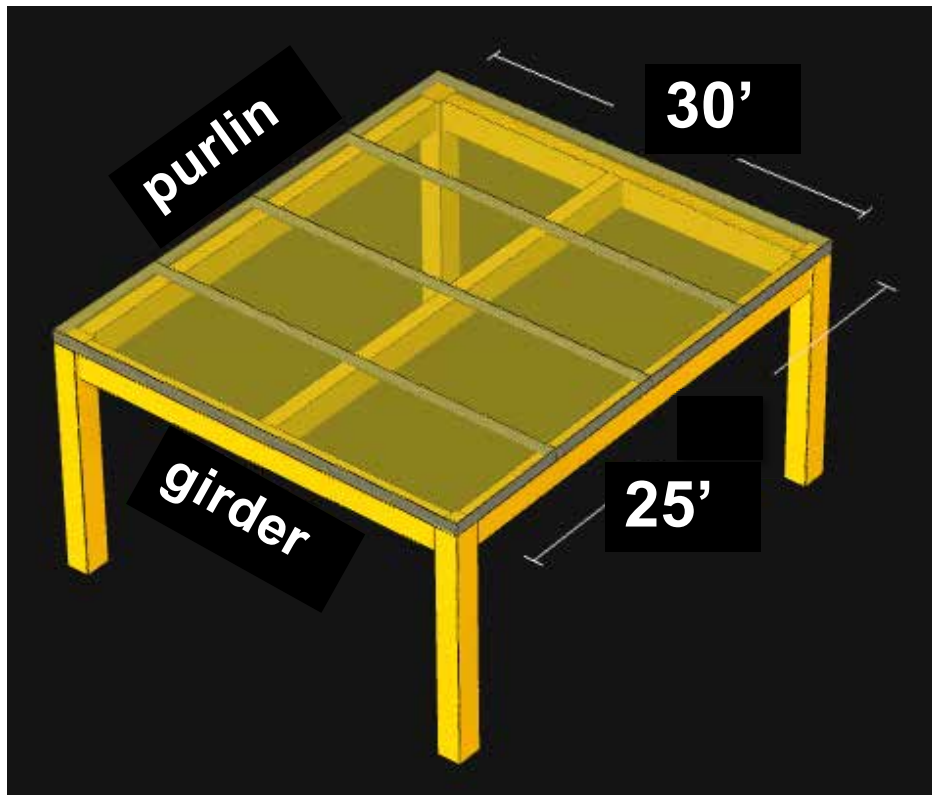
CLT volume = 258 CF (68% of MT)

Total volume = 0.51 CF / SF



# Key Early Design Decisions

Panel volume usually 65-80% of MT package volume



## 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)

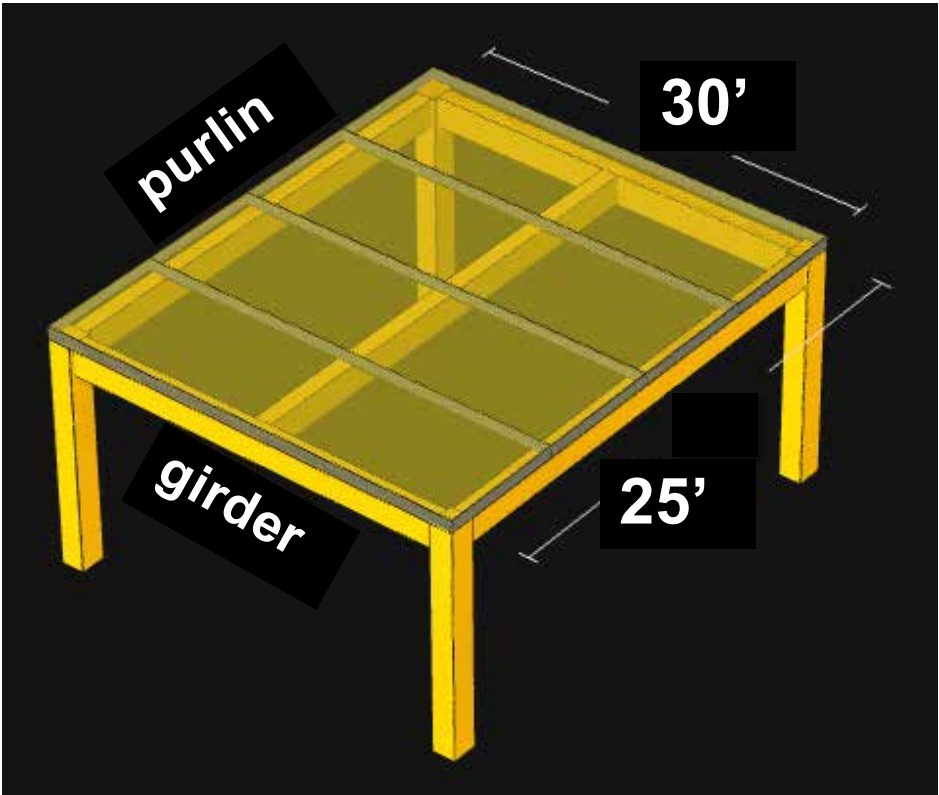
CLT volume = 430 CF (70% of MT)

Total volume = 0.82 CF / SF

Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

# Key Early Design Decisions

Which is the most efficient option?



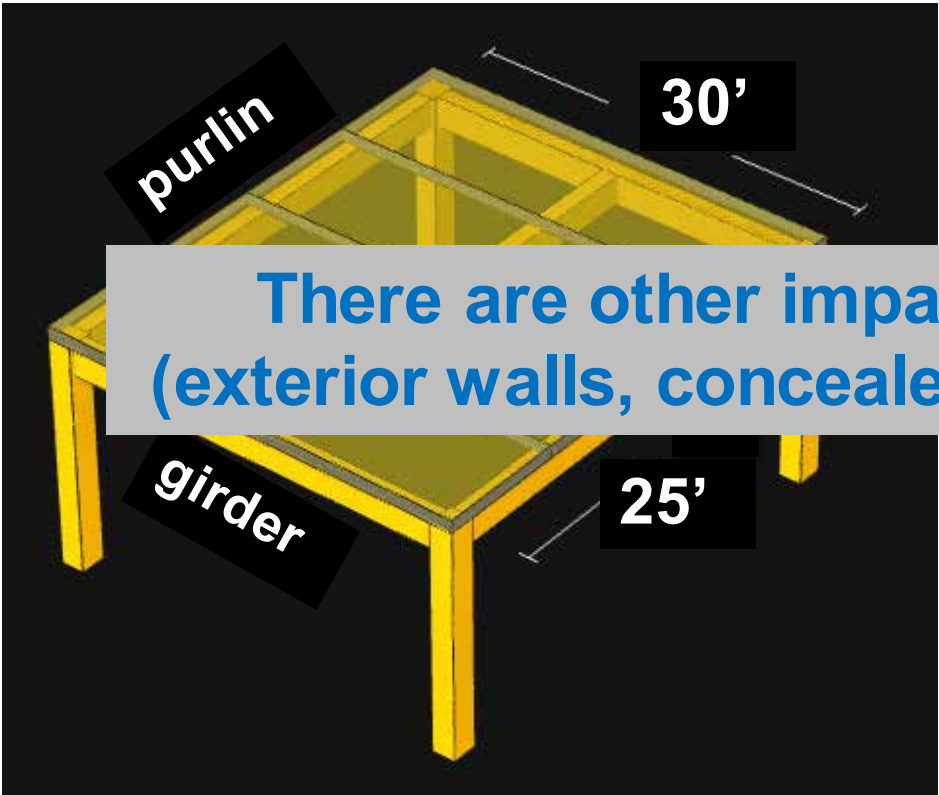
Source: Fast + Epp, Timber Bay Design Tool

	Timber Volume Ratio	Podium on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</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

# Key Early Design Decisions

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> & 2 <sup>nd</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



# Connections



# Key Early Design Decisions

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

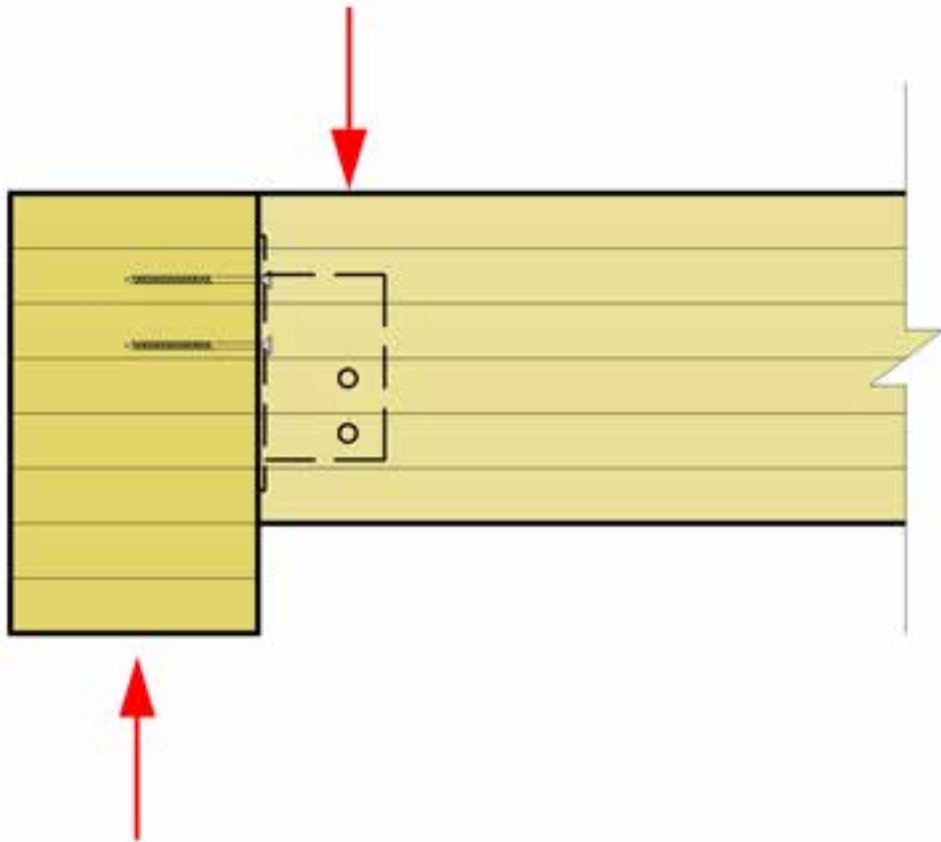




# Key Early Design Decisions

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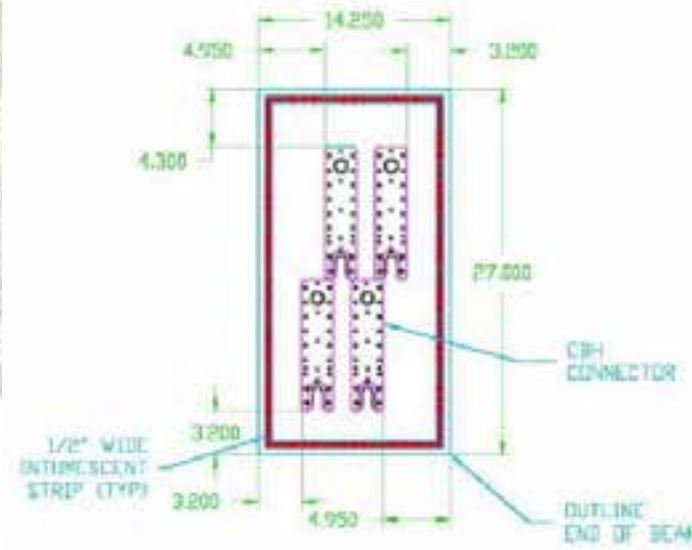
Steel hangers/hardware fully concealed within a timber-to-timber connection is a common method of fire protection





# Key Early Design Decisions

Connection FRR and beam reactions could impact required beam/column sizes



# Key Early Design Decisions

---

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





# Key Early Design Decisions

---

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**





# MEP Layout & Integration





# 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



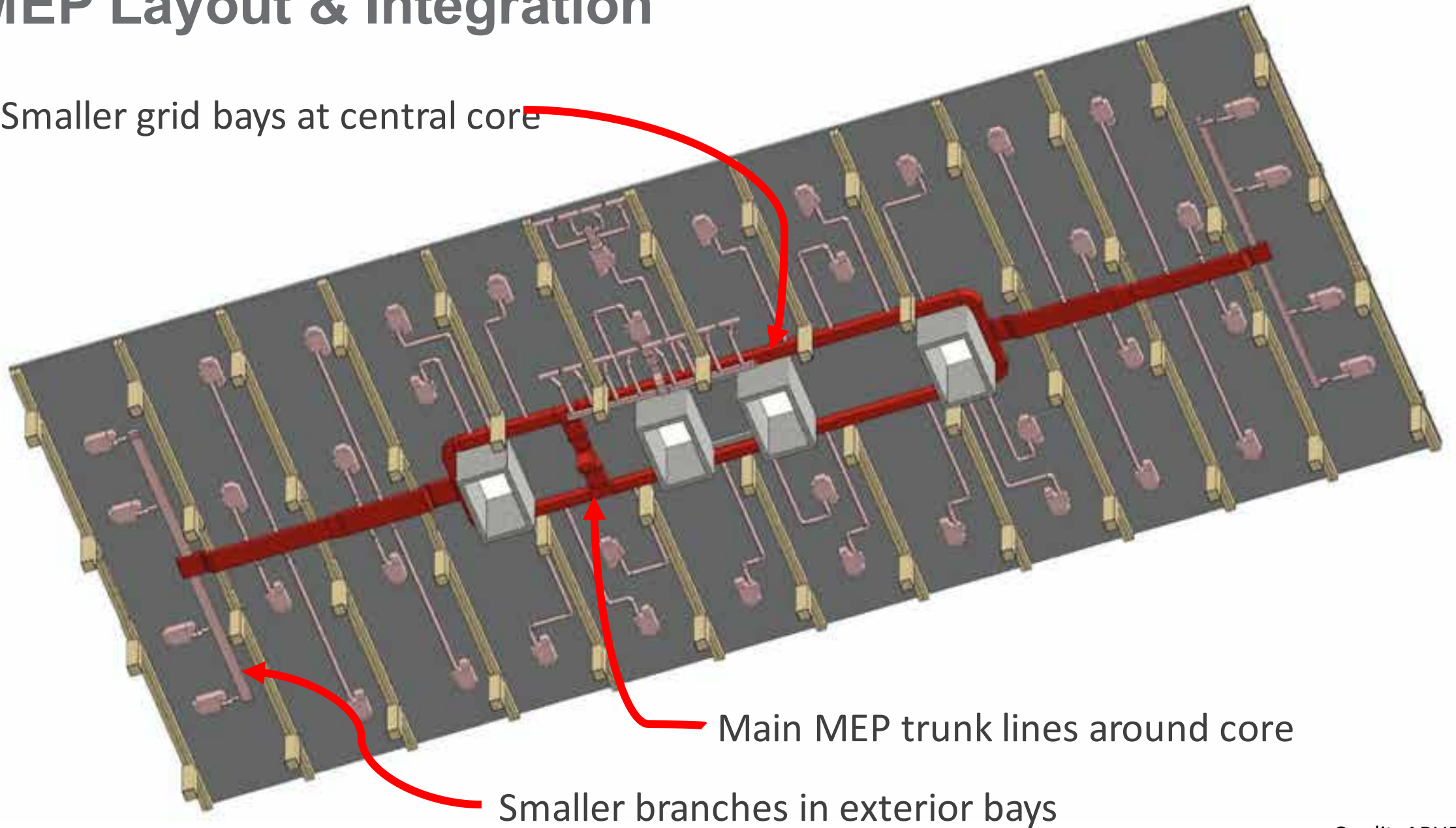
Credit: Blaine Brownell



Credit: WoodWorks

# MEP Layout & Integration

Smaller grid bays at central core



Main MEP trunk lines around core

Smaller branches in exterior bays



# MEP Layout & Integration

Grid impact: Relies on 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

In gaps between MT panels

- Fewer penetrations, can allow for easier modifications later



Credit: Ema Peter/MGA



Credit: Hacker Architects



# 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





# 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

# MEP Layout & Integration

In chases above beams and below panels at Platte 15

- 30x30 grid, purlins at 10 ft, 3-ply CLT



Credit: JC Buck





# Penetrations & Firestopping

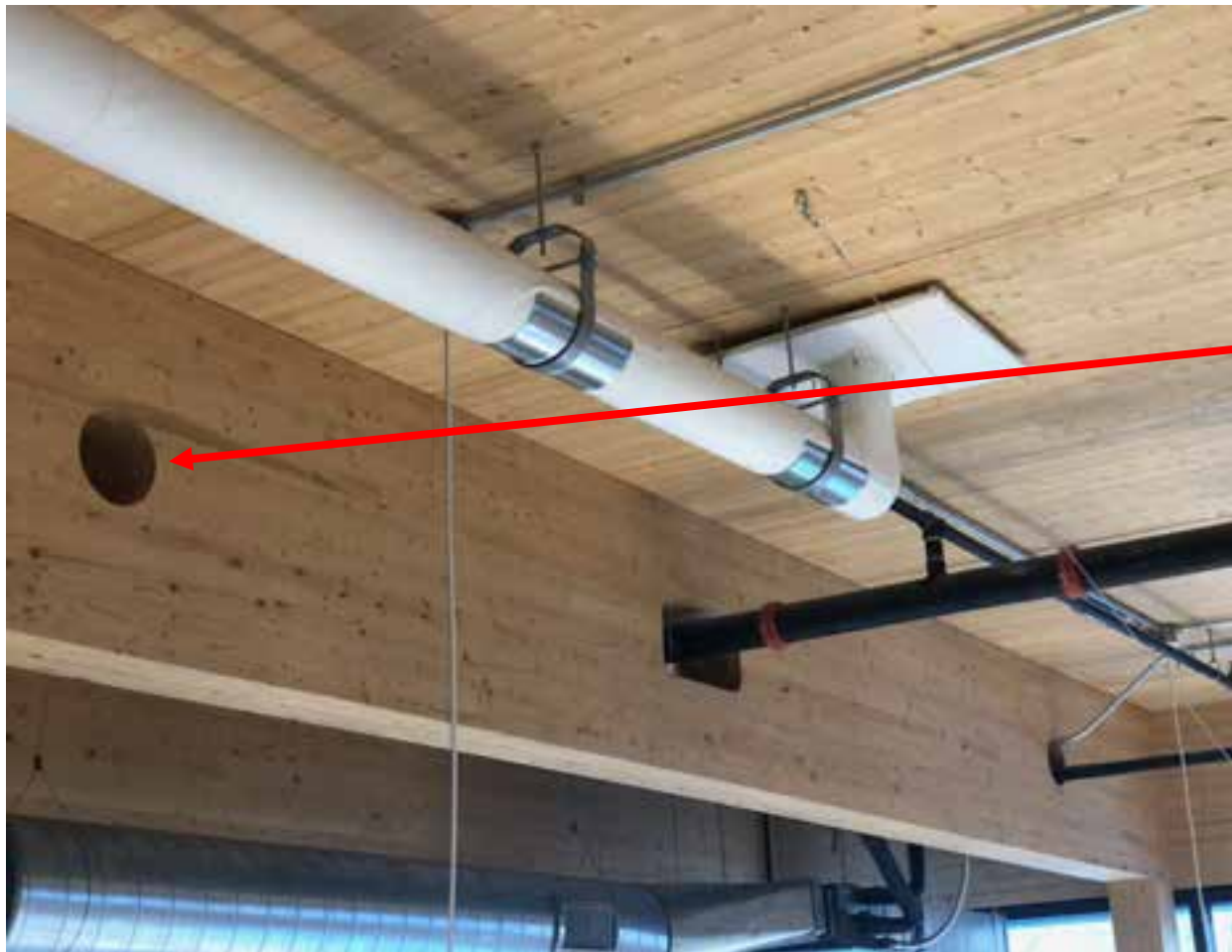
The image shows a complex arrangement of industrial piping and conduits. In the foreground, several large, dark-colored pipes run horizontally, supported by metal brackets. Above them, more pipes curve upwards and outwards, some with visible joints and clamps. A wooden panel, likely part of a wall or ceiling structure, is visible in the background. On the right side, a metal structure with several circular openings, possibly for ventilation or access, is partially visible. The overall scene suggests a technical or industrial environment where firestopping and penetration management are critical.



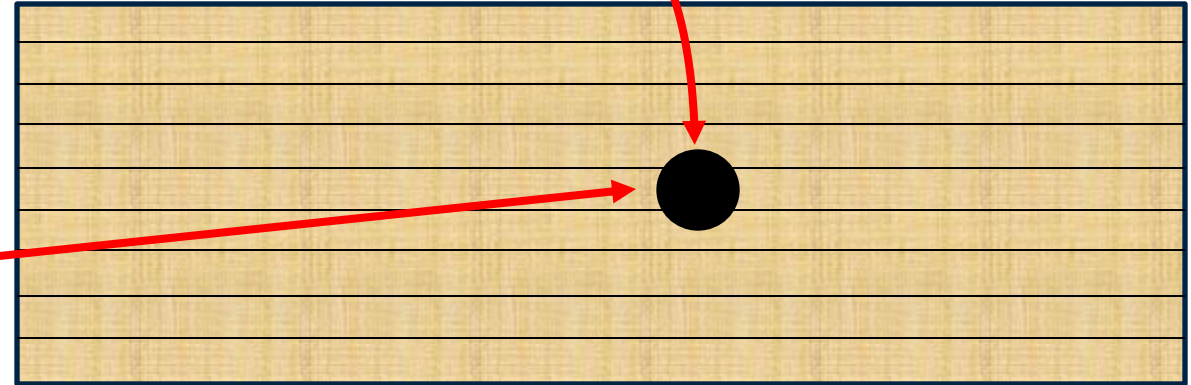
# Penetrations & Firestopping

Beam penetrations:

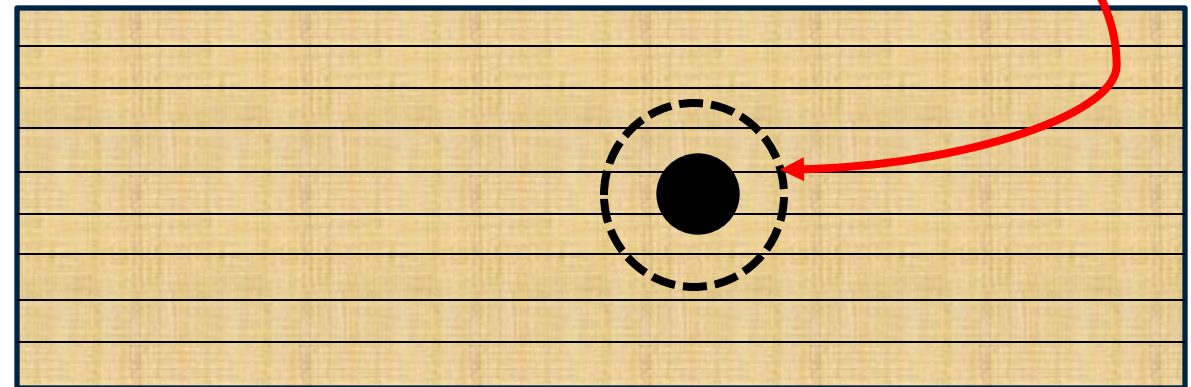
- If FRR = 0-hr, analyze structural impact of hole diameter only
- If FRR > 0-hr, account for charred hole diameter or firestop penetration



Hole diameter



Hole diameter after 1-hr char

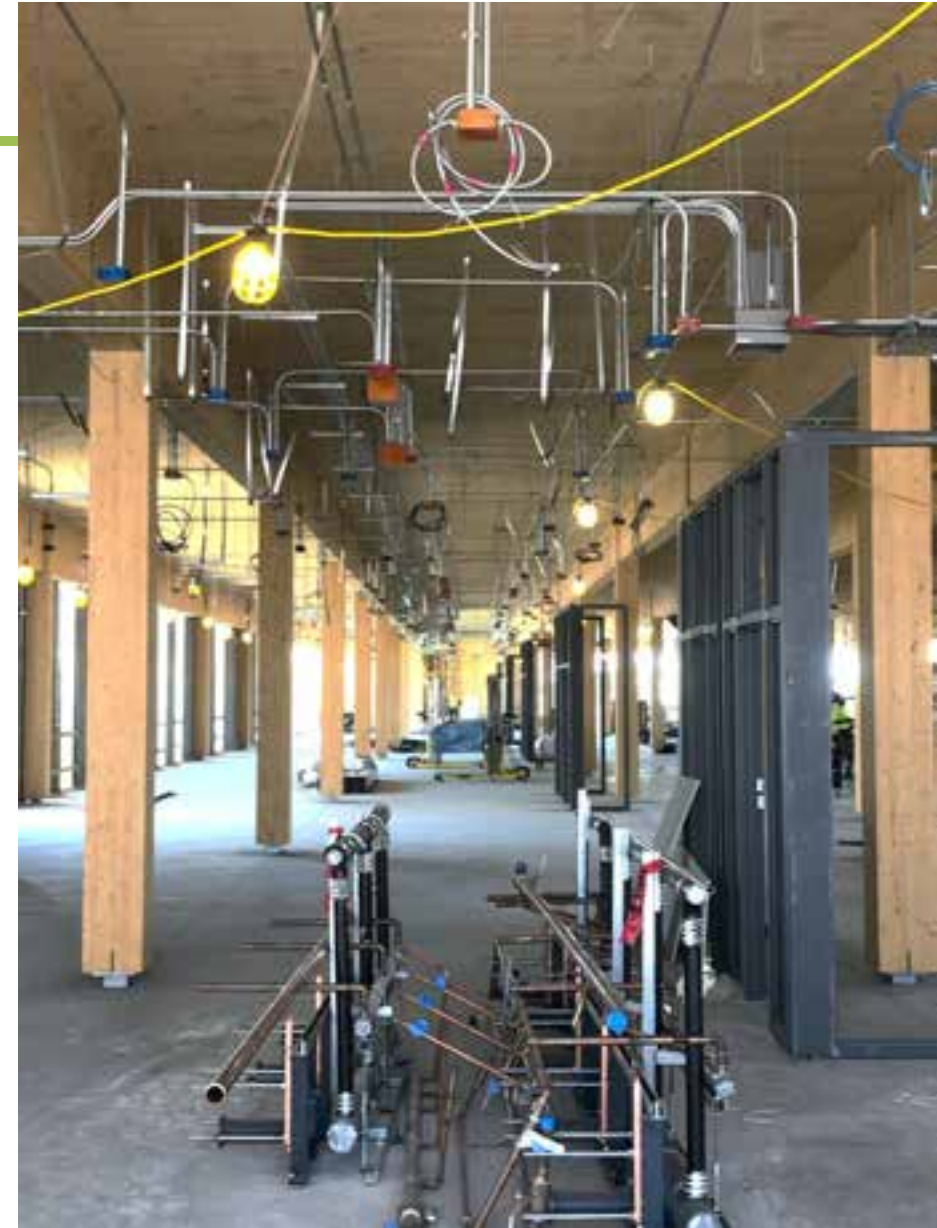


# Penetrations & Firestopping

## 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

## Inventory of Fire Tested Penetrations in MT Assemblies

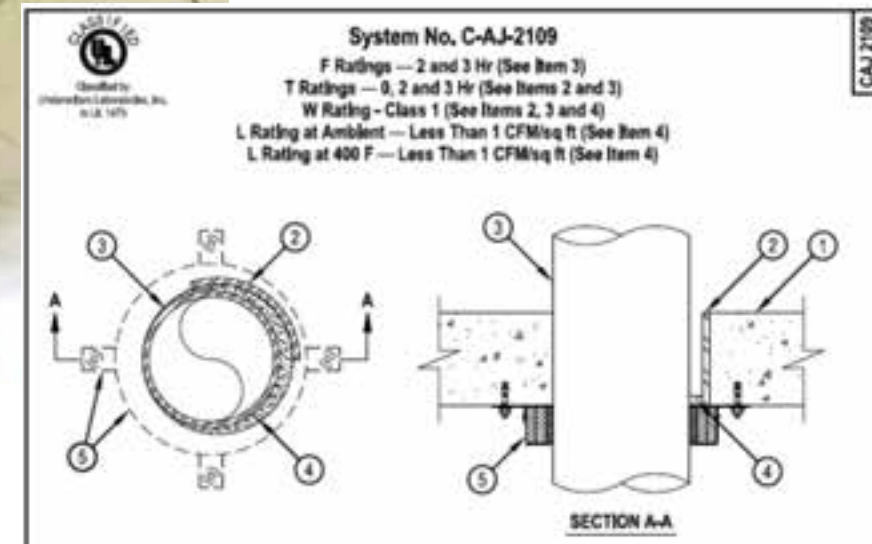
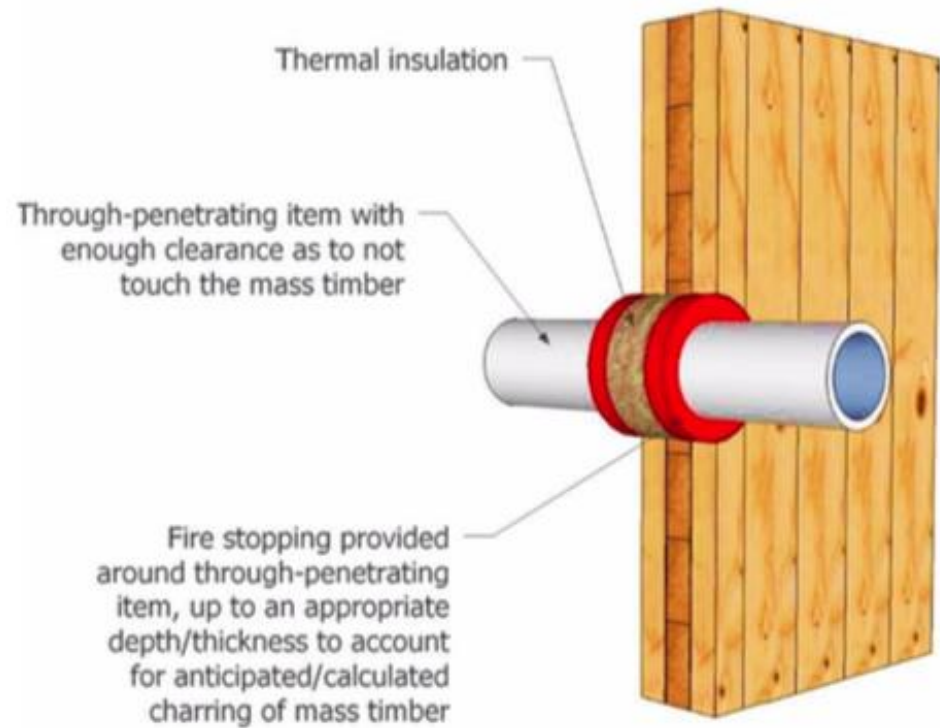


**Table 3: North American Fire Tests of Penetrations and Fire Stops in CLT Assemblies**

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

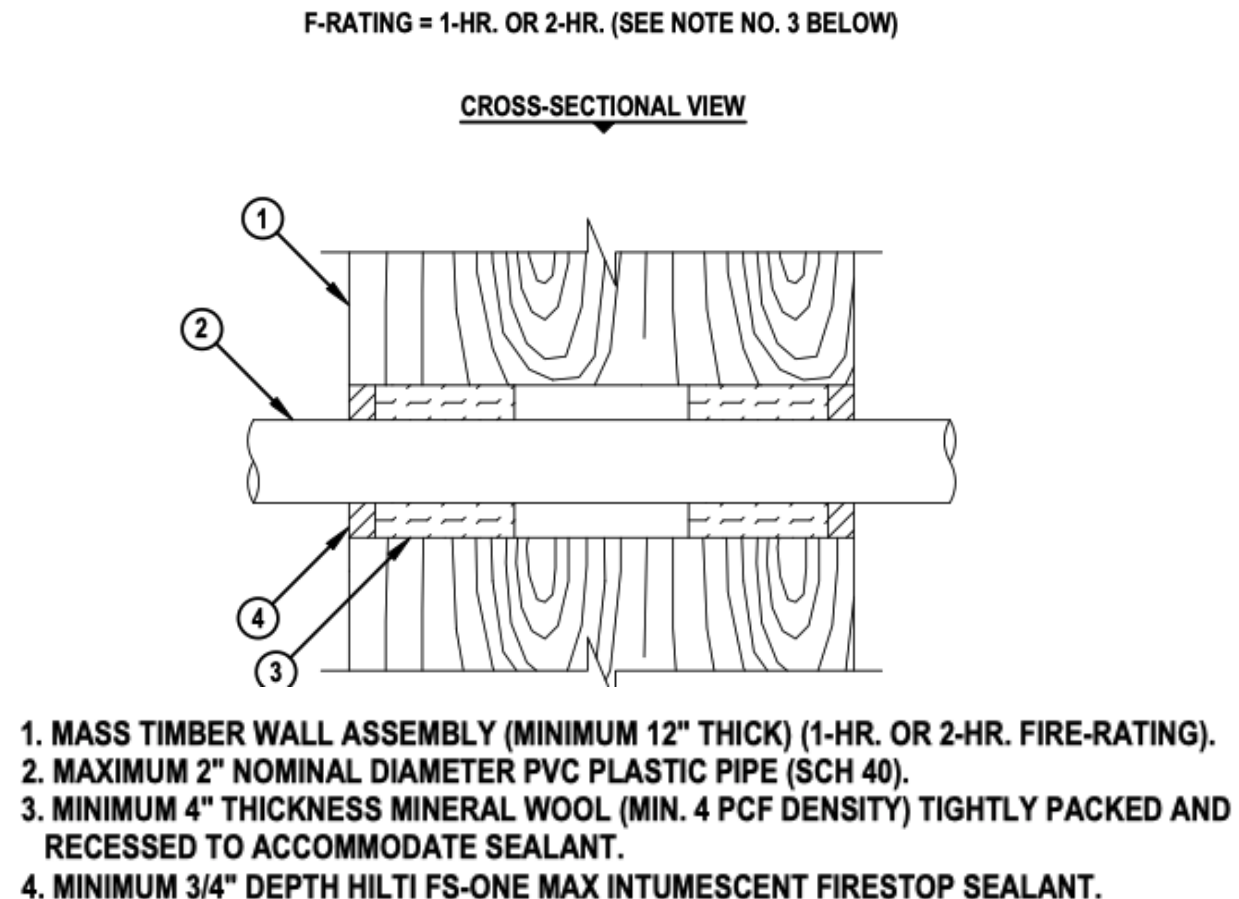
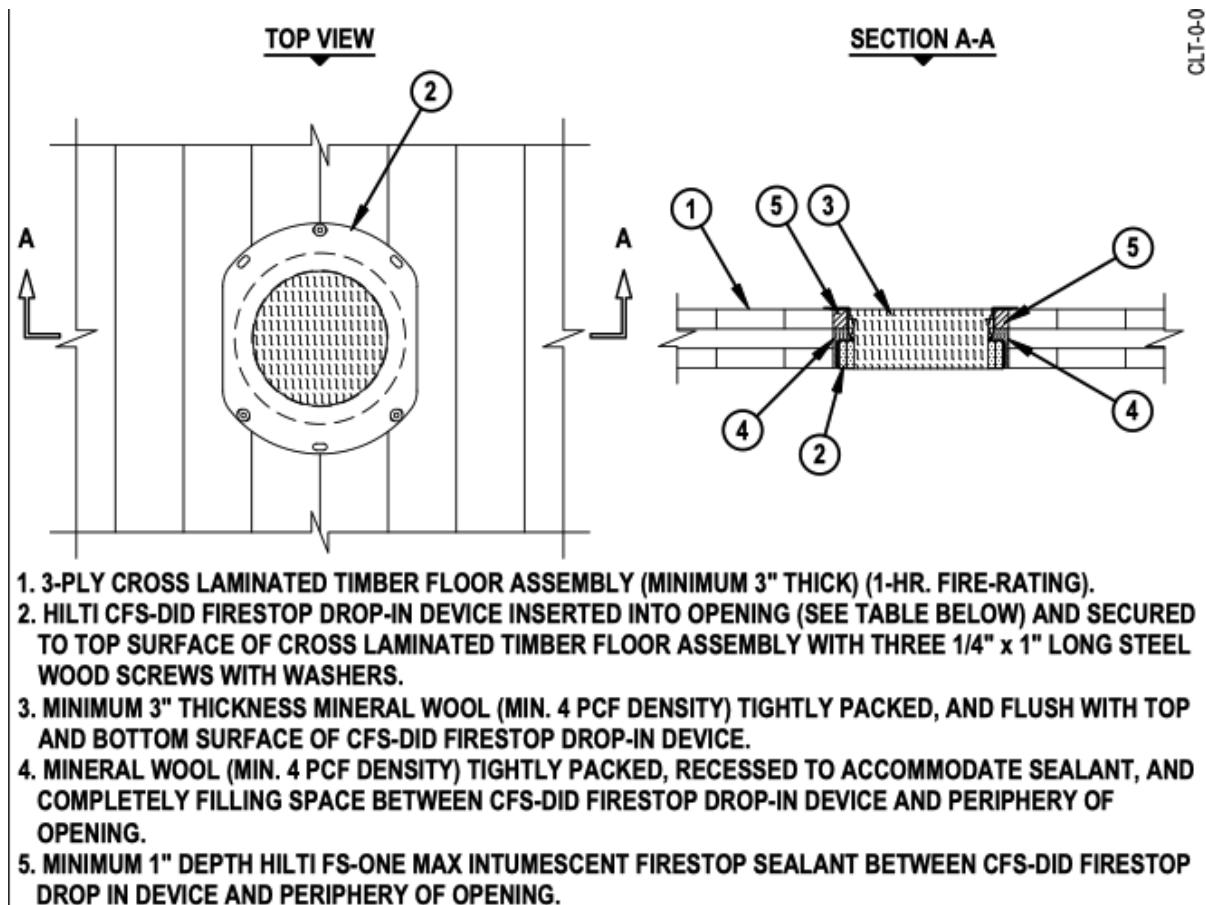
# Penetrations & Firestopping

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



# Penetrations & Firestopping

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





# Acoustics & Sound Control



# Acoustics & Sound Control

Consider Impacts of:

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



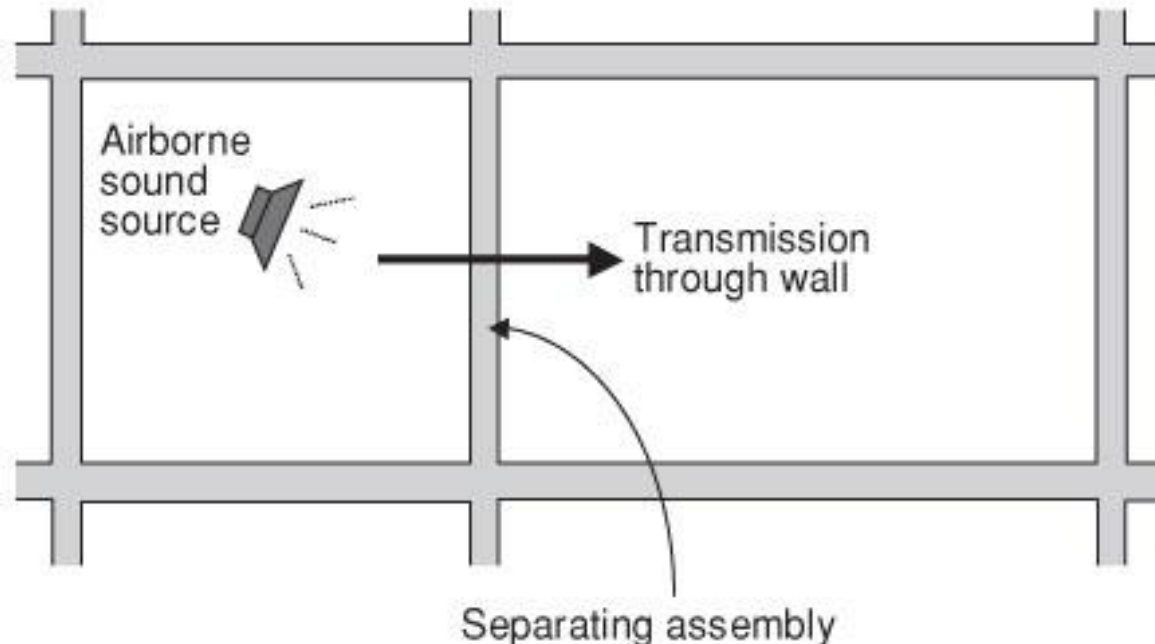
Credit: Rothoblaas

# 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



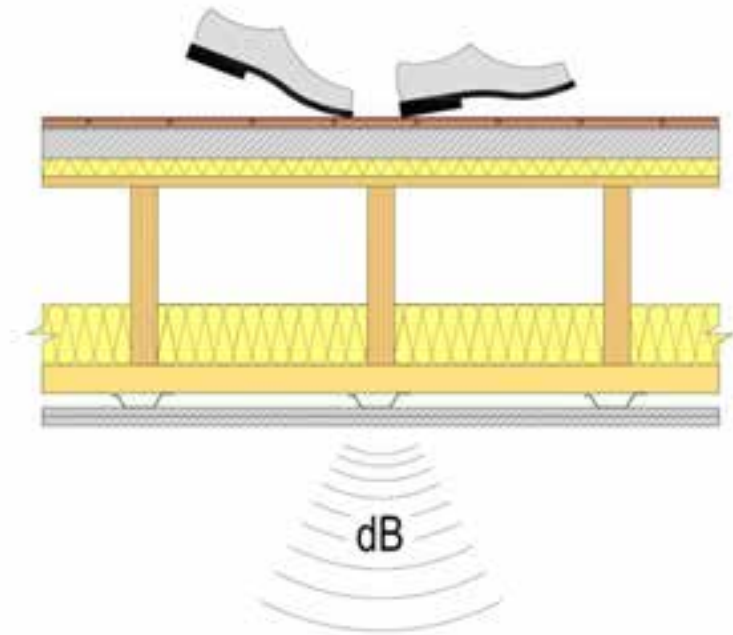


# Acoustics & Sound Control

## 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:

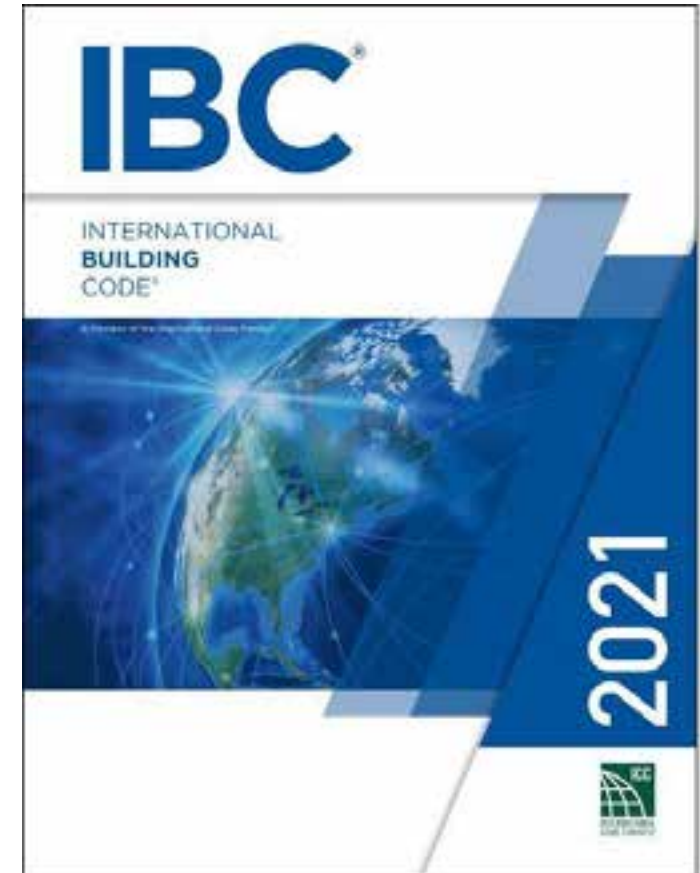
For unit to unit or unit to public or service areas:

**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

**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

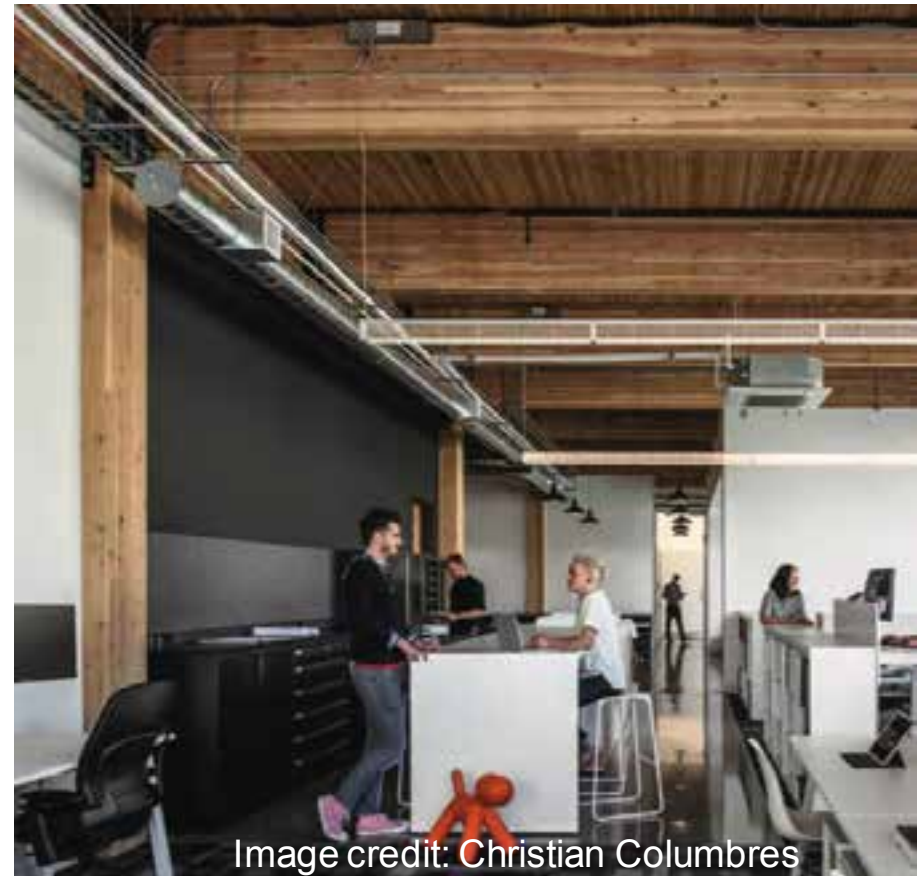


Image credit: Christian Columbres

# Acoustics & Sound Control



Concrete Slab:

6" Thick

80 PSF

STC 53



CLT Slab:

6-7/8" Thick

18 PSF

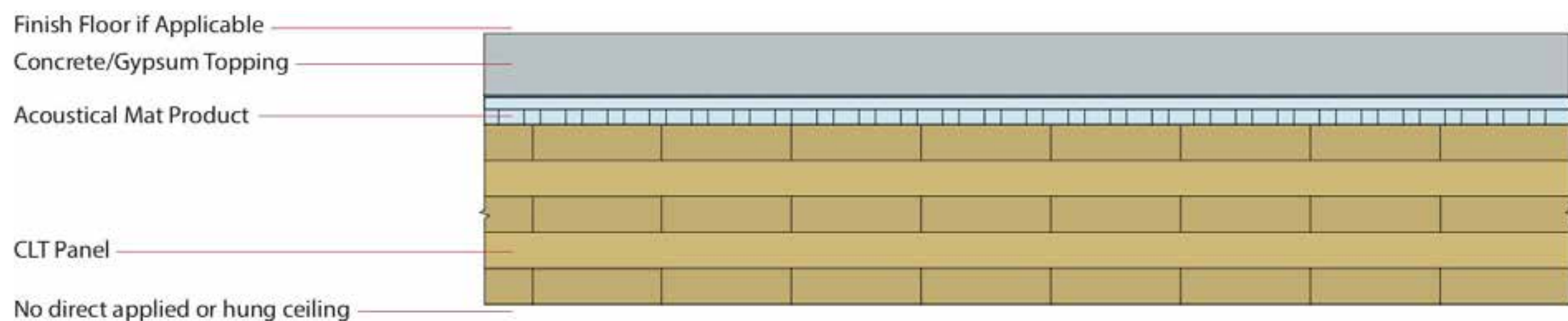
STC 41



# 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





# 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:

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# Acoustics & Sound Control

## Inventory of Tested 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 <sup>1</sup>	IIC <sup>1</sup>	Source
CLT 3-ply (3.5")	3" concrete	Maxxon Acousti-Mat® 3/4	None	53 <sup>2</sup> ASTC	45 <sup>2</sup> FIIC	72
CLT 3-ply (4.125")	2" concrete	Pliteq GenieMat™ FF25	None	54	44	89
			LVT on GenieMat RST05	53	48	90
			Eng Wood on GenieMat RST05	53	46	91
			Carpet Tile	52	50	92
	3" concrete	Kinetics® RIM-33L-2-24 System with ¼" Plywood	None	57	45	103
			LVT	-	58	104
			2 layers of ¼" USG Fiberock® on Kinetics® Soundmatt	55	55	105
			LVT on 2 layers of ¼" USG Fiberock® on Kinetics® Soundmatt	-	59	106
			None	57	46	107

# Mass Timber in Multi-Family

## 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



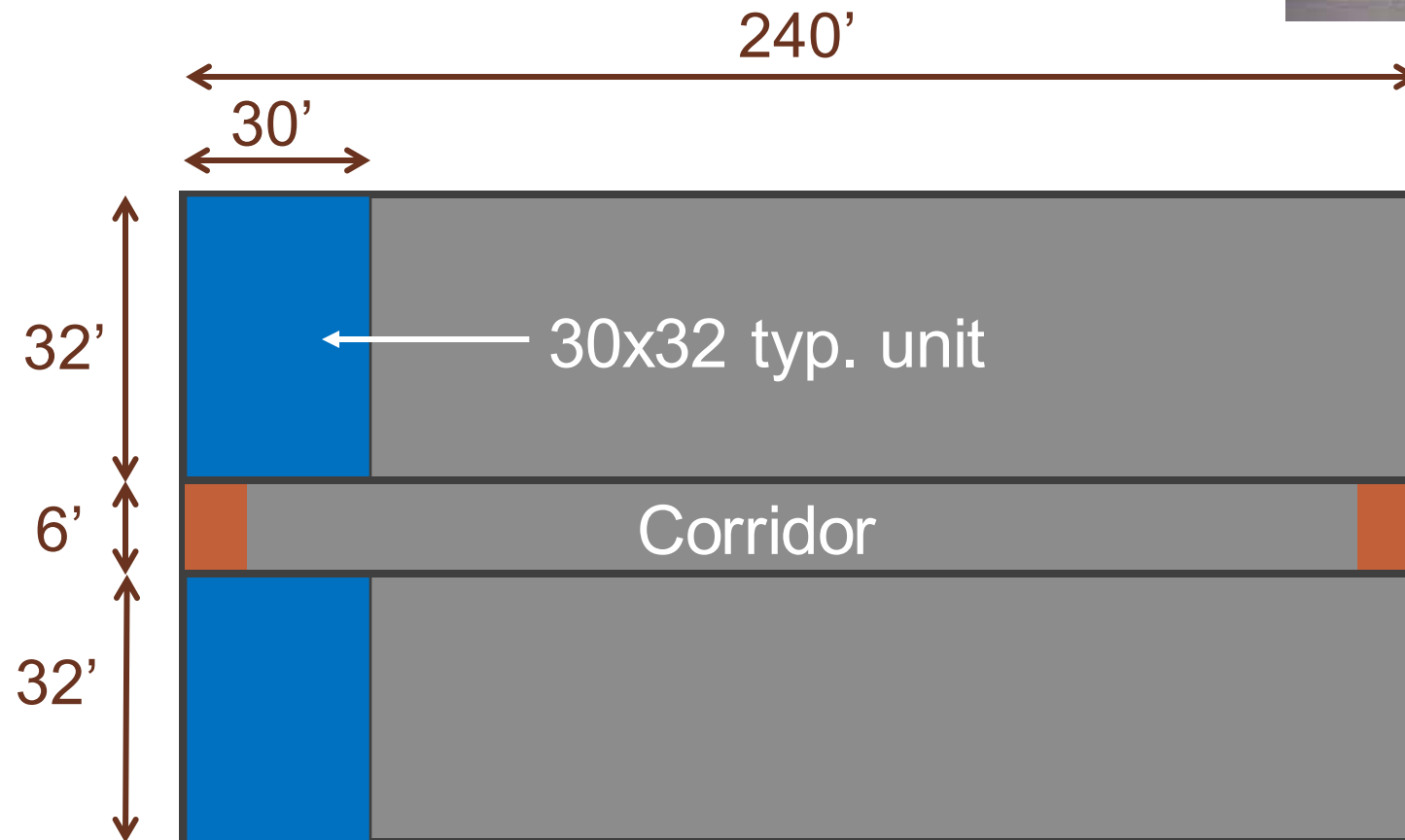
Credit: Monte French Design Studio



# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

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

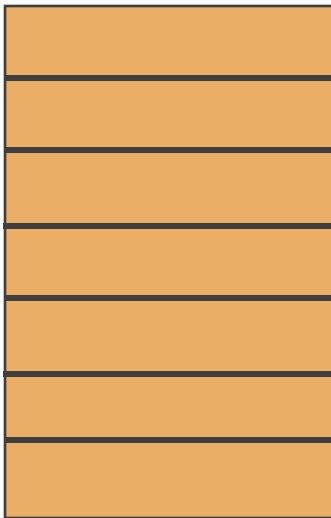


# Key Early Design Decisions

## 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

### 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



Credit: Monte French Design Studio

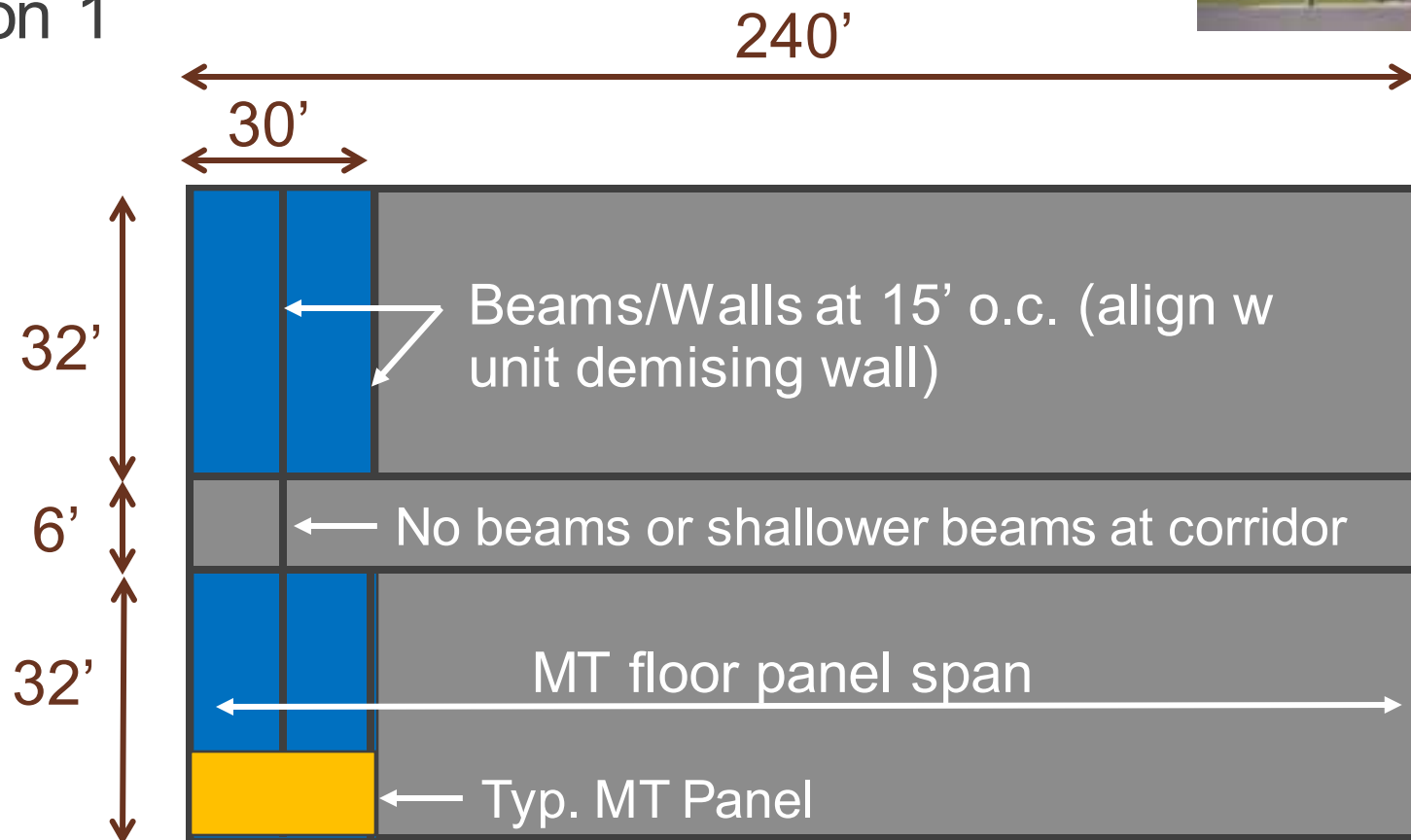


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

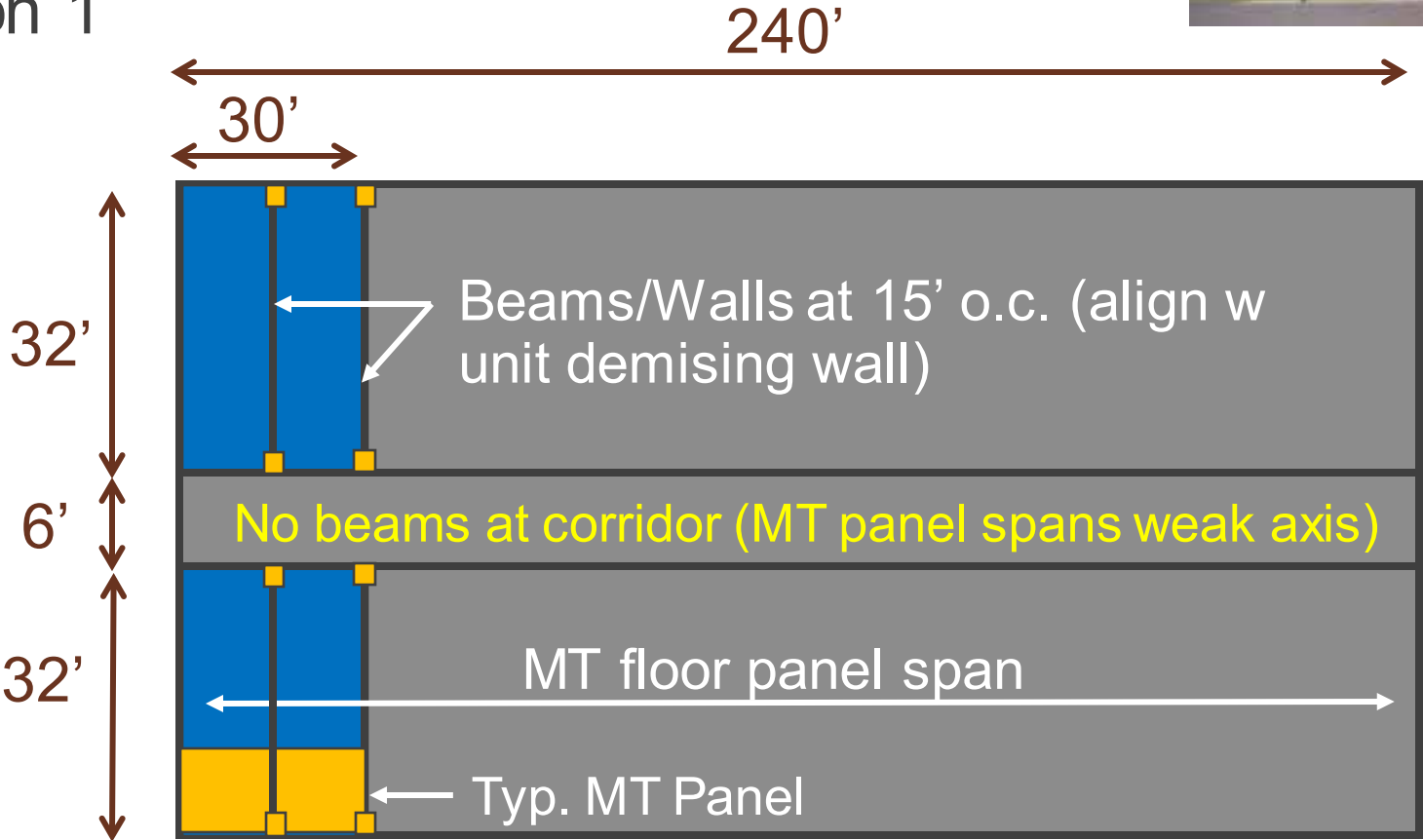


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

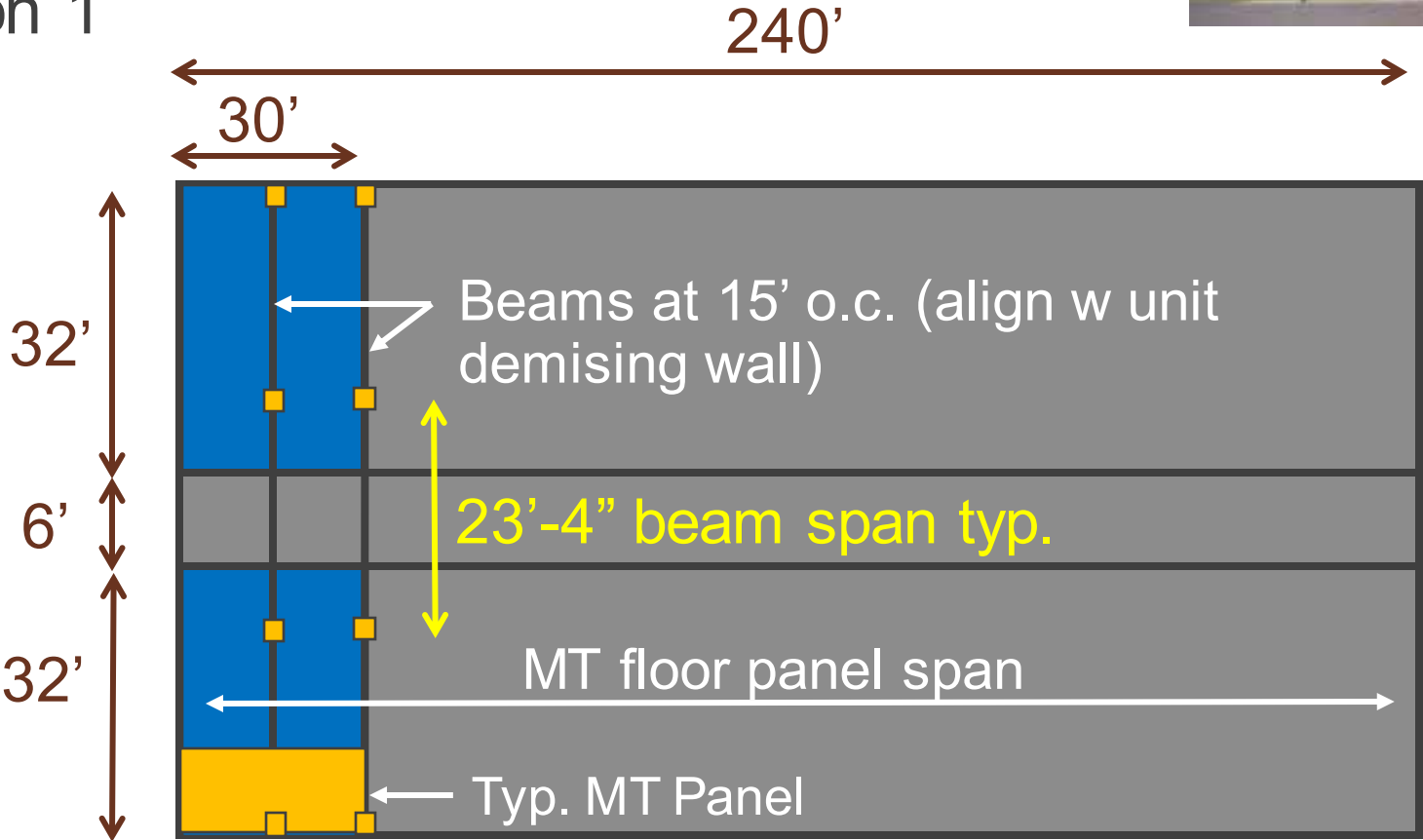


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1



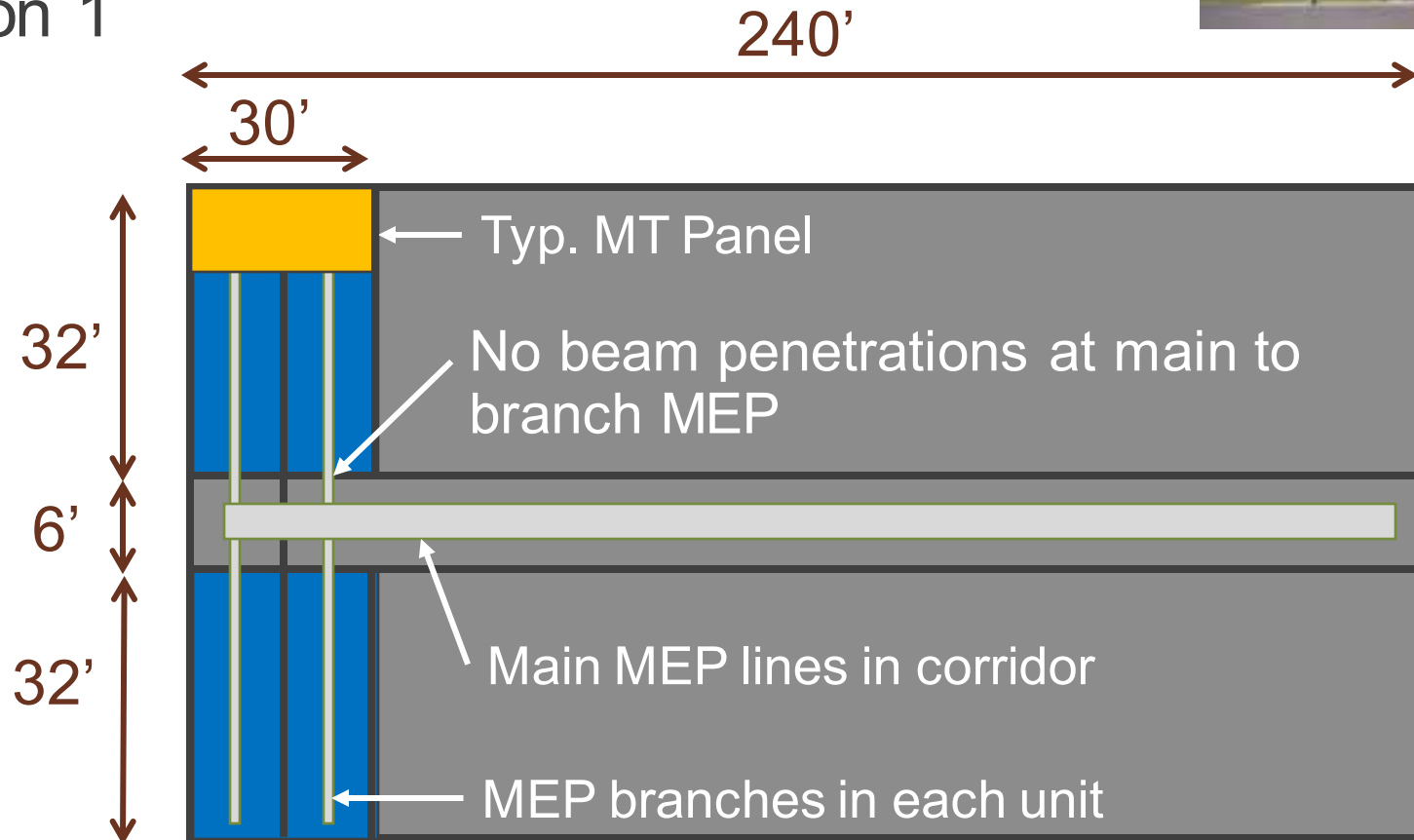


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1

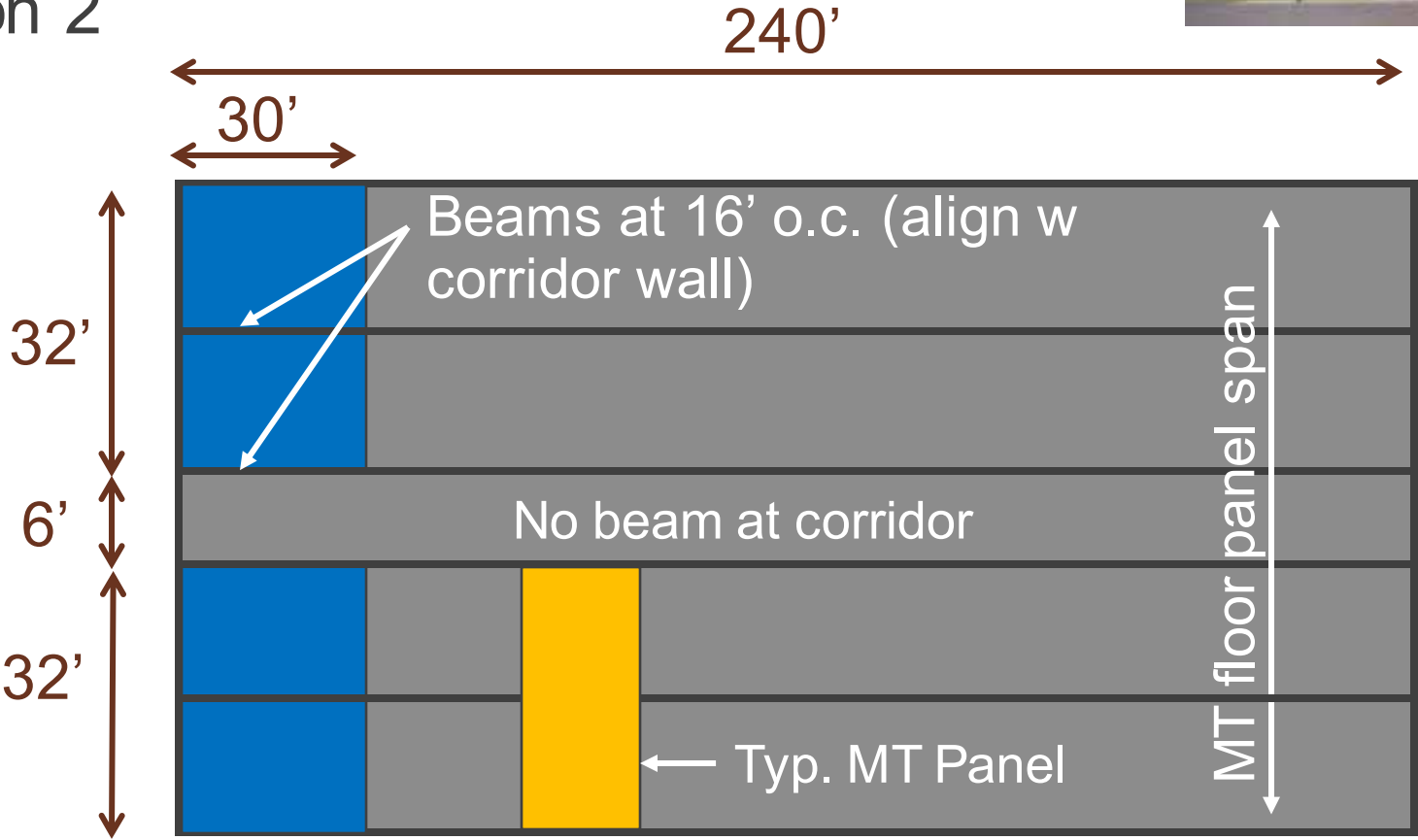


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 2

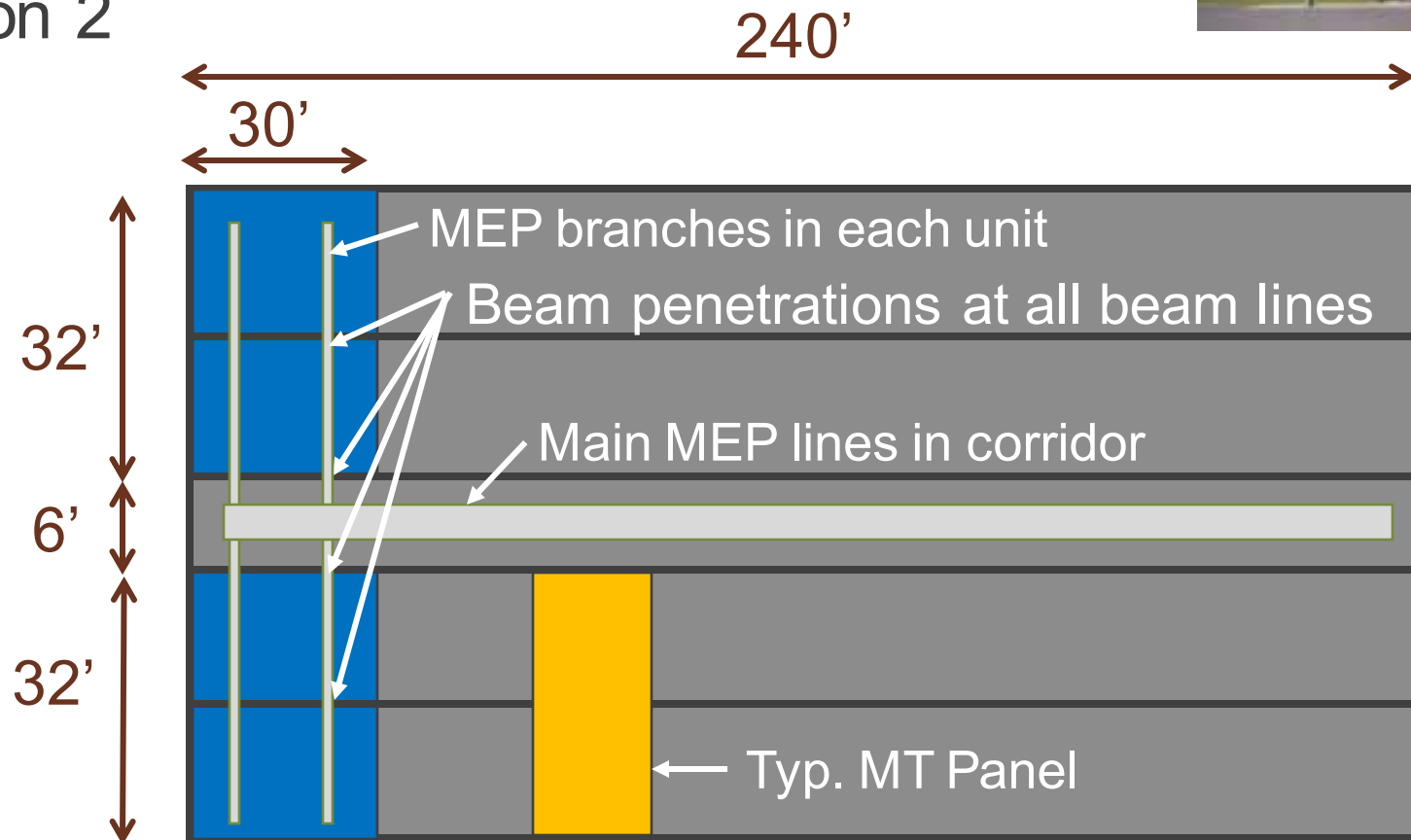


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 2

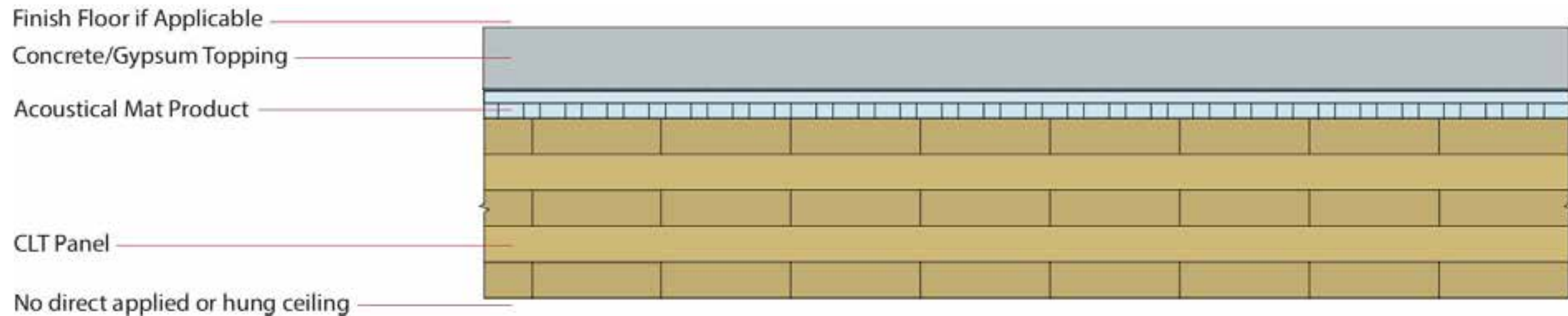




# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IV-C Floor Assembly Options



- 2-hr FRR: 5-ply CLT (tested assembly) or 7-ply CLT (char calculations)
- 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

# 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
- Potential to use 3-ply or thin 5-ply CLT
- Efficient spans vary with panel thickness
- Efficient grids of that or multiples of that (i.e. 20x25, etc)
- 1 story Type IA podium required
- CLT exterior walls not permitted

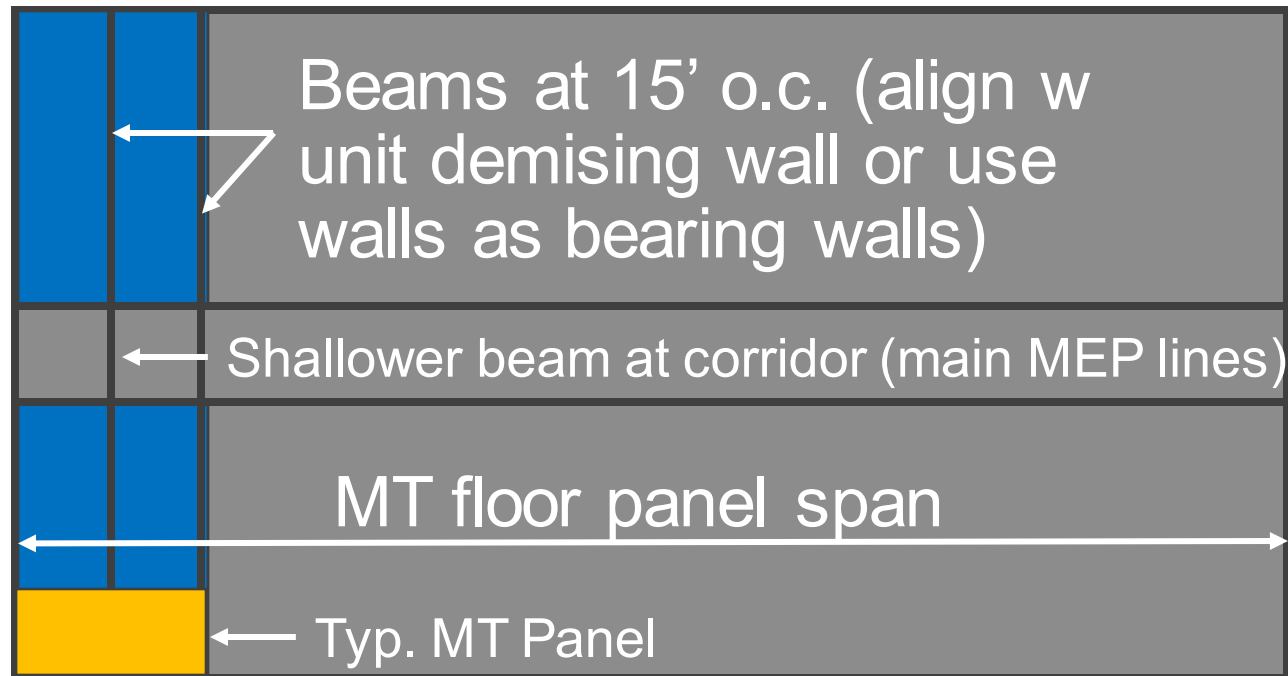


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 1



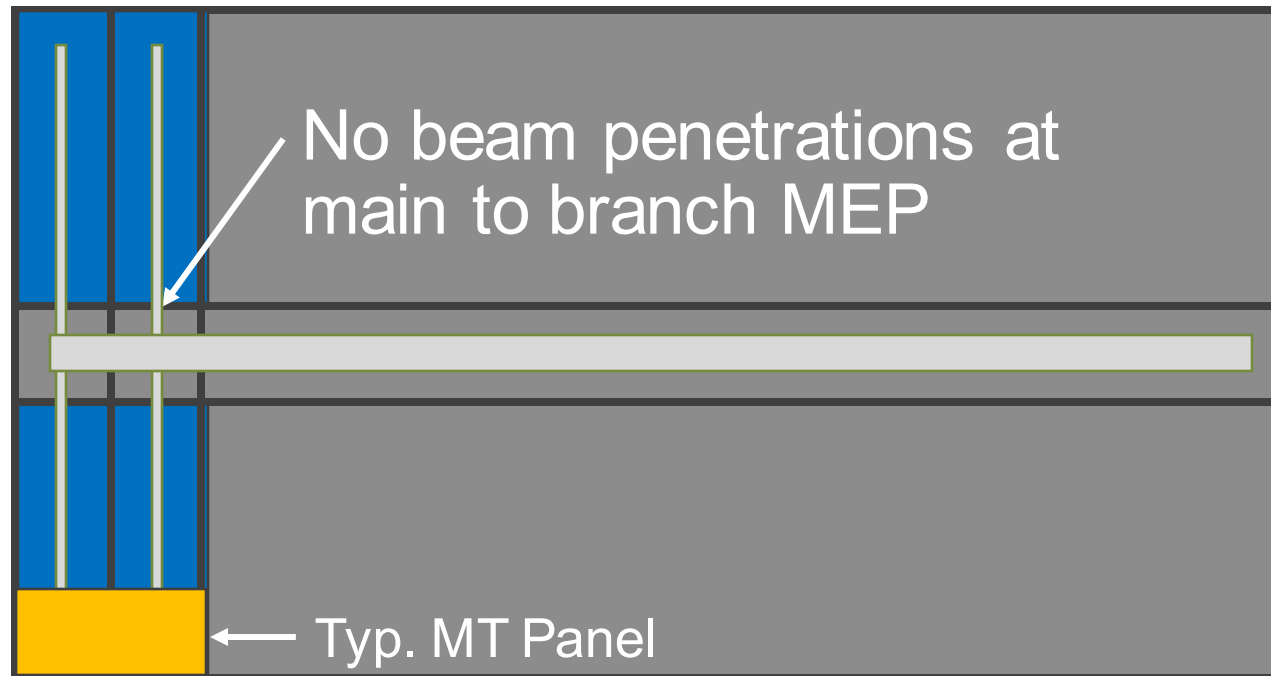


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 1



# Key Early Design Decisions

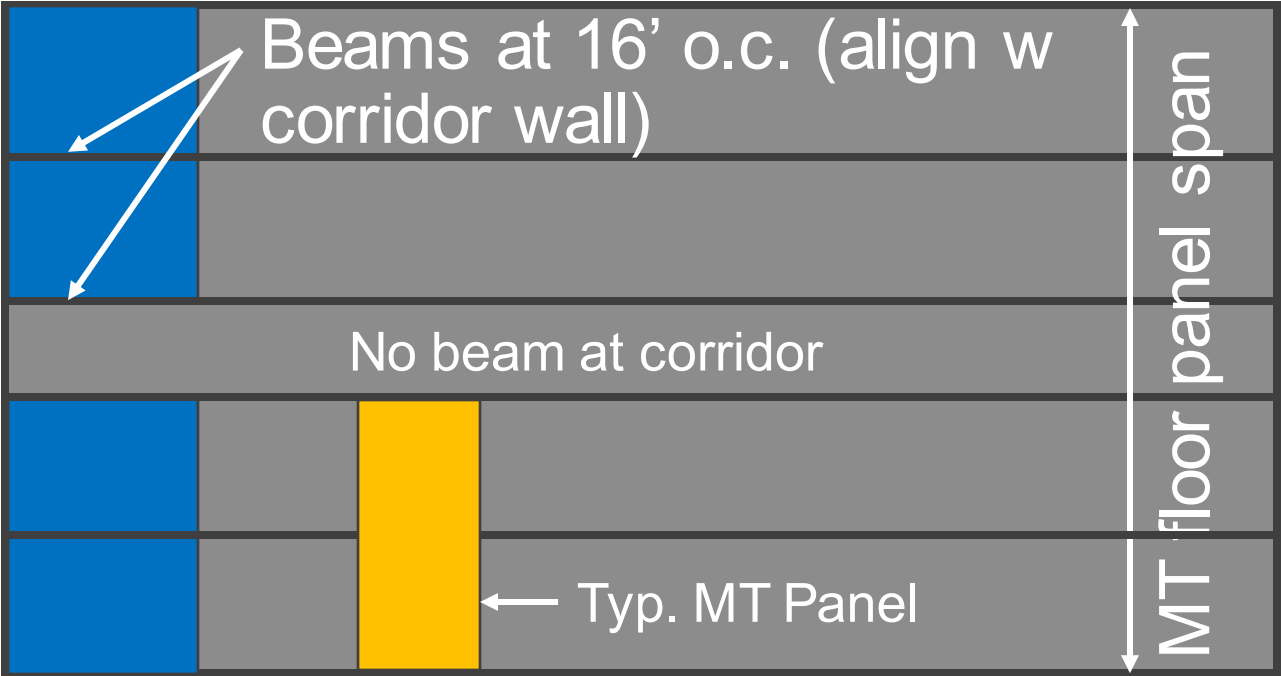
## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 2



Credit: Monte French Design Studio

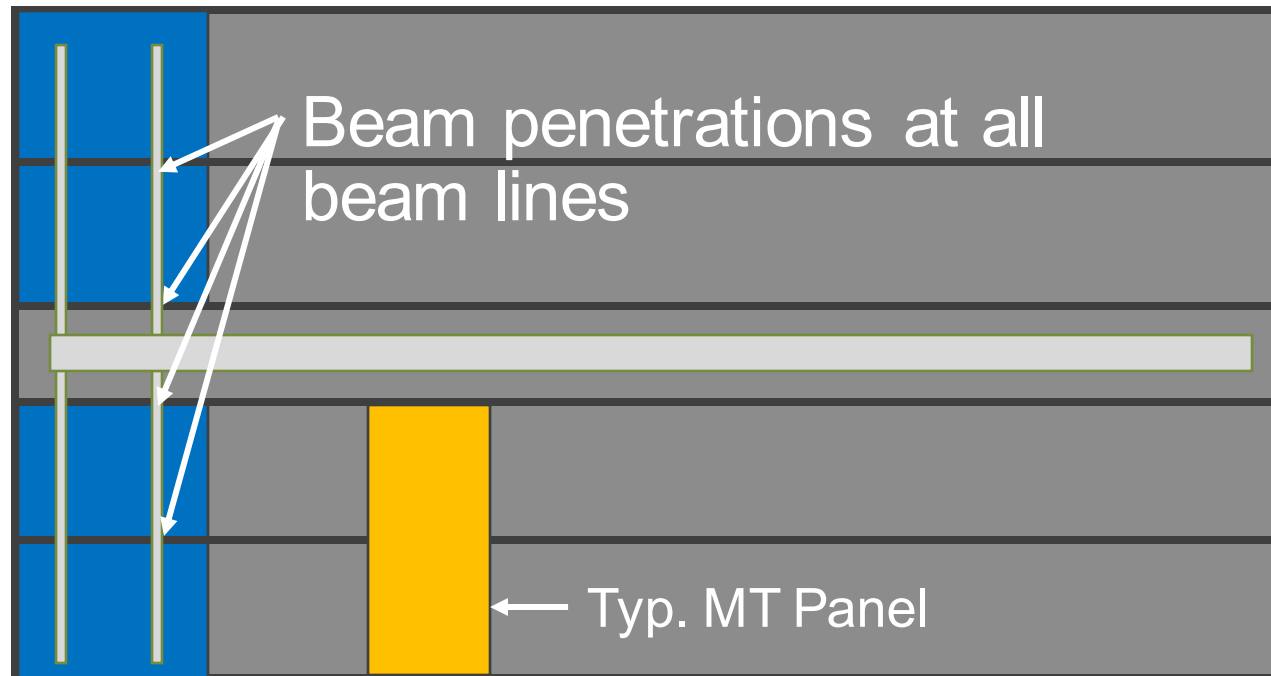


# Key Early Design Decisions

## Early Design Decision Example

### Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 2





# 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



# Reduce Risk

## Optimize Costs

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

**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)

## 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**  
Middletown, CT  
ARCHITECT  
Hickman  
CONSULTING  
Kramer Gribben & Associates  
Equilibrium Consulting  
CONSTRUCTION  
Donatelli



# **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



The challenge is not in learning how to accept change, but in how to orchestrate the most efficient change



Carbon12, Portland, OR Credit: Kaiser + Path

# Questions? Ask us anything.



John O'Donald II, PE

**Regional Director | VA, DC, DE, MD, WV**  
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[john.odonald@woodworks.org](mailto:john.odonald@woodworks.org)

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



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