Mass Timber in Multi-Family Housing:
Is It a Good Fit for Your Project?

March 21, 2023

Presented by
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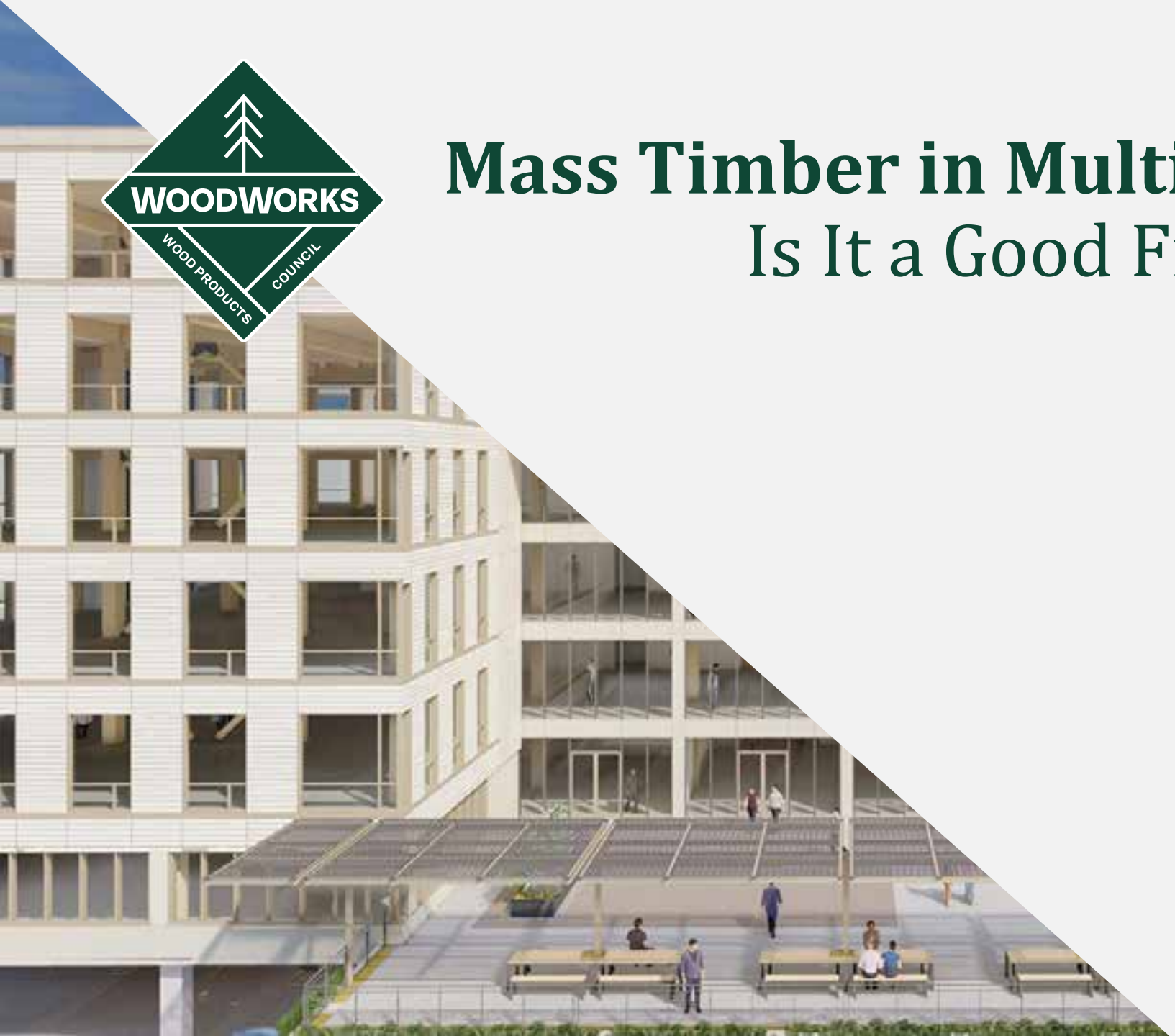

Apex Plaza / Courtesy William McDonough + Partner

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

Course Description

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

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.

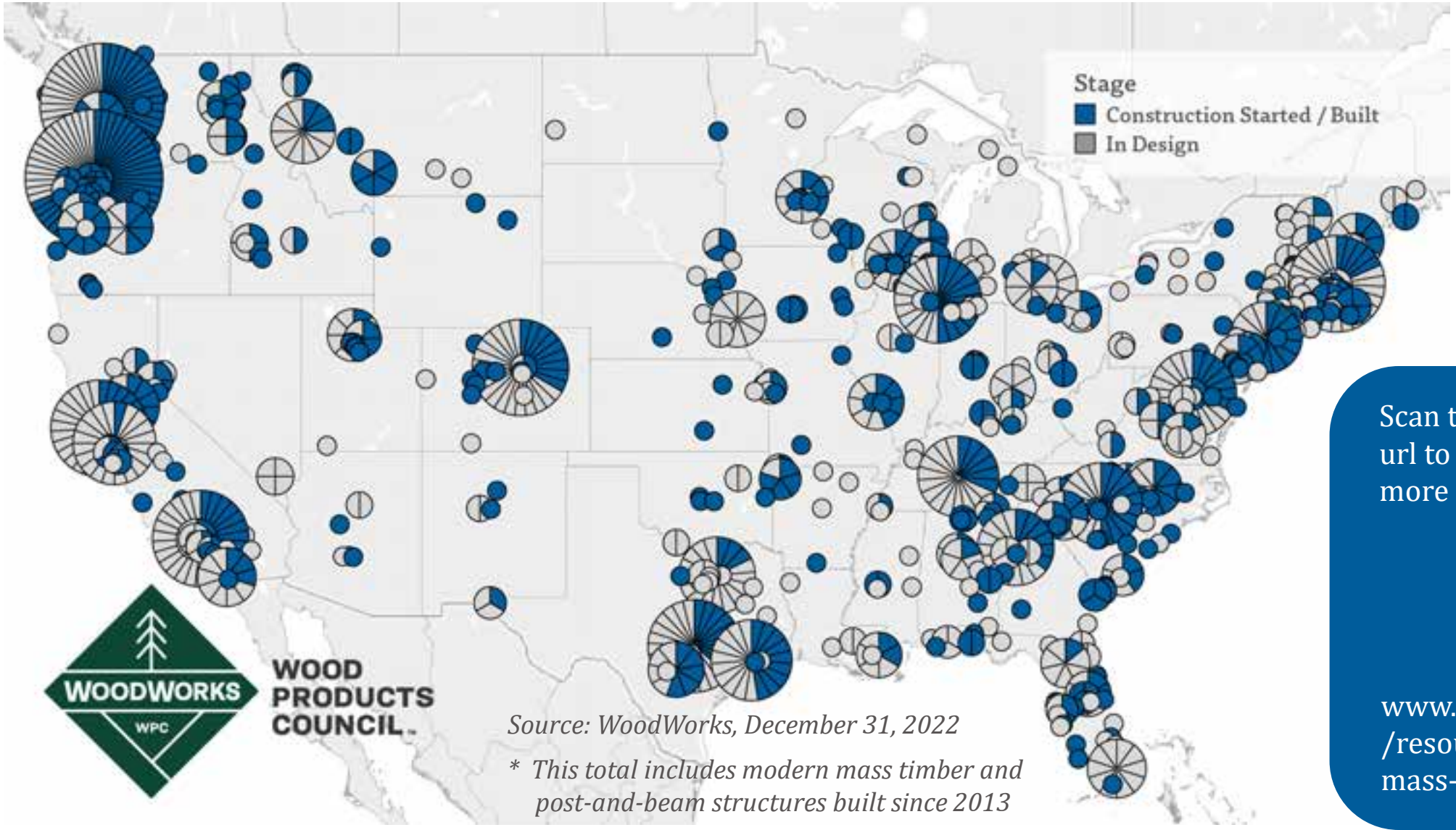
4. Highlight the unique benefits of using exposed mass timber in taller multi-family buildings.

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 2022, in the US, **1,677** multi-family, commercial, or institutional projects have been constructed with, or are in design with, mass timber.



WOODWORKS WPC
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

Source: WoodWorks, December 31, 2022

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

Scan this code or use the url to find the map and more details online.

www.woodworks.org/resources/mapping-mass-timber/

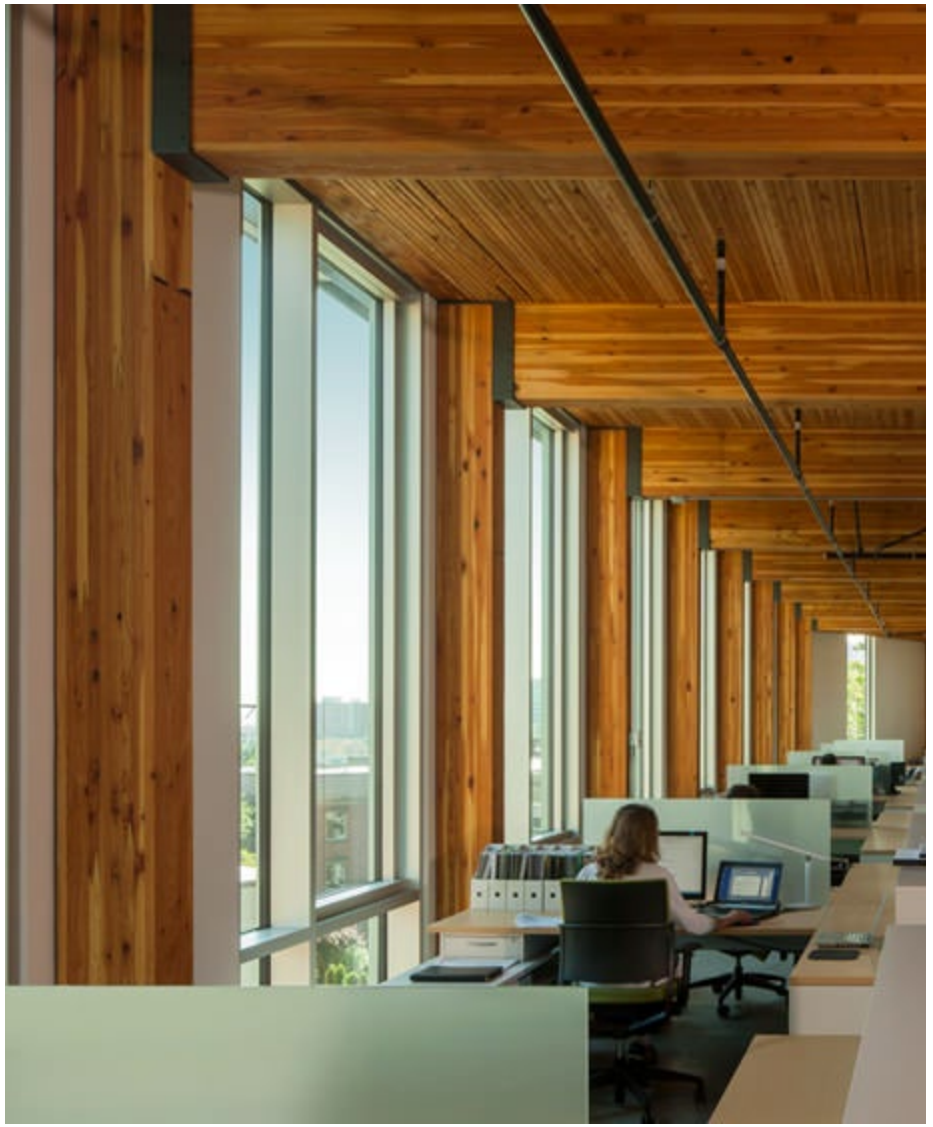
MASS TIMBER OVERVIEW

Photo: PCL Construction

OVERVIEW | TIMBER METHODOLOGIES

Light Wood-Frame
Photo: WoodWorks

Heavy Timber
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider



Mass Timber
Photo: John Stamets

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

Glue Laminated Timber (Glulam)
Beams & columns

Photo: StructureCraft

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)
Solid sawn laminations

Photo: LendLease

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)
SCL laminations

Photo: Freres Lumber

Photo: LEVER Architecture

Dowel-Laminated Timber (DLT)

Photo: StructureCraft

Nail-Laminated Timber (NLT)

Photo: Think Wood

Glue-Laminated Timber (GLT)

Plank orientation

Photo: StructureCraft

Photo: StructureCraft

Photo: Ema Peter

Photo: Manasc Isaac Architects/Fast + Epp

Multi-Housing Typologies

Credit: WGI

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

Low- and Mid-Rise Multi-Family

Credit: AGX Creative and Engberg Anderson

HYBRID LIGHT-FRAME + MASS TIMBER

CONDOS AT LOST RABBIT, MS

Lost Rabbit, MS
Credit: Everett Consulting Group

CIRRUS, DENVER, CO

Credit: KL&A Engineers & Builders

Photo: Ema Peter

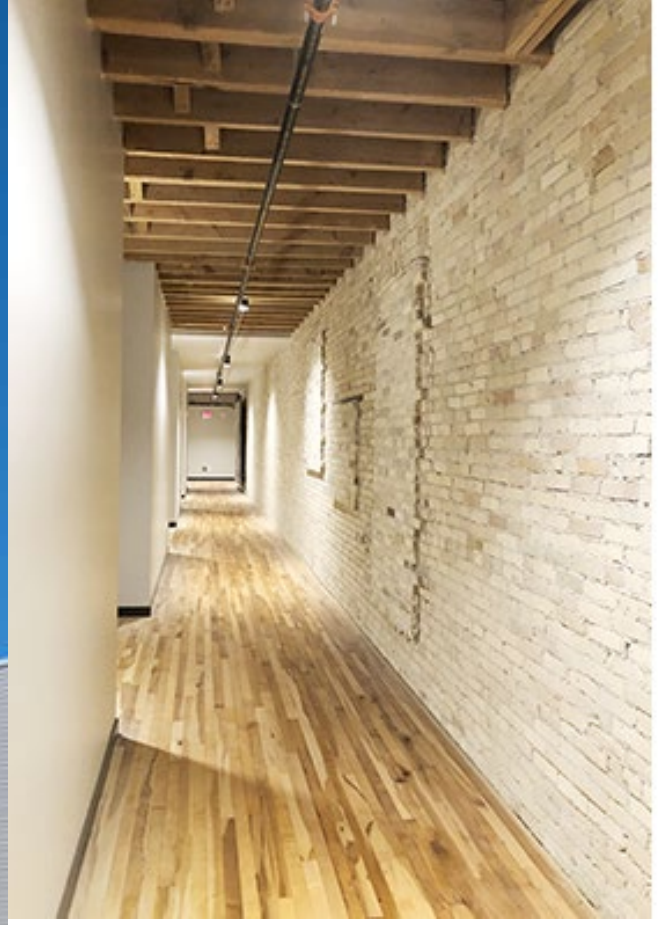
POST, BEAM + PLATE

360 WYTHE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY

Credit: Flank

Photo: Lendlease

MASS TIMBER BEARING WALLS



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

TIMBER LOFTS
MILWAUKEE, WI

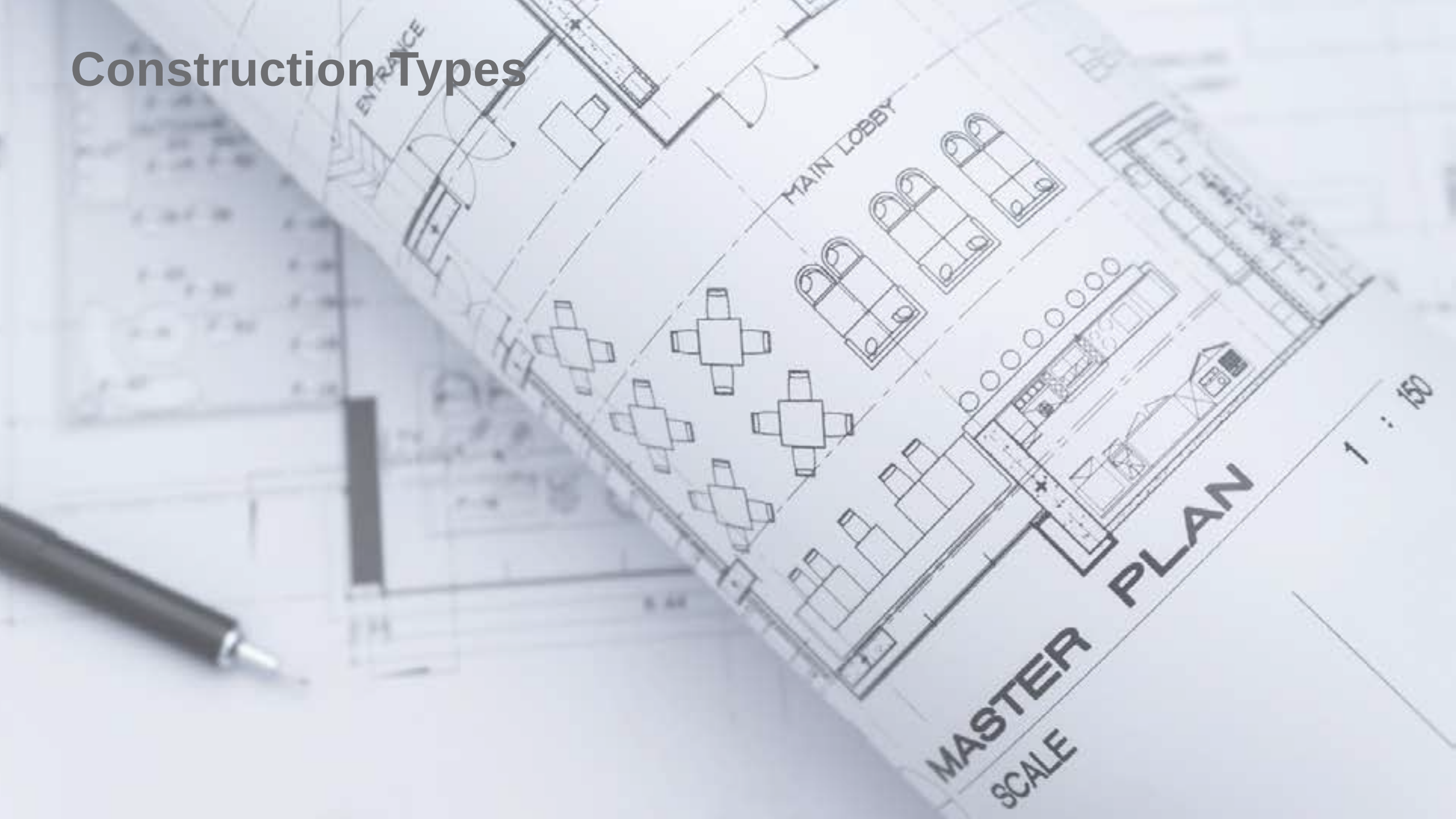
ANN PIEPER EISENBROWN
OWNER/PRESIDENT | PIPER PROPERTIES
TIMBER LOFTS

"Mass timber shaved 20% off our construction schedule. It's a renewable resource and also creates that warm look."

Source: Think Wood

Source: ADX Creative and Engberg Anderson Architects

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

IBC 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

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)

Photo Credit: Hacker Architects, Jeremy Bittermann

Construction Types

Where does the code allow MT to be used?

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

Image: Perkins + Will

Construction Types

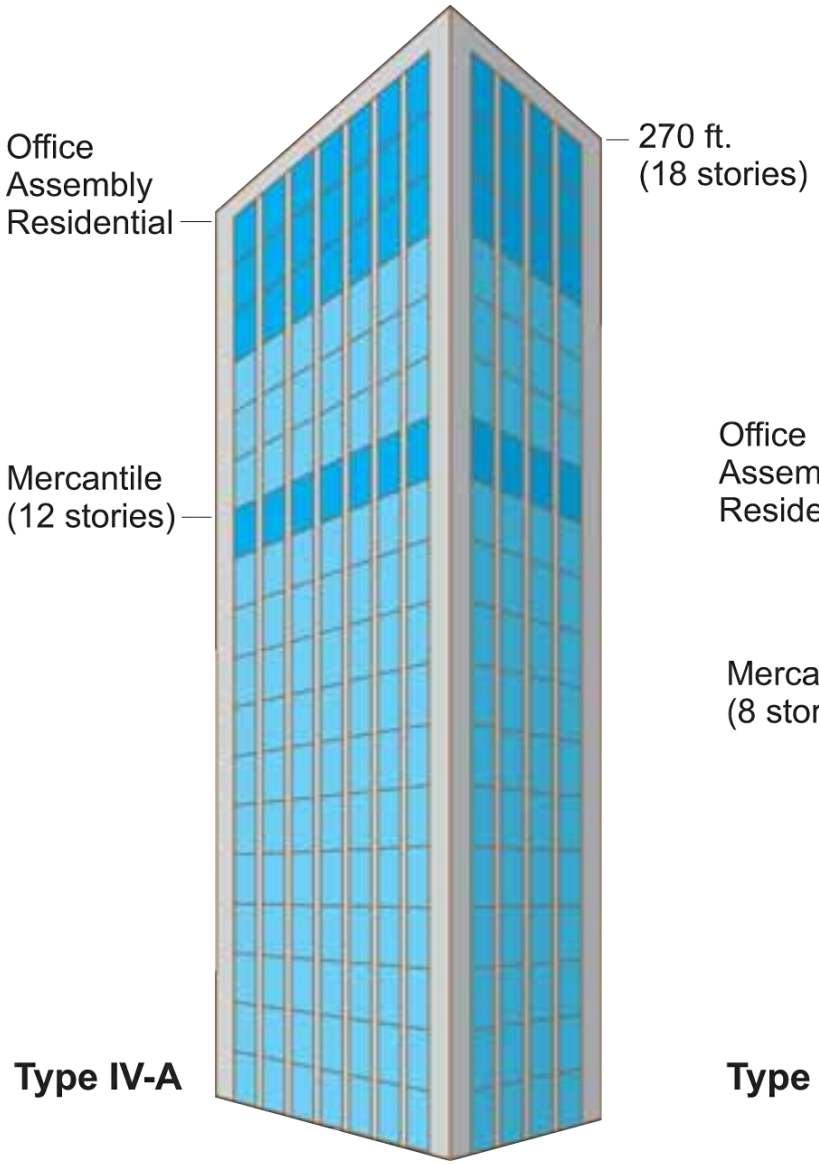
Where does the code allow MT to be used?

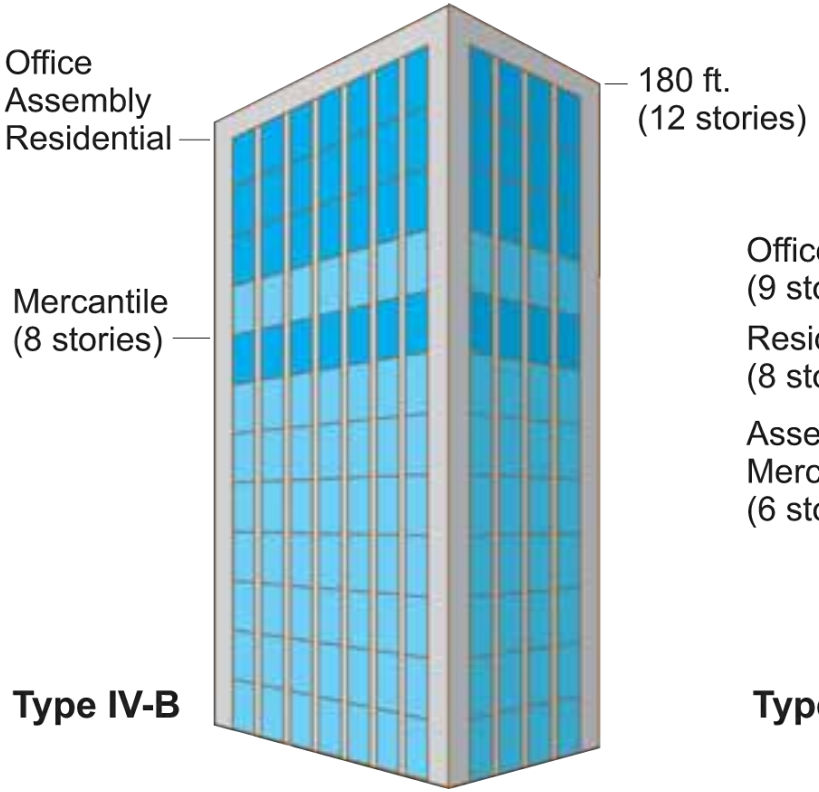
- Type V: All interior elements, roofs & exterior walls

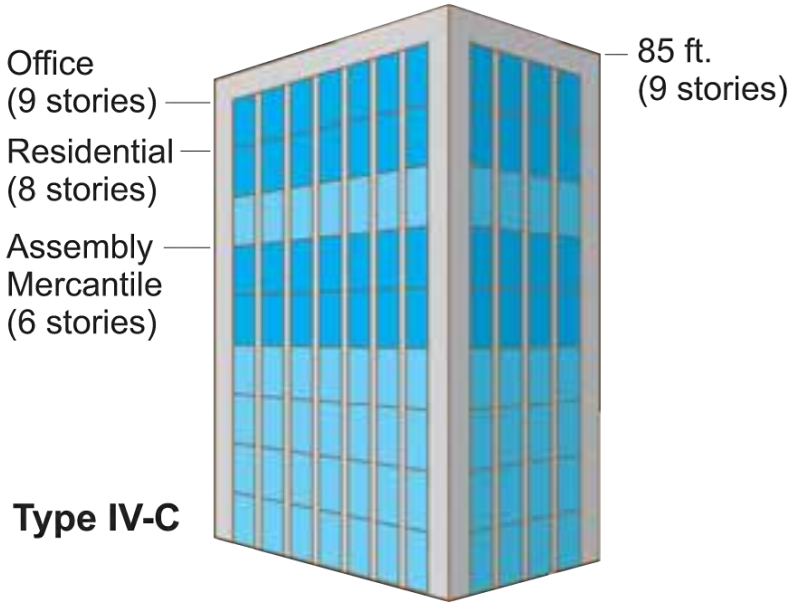
Image: Christian Columbres Photography

Construction Types

New Options in 2021 IBC
Allowable mass timber building size for group B occupancy with NFPA 13 Sprinkler







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

INTRO, CLEVELAND

9 Stories | 115 ft

8 Timber Over 1 Podium

512,000 SF

297 Apartments, Mixed-Use

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

INTRO, CLEVELAND

9 Stories | 115 ft

8 Timber Over 1 Podium

Type IV-B

Variance to expose ~50% ceilings

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

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

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

493,000 SF

259 APARTMENTS, MIXED-USE

ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

Tallest Mass Timber Building in the World

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

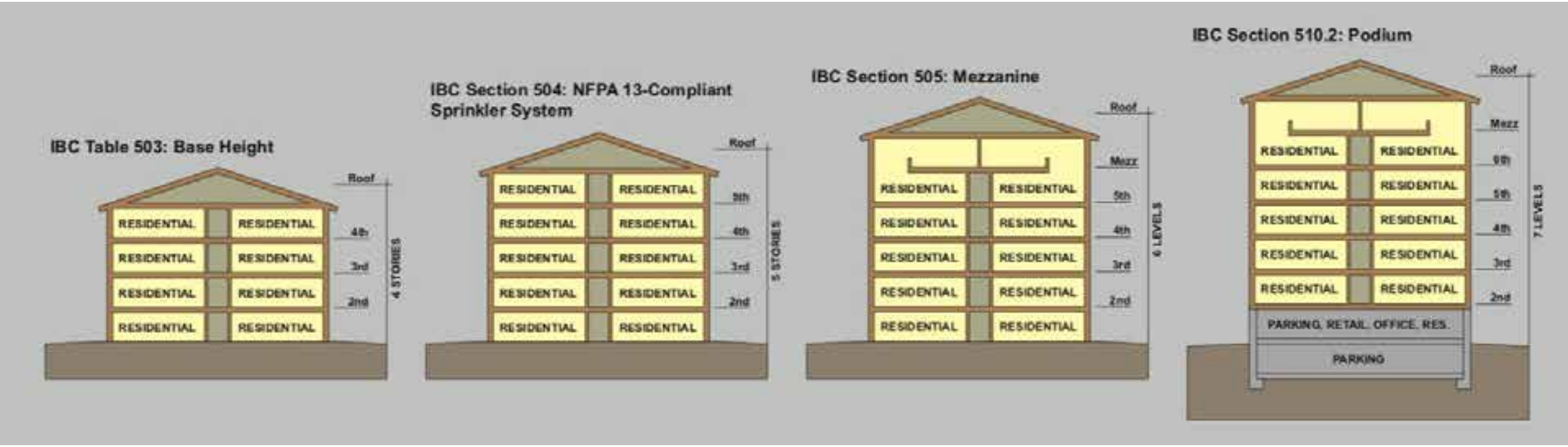
ASCENT, MILWAUKEE

25 STORIES

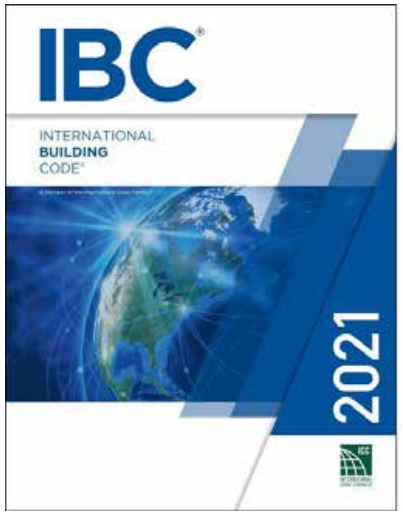
19 TIMBER OVER 6 PODIUM, 284 FT

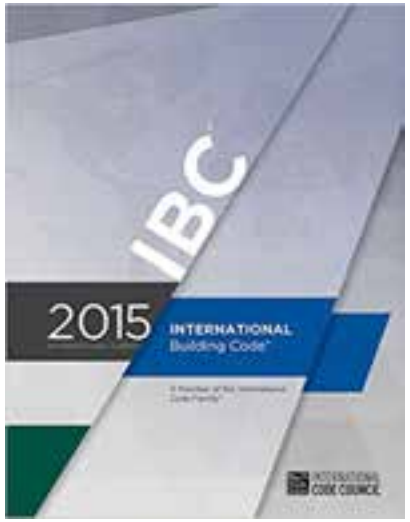
Photo: Korb & Associates Architects | Architect: Korb & Associates Architects

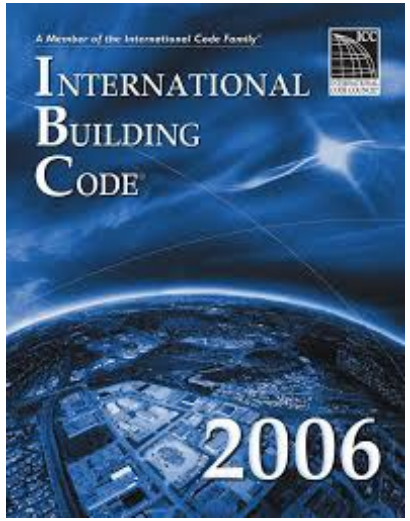
PRESCRIPTIVE BUILDING CODES

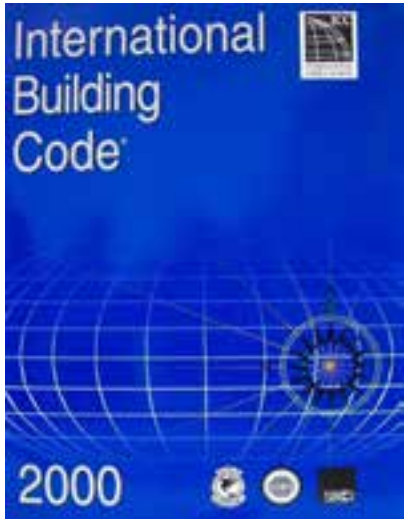


3 YEAR CODE CYCLE









Source: ICC

Type IV-C

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

TYPE IV-C

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture/Marcus Kauffman

Type IV-C Height and Area Limits

IV-C

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

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

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

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

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

Type IV-C Protection vs. Exposed

IV-C

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Credit: Kaiser+Path, Ema Peter

All Mass Timber surfaces may be exposed

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

IV-C

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

Type IV-B Height and Area Limits

IV-B

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

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

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

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

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

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Credit: Kaiser+Path

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

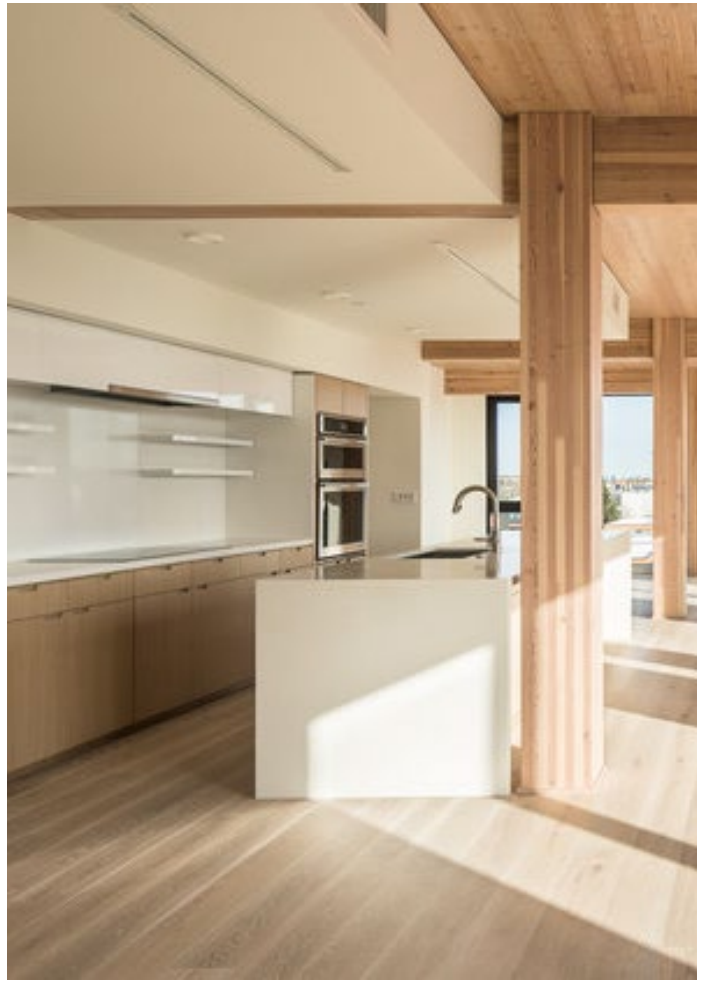
~20% of Ceiling or ~40% of Wall can be exposed

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

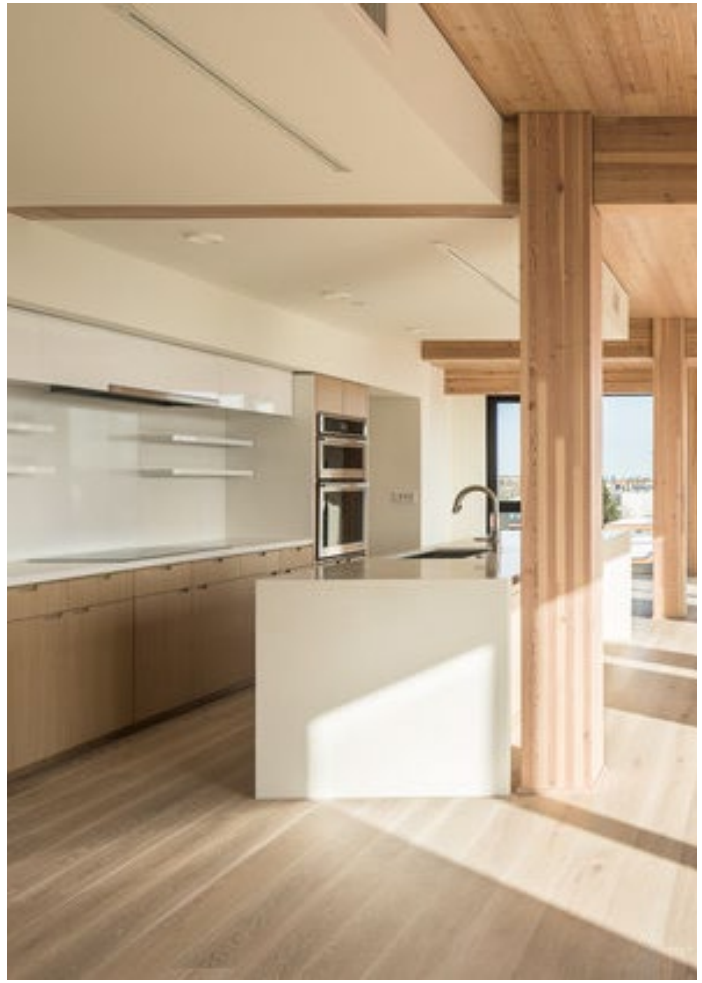
IV-B

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

Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed

IV-B

Design Example: Mixing unprotected MT walls & ceilings

Credit: AWC

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

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

$U_{tw} = 120$ SF

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

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

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

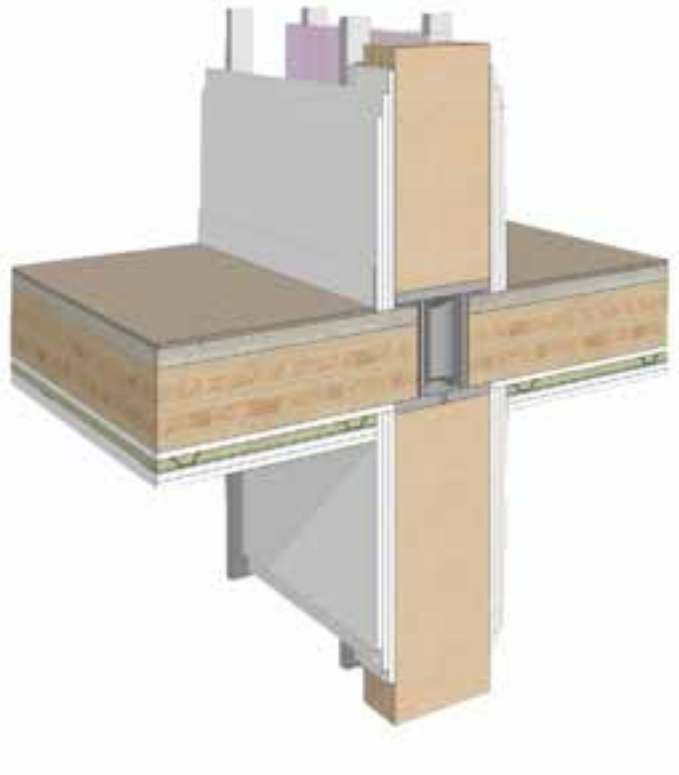
In most cases, Type IV-A height & story allowances = 1.5 * Type I-B height & story allowances

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

IV-A

Type IV-A Protection vs. Exposed

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Credit: Acton Ostry Architects, Fast + Epp

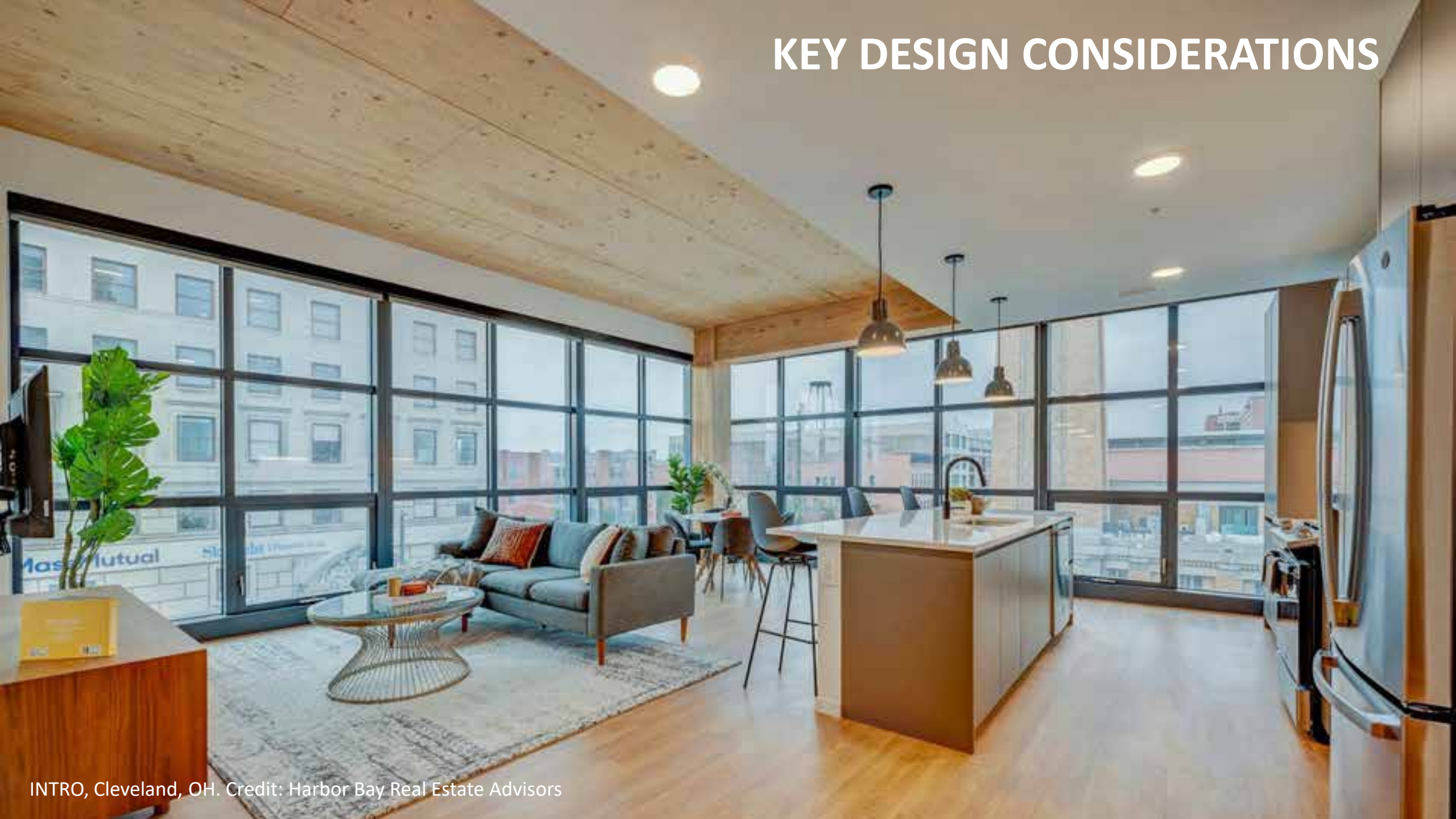
100% NC protection on all surfaces of Mass Timber

IV-A

2024 IBC Changes

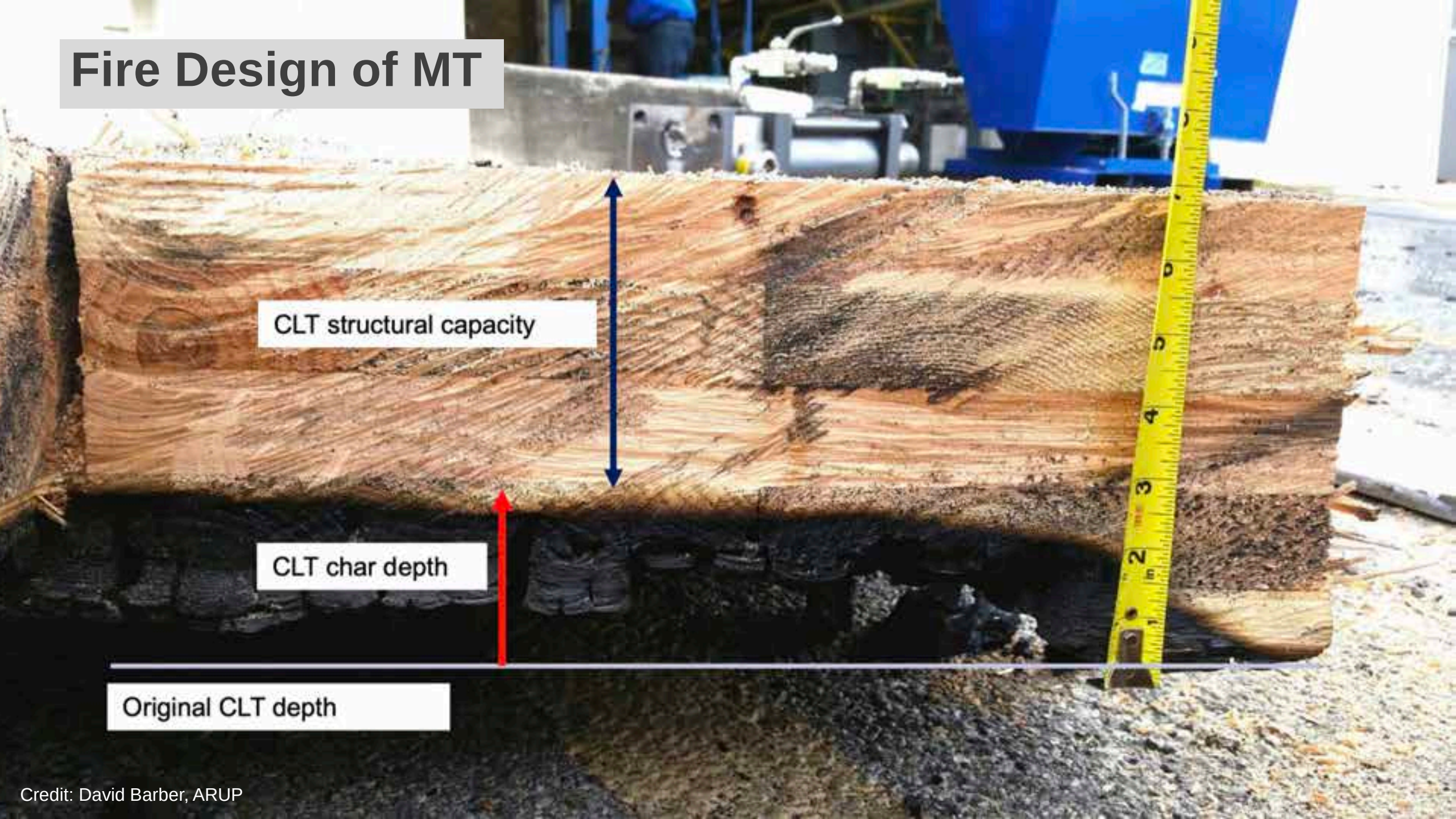
RISE Tests, 2020
Photo: RISE

KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



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

Fire Design of MT



Credit: David Barber, ARUP

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[f] (see Section 202)	3[a, b]	2[a, b, c]	1[b, c]	0[c]	1[b, c]	0	3[a]	2[a]	2[a]	HT	1[b, c]	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior[e, f]	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3[a]	2[a]	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT[g]	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior	See Table 705.5											
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior[d]	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[b]	1[b,c]	1[b,c]	0[c]	1[b,c]	0	1½	1	1	HT	1[b,c]	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

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[f] (see Section 202)	3[a, b]	2[a, b, c]	1[b, c]	0[c]	1[b, c]	0	3[a]	2[a]	2[a]	HT	1[b, c]	0
Bearing walls												
Exterior[e, f]	3	2	1	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Interior	3[a]	2[a]	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	1/HT[g]	1	0
Nonbearing walls and partitions Exterior					See Table 705.5							
Nonbearing walls and partitions Interior[d]	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[b]	1[b,c]	1[b,c]	0[c]	1[b,c]	0	1½	1	1	HT	1[b,c]	0

Source: 2021 IBC

Key Early Design Decisions

Construction type influences FRR

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

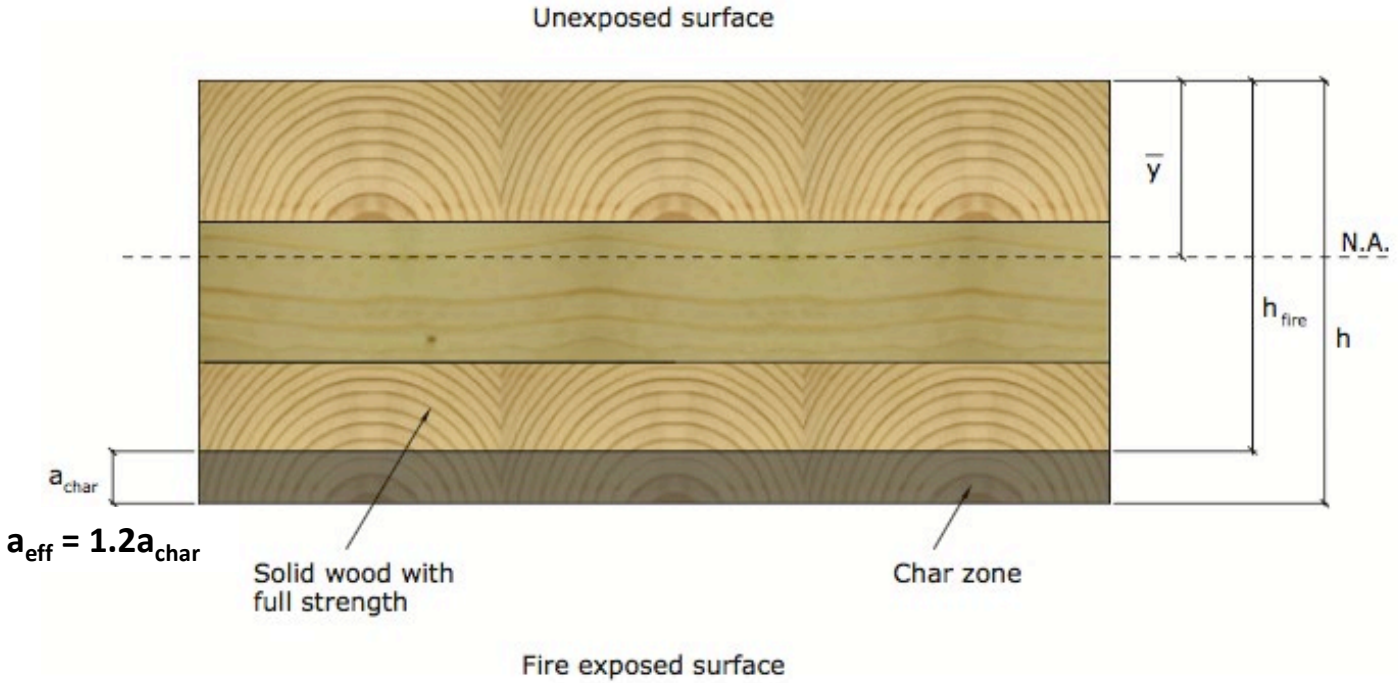
Method of demonstrating FRR (calculations or testing) can impact member sizing

Key Early Design Decisions

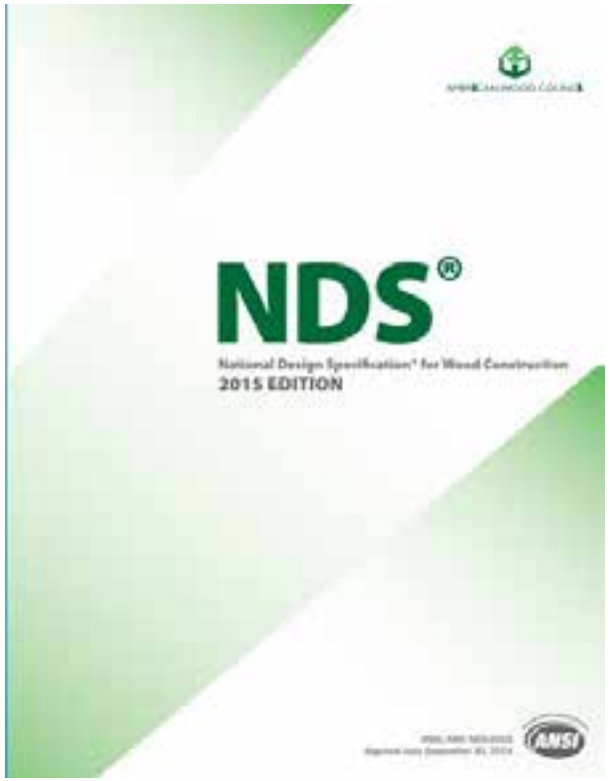
Which Method of Demonstrating FRR of MT is Being Used?

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


Credit: Urban One



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 β_n=1.5in./hr.)

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, a_{char} (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, h_{lam} (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6

FRR Design of MT

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


Credit: ARUP

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

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

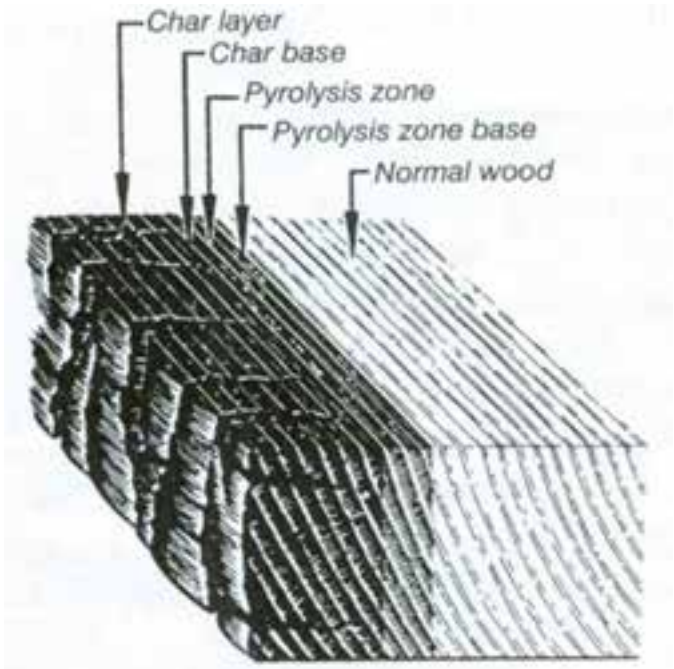
Table 16.2.1B Effective Char Depths (for CLT with β_n=1.5in./hr.)

Required Fire Endurance (hr.)	Effective Char Depths, a_{char} (in.)								
	lamination thicknesses, h_{lam} (in.)								
	5/8	3/4	7/8	1	1-1/4	1-3/8	1-1/2	1-3/4	2
1-Hour	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
1½-Hour	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
2-Hour	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6

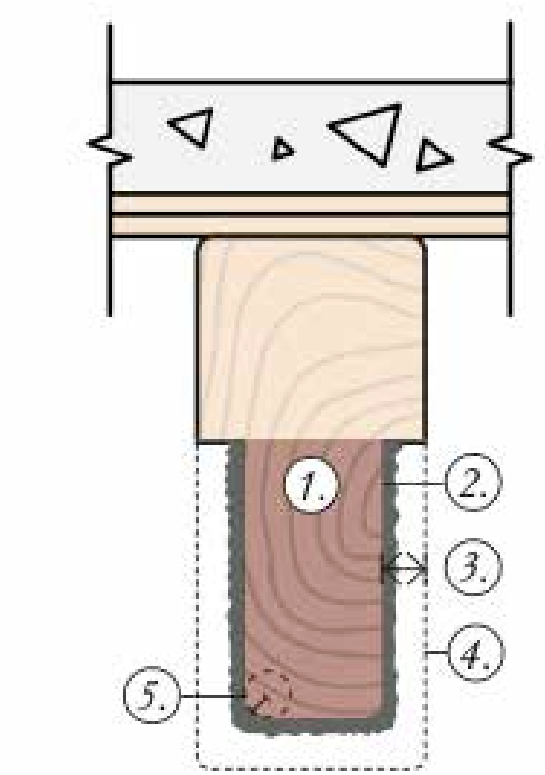
FRR Design of MT

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



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

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

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

FRR Design of MT

WoodWorks Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

WOODWORKS
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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

CLT Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Major x Minor Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm 4.488 in)	Nordic	SPF 1650 Fb 1.5E MSR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 36% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (105 mm 4.133 in)	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 75% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 5)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer of 5/8" Type X gypsum under Z-channels and furring strips with 3 5/8" fiberglass batts	Topside Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	5	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	None	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	1.5	3	UL
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Topside Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypcrete over Maxxon acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 50% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Nordic	E1	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7 7/8" I-Joists with 3 1/2" Mineral Wool between Joists	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	E1 M5 MSR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Topside Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Crete 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap & Topside Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
5-ply CLT (173mm 6.875")	Nordic	SPF 1950 Fb MSR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 59% Moment Capacity	1.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
7-ply CLT (245mm 9.65")	Structurlam	SPF #1/#2 x SPF #1/#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 101% Moment Capacity	2.5	1 (Test 7)	NRC Fire Laboratory
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	SL-V4	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 4)	Western Fire Center 10/26/2016
3-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	SmartLam	V1	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 5)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
5-ply CLT (175mm 6.875")	DR Johnson	V1	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" plywood with 8d nails	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 6)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
5-ply CLT	KLH	CV3M1	None	Half-Lap &	None	Loaded,	1	18	SwRI

FRR Design of MT

WOODWORKS
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Fire-Resistive Design
of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • Woodworks
Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • Woodworks

For many years, exposed heavy timber framing elements have been permitted in U.S. buildings due to their inherent fire-resistance properties. The predictability of wood's char rate has been well-established for decades and has long been recognized in building codes and standards.

Today, one of the 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-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

Carbon12 | Portland, Oregon
Kaiser Group | Rish Architecture
Munsing Structural Engineering

Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

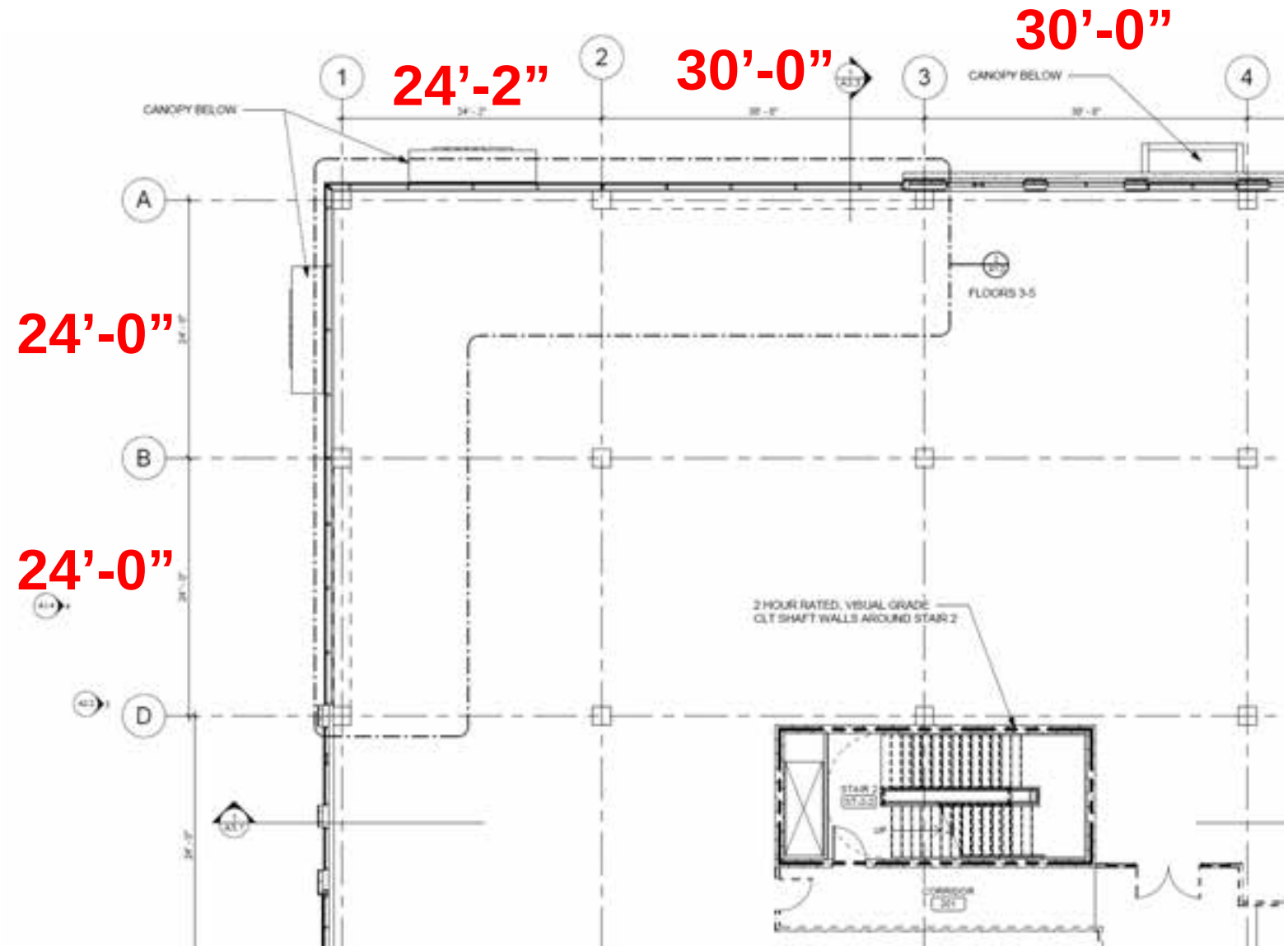
- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Free download at woodworks.org

Structural Grid

Structural Grid

Grids & Spans

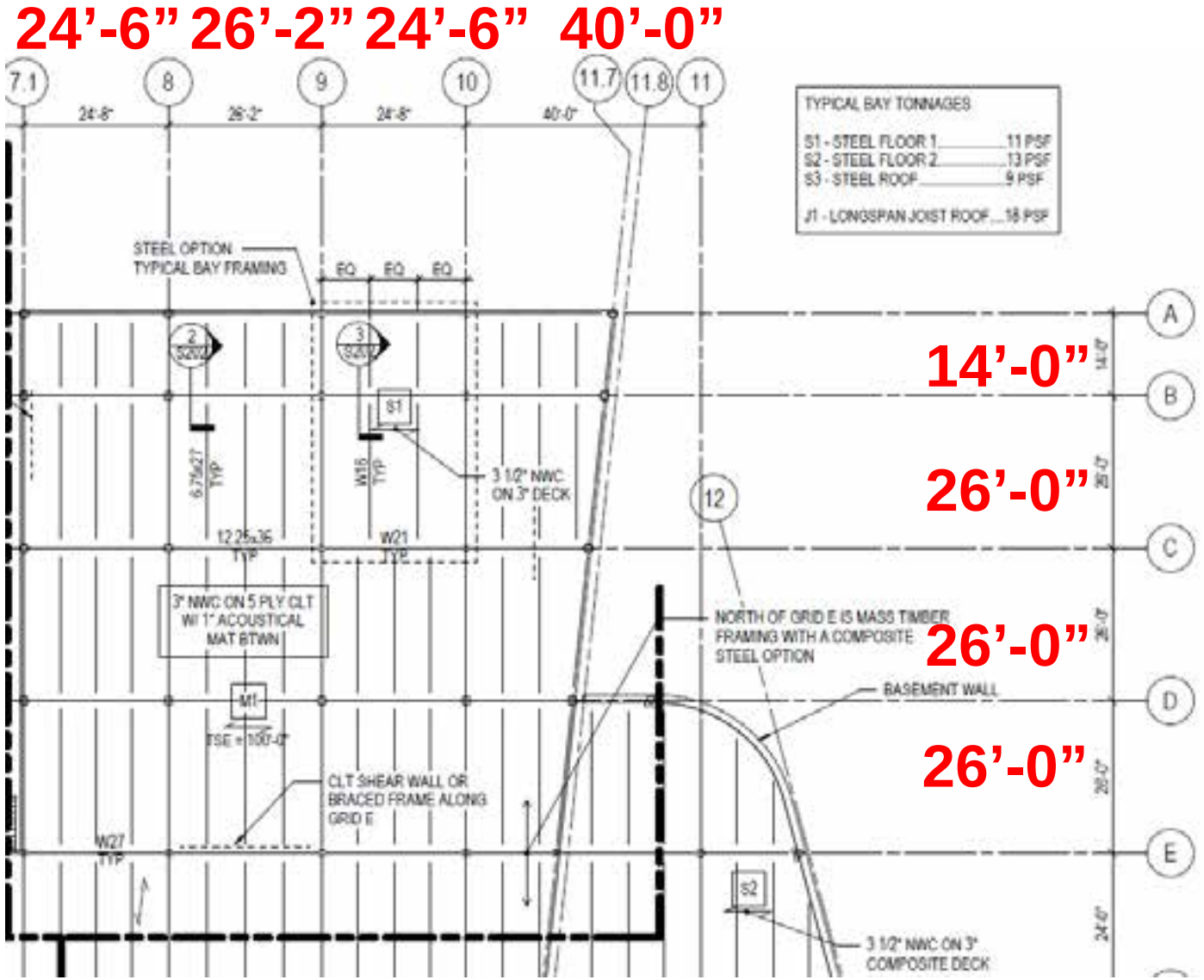
- Consider Efficient Layouts
- Repetition & Scale
- Manufacturer Panel Sizing
- Transportation



Structural Grid

Grids & Spans

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



Structural Grid

Member Sizes

- Impact of FRR on Sizing
- **Impact of Sizing on Efficient Spans**
- Consider connections – can drive member sizing

0 HR FRR: Consider 3-ply Panel

- Efficient Spans of 10-12 ft
- Grids of 20x20 (1 purlin) to 30x30 (2 purlins) may be efficient

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

Structural Grid

Member Sizes

- Impact of FRR on Sizing
- **Impact of Sizing on Efficient Spans**
- Consider connections – can drive member sizing

1 or 2 HR FRR: Likely 5-ply Panel

- Efficient spans of 14-17 ft
- Grids of 15x30 (no purlins) to 30x30 (1 purlin) may be efficient

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

MEP Layout & Integration

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

Lateral System Choices & Impacts

Lateral System Choices

Concrete Shearwalls

Credit: Hacker Architects

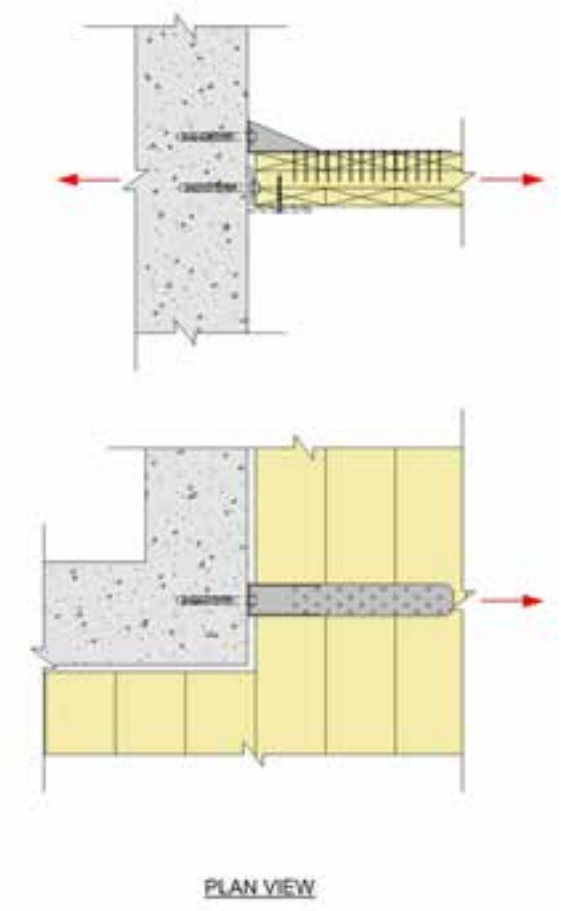
Lateral System Choices

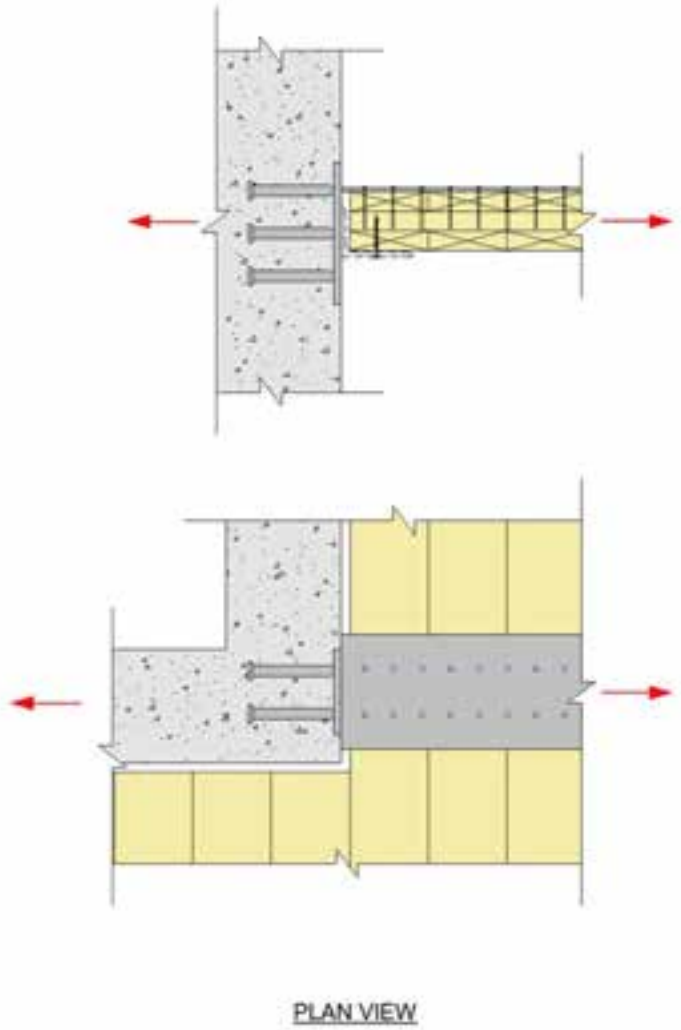
Connection to concrete core

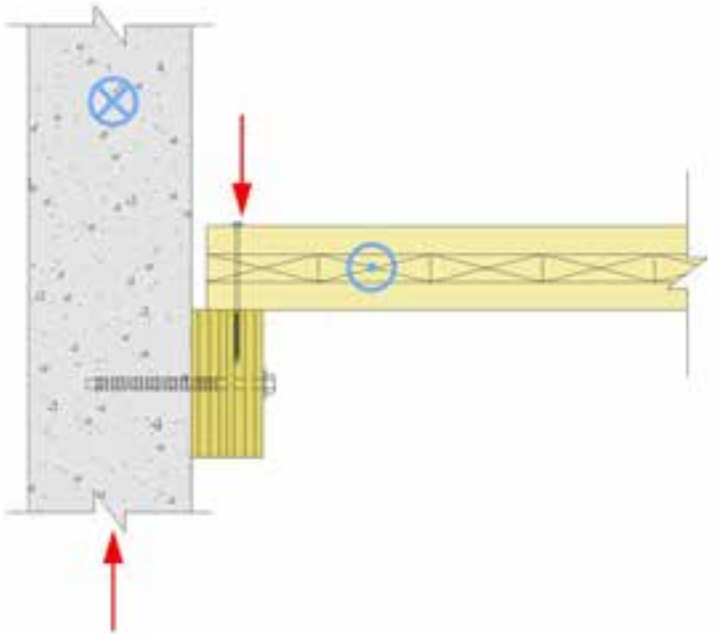
Lateral System Choices

Connections to concrete core

- Tolerances & adjustability
- Drag/collector forces



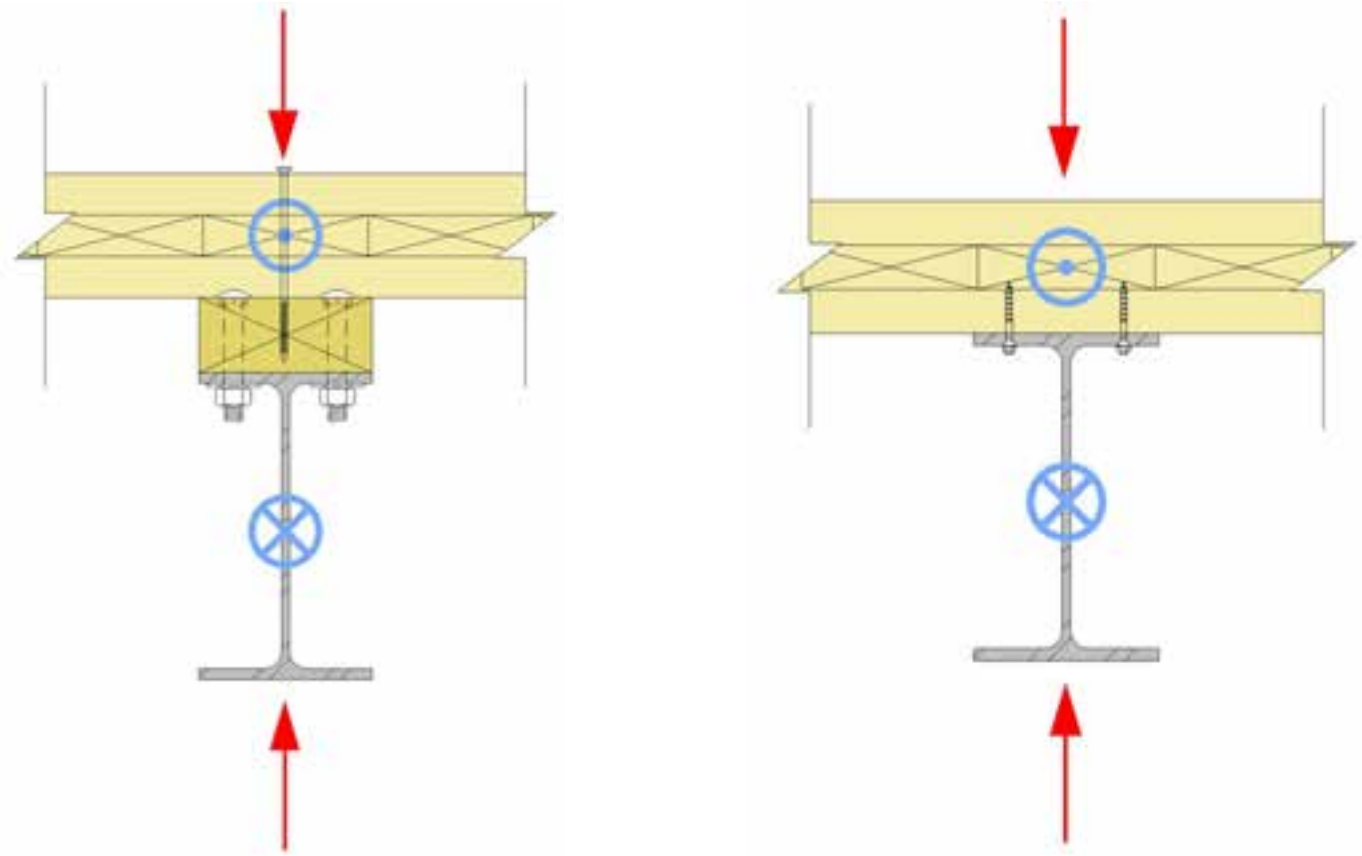




Lateral System Choices

Connections to steel frame

- Tolerances & adjustability
- Consider temperature fluctuations
- Ease of installation



Photos: Marcus Kauffmann, ODF

Lateral System Choices

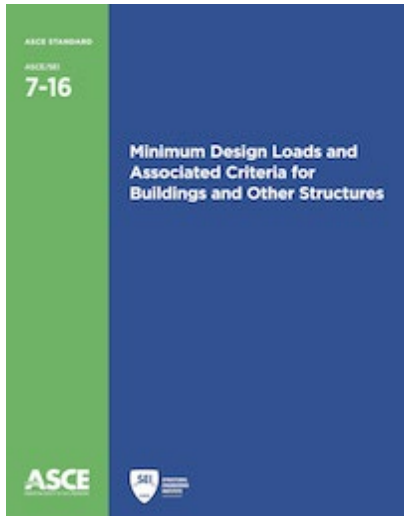
Wood-Frame Shearwalls

Lateral System Choices

Prescriptive Code Compliance

Concrete Shearwalls	✓
Steel Braced Frames	✓
Light Wood-Frame Shearwalls	✓
CLT Shearwalls	✓
CLT Rocking Walls	✗
Timber Braced Frames	✗

2021 SDPWS
ASCE 7-22



Acoustics & Sound Control

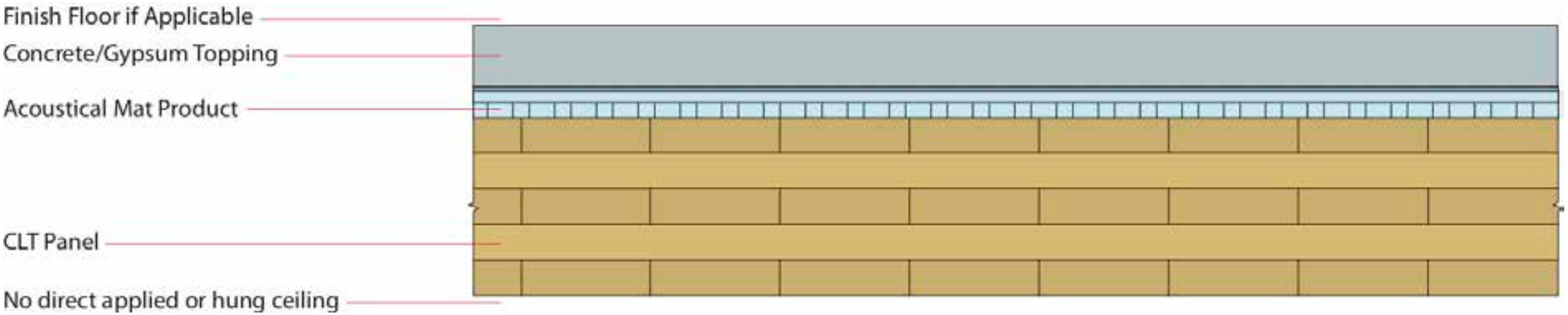
Acoustics & Sound Control

Consider Impacts of:

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

Credit: Rothoblaas

Acoustics & Sound Control



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):

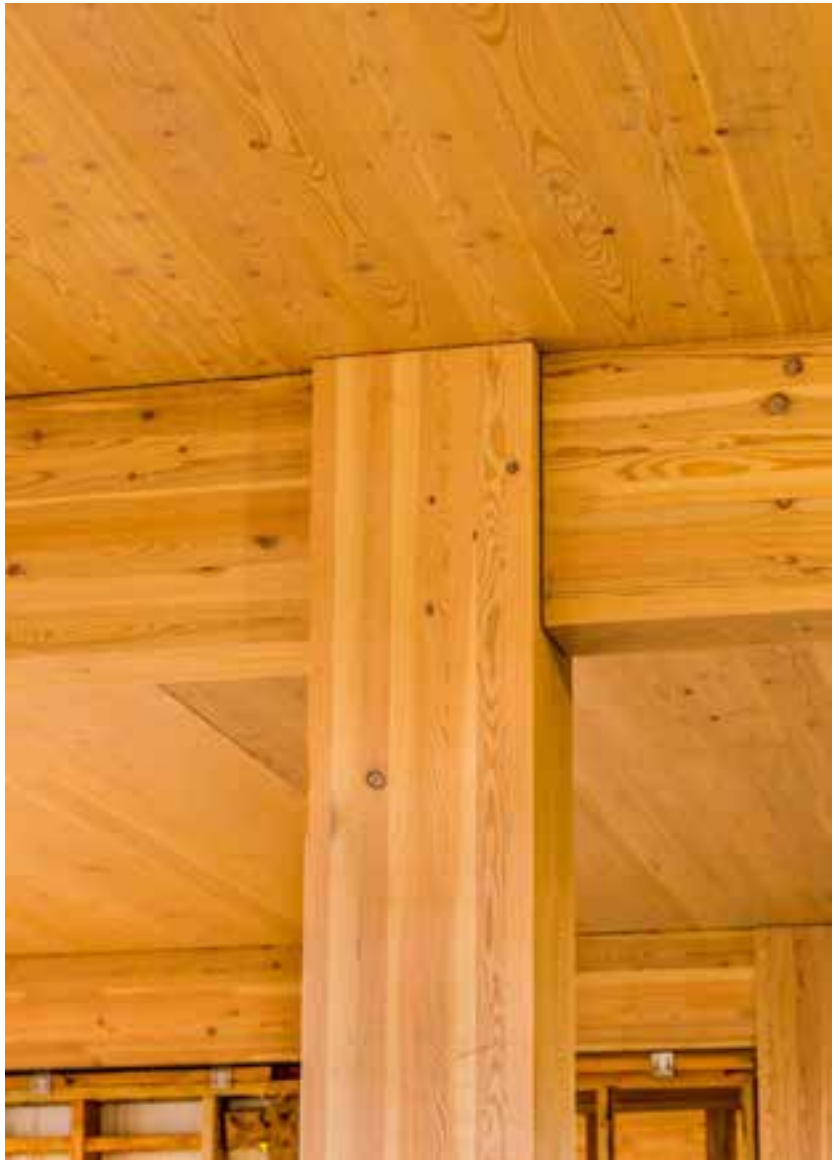
- Walls, Partitions, and Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

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

- Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

Acoustics & Sound Control

MT: Structure Often is Finish



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

Acoustics & Sound Control

But by Itself, Not Adequate for Acoustics

Acoustics & Sound Control

TABLE 1:

Examples of Acoustically-Tested Mass Timber Panels

Mass Timber Panel	Thickness	STC Rating	IIC Rating
3-ply CLT wall[4]	3.07"	33	N/A
5-ply CLT wall[4]	6.875"	38	N/A
5-ply CLT floor[5]	5.1875"	39	22
5-ply CLT floor[4]	6.875"	41	25
7-ply CLT floor[4]	9.65"	44	30
2x4 NLT wall[6]	3-1/2" bare NLT 4-1/4" with 3/4" plywood	24 bare NLT 29 with 3/4" plywood	N/A
2x6 NLT wall[6]	5-1/2" bare NLT 6-1/4" with 3/4" plywood	22 bare NLT 31 with 3/4" plywood	N/A
2x6 NLT floor + 1/2" plywood[2]	6" with 1/2" plywood	34	33

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

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:

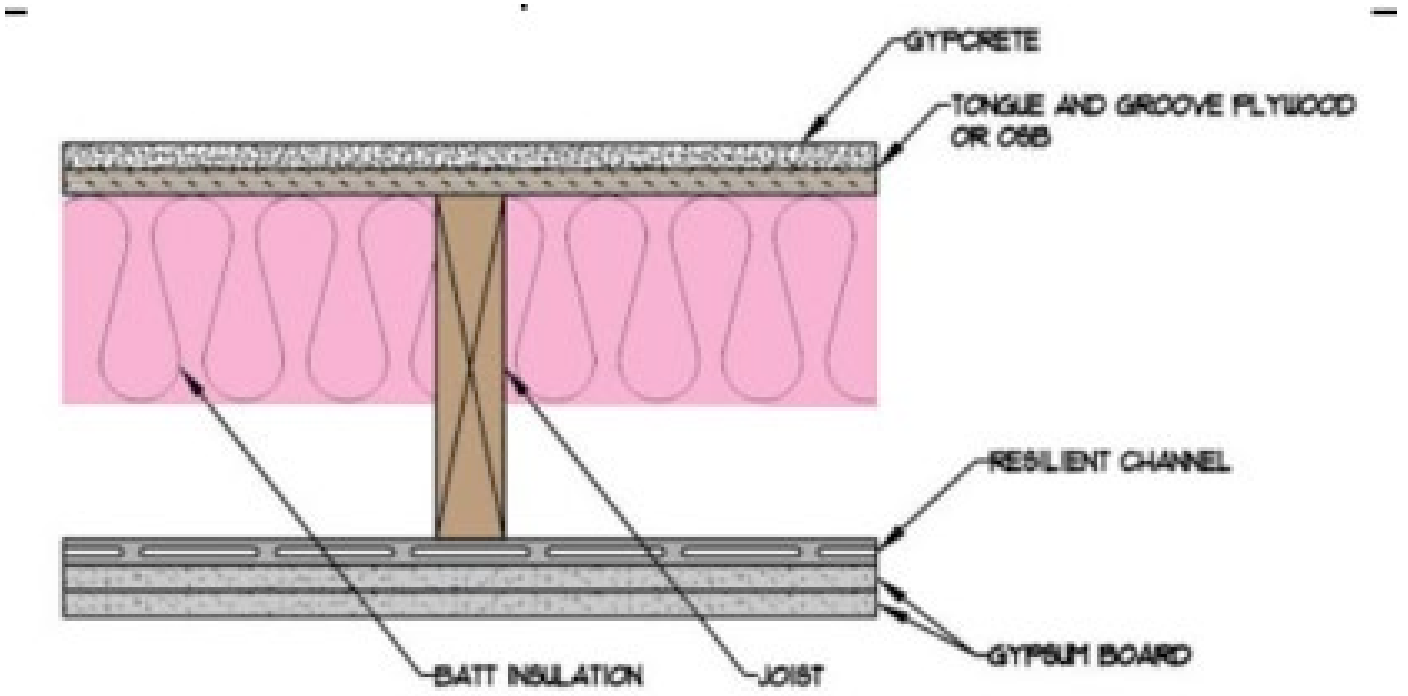
1. Add mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers


Image credit: Christian Columbres

Acoustics & Sound Control

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

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



STC 62

Acoustics & Sound Control

Mass timber has relatively low “mass”
Recall the three ways to increase acoustical performance:

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

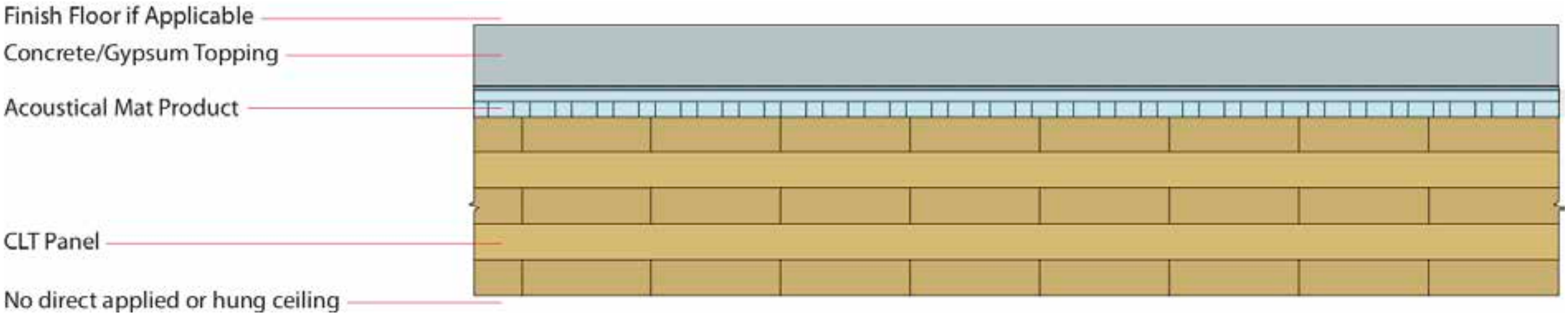
Acoustics & Sound Control

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

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

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

Acoustical Mat:

- Typically roll out or board products
- Thicknesses vary: Usually ¼" to 1"+

Credit: Maxxon

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

Credit: AcoustiTECH

Acoustics & Sound Control

Solutions Paper

WoodWorks
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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

The growing availability and code acceptance of mass timber—i.e., large solid wood panel products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT)—for floor, wall and roof construction has given designers a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. However, the use of mass timber in multi-family and commercial buildings presents unique acoustic challenges.

While laboratory measurements of the impact and airborne sound isolation of traditional building assemblies such as light wood-frame, steel and concrete are widely available, fewer resources exist that quantify the acoustic performance of mass timber assemblies. Additionally, one of the most desired aspects of mass timber construction is the ability to leave a building's structure exposed as finish, which creates the need for asymmetric assemblies. With careful design and detailing, mass timber buildings can meet the acoustic performance expectations of most building types.

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

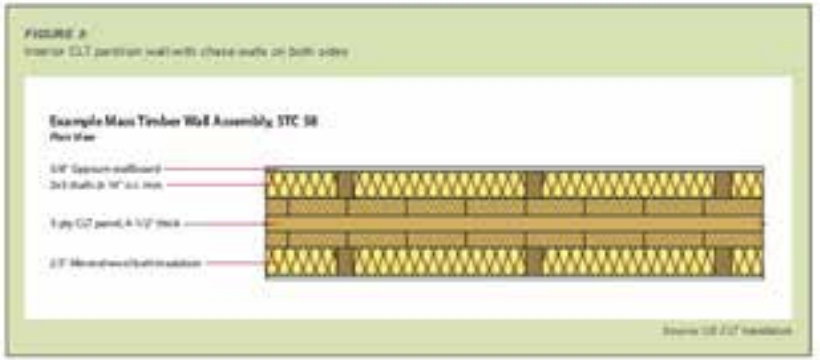


FIGURE 3

Example Mass Timber Wall Assembly, STC 58

Mass Timber Assembly Options: Walls

Mass timber panels can also be used for interior and exterior walls—both bearing and non-bearing. For interior walls, the need to conceal services such as electrical and plumbing is an added consideration. Common approaches include building a chase wall in front of the mass timber wall or installing gypsum wallboard on resilient channels that are attached to the mass timber wall. As with bare mass timber floor panels, bare mass timber walls don't typically provide adequate noise control, and chase walls also function as acoustical improvements. For example, a 3-ply CLT wall panel with a thickness of 3.07" has an STC rating of 33.* In contrast, Figure 3 shows an interior CLT partition wall with chase walls on both sides. This assembly achieves an STC rating of 58, exceeding the IBC's acoustical requirements for multi-family construction. Other examples are included in the inventory of tested assemblies noted above.

Acoustical Differences between Mass Timber Panel Options

The majority of acoustically-tested mass timber assemblies include CLT. However, tests have also been done on other mass timber panel options such as NLT and dowel-laminated timber (DLT), as well as traditional heavy timber options such as tongue and groove decking. Most tests have concluded that CLT acoustical performance is slightly better than that of other mass timber options, largely because the cross-orientation of laminations in a CLT panel limits sound flanking.

For those interested in comparing similar assemblies and mass timber panel types and thicknesses, the inventory noted above contains tested assemblies using CLT, NLT, glued-laminated timber panels (GLT), and tongue and groove decking.

Improving Performance by Minimizing Flanking

Even when the assemblies in a building are carefully designed and installed for high acoustical performance, consideration of flanking paths—in areas such as assembly intersections, beam-to-column/wall connections, and MEP penetrations—is necessary for a building to meet overall acoustical performance objectives.

One way to minimize flanking paths at these connections and interfaces is to use resilient connection isolation and sealant strips. These products are capable of resisting structural loads in compression between structural members and connections while providing isolation and breaking hard, direct connections between members. In the context of the three methods for improving acoustical performance noted above, these strips act as decouplers. With airtight connections, interfaces and penetrations, there is a much greater chance that the acoustic performance of a mass timber building will meet expectations.

Acoustical isolation strips

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

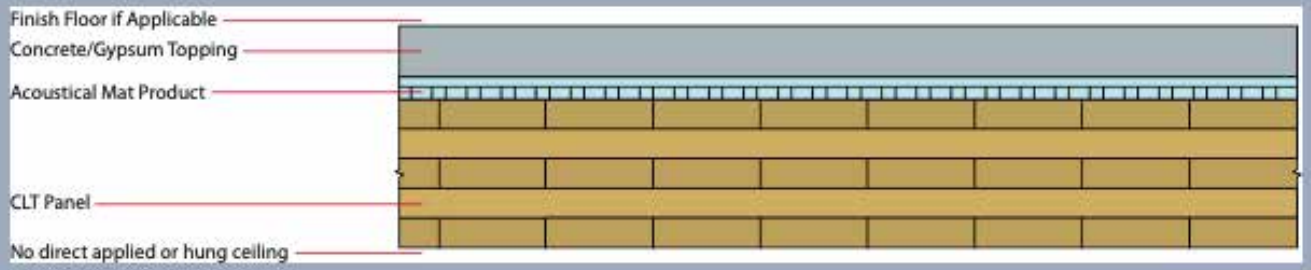
Contents:

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

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[1]	IIC[1]	Source
CLT 5-ply (6.875")	1-1/2" Gyp-Crete®	Maxxon Acousti-Mat® 3/4	None	47[2] ASTC	47[2] AIIC	1
			LVT	-	49[2] AIIC	
			Carpet + Pad	-	75[2] AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top®	-	52[2] AIIC	
			Eng Wood on Acousti-Top®	-	51[2] AIIC	
		Maxxon Acousti-Mat® ¾ Premium	None	49[2] ASTC	45[2] AIIC	
			LVT	-	47[2] AIIC	
			LVT on Acousti-Top®	-	49[2] AIIC	
	1-1/2" Levelrock®	USG SAM N25 Ultra	None	45[6]	39[6]	15
			LVT	48[6]	47[6]	16
			LVT Plus	48[6]	49[6]	58
			Eng Wood	47[6]	47[6]	59
			Carpet + Pad	45[6]	67[6]	60
			Ceramic Tile	50[6]	46[6]	61
			None	45[6]	42[6]	15
			LVT	48[6]	44[6]	16

Mass Timber in Multi-Family

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

7-story, 84 ft tall multi-family building

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

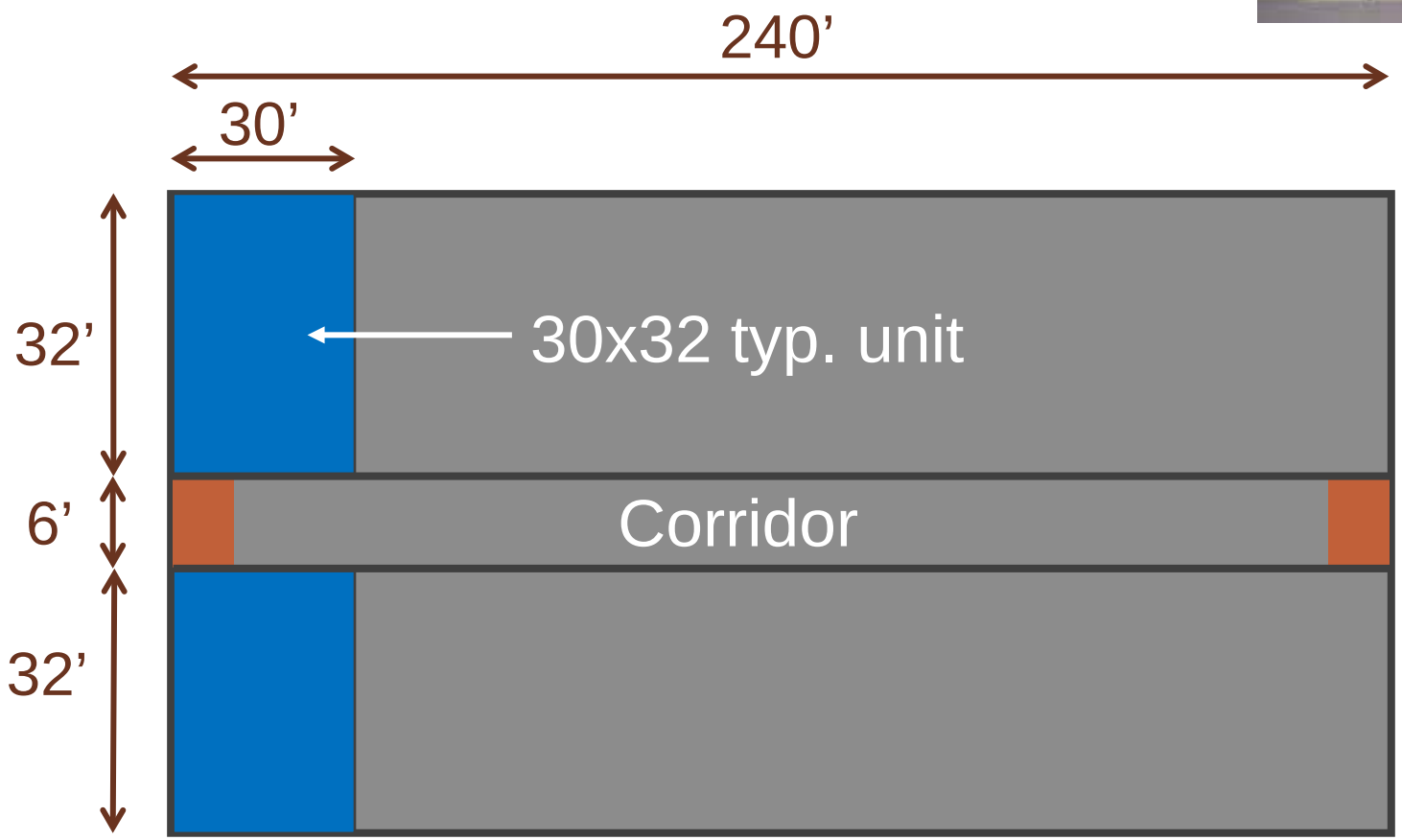

Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example

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


Credit: Monte French Design Studio



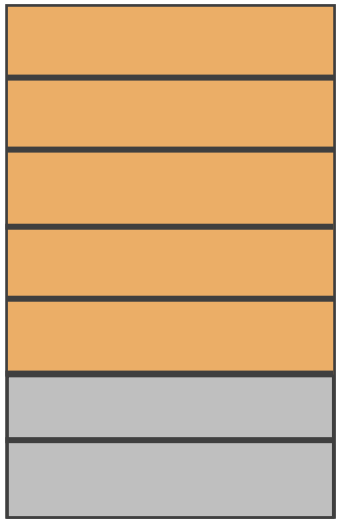
Key Early Design Decisions

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



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

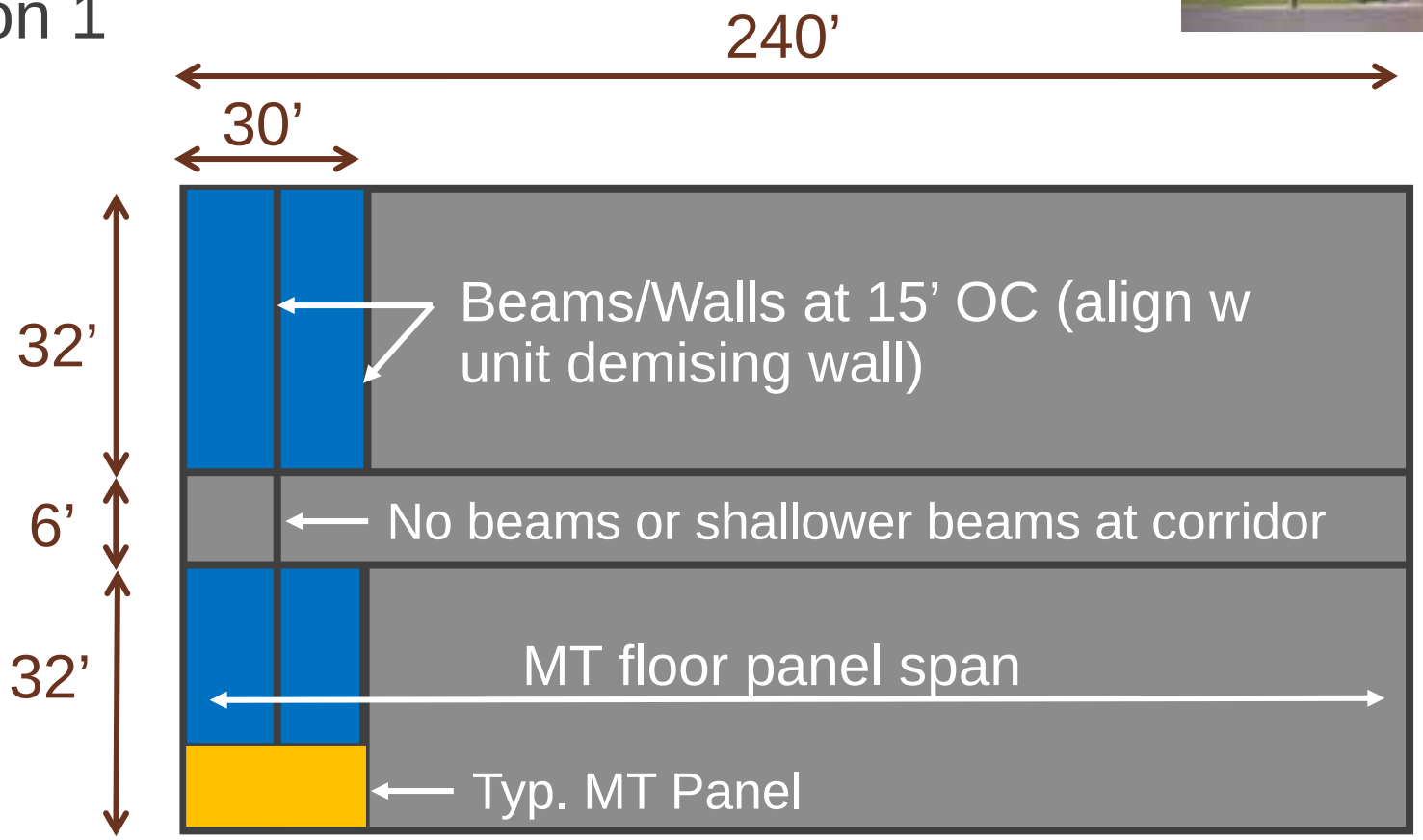
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1



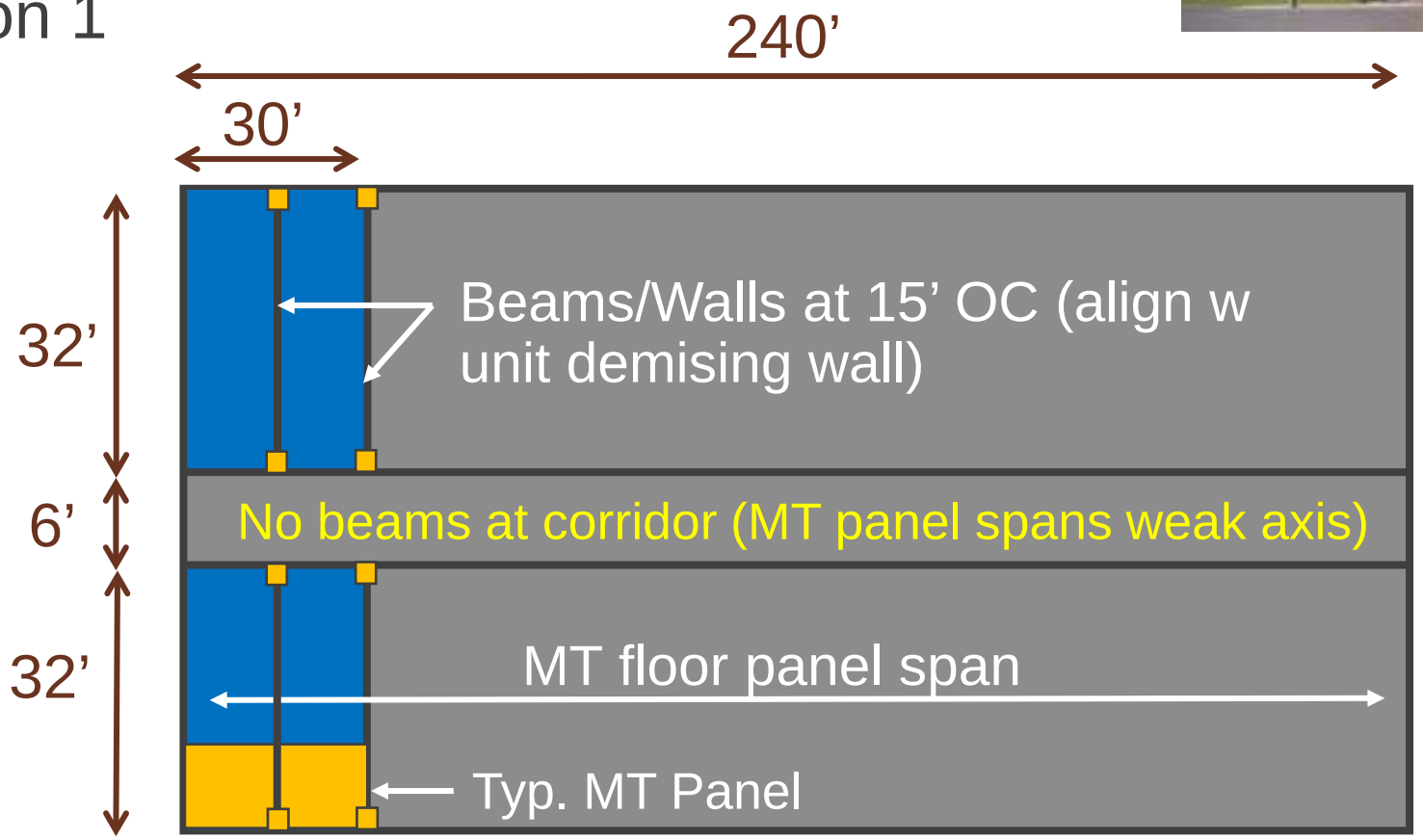
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1



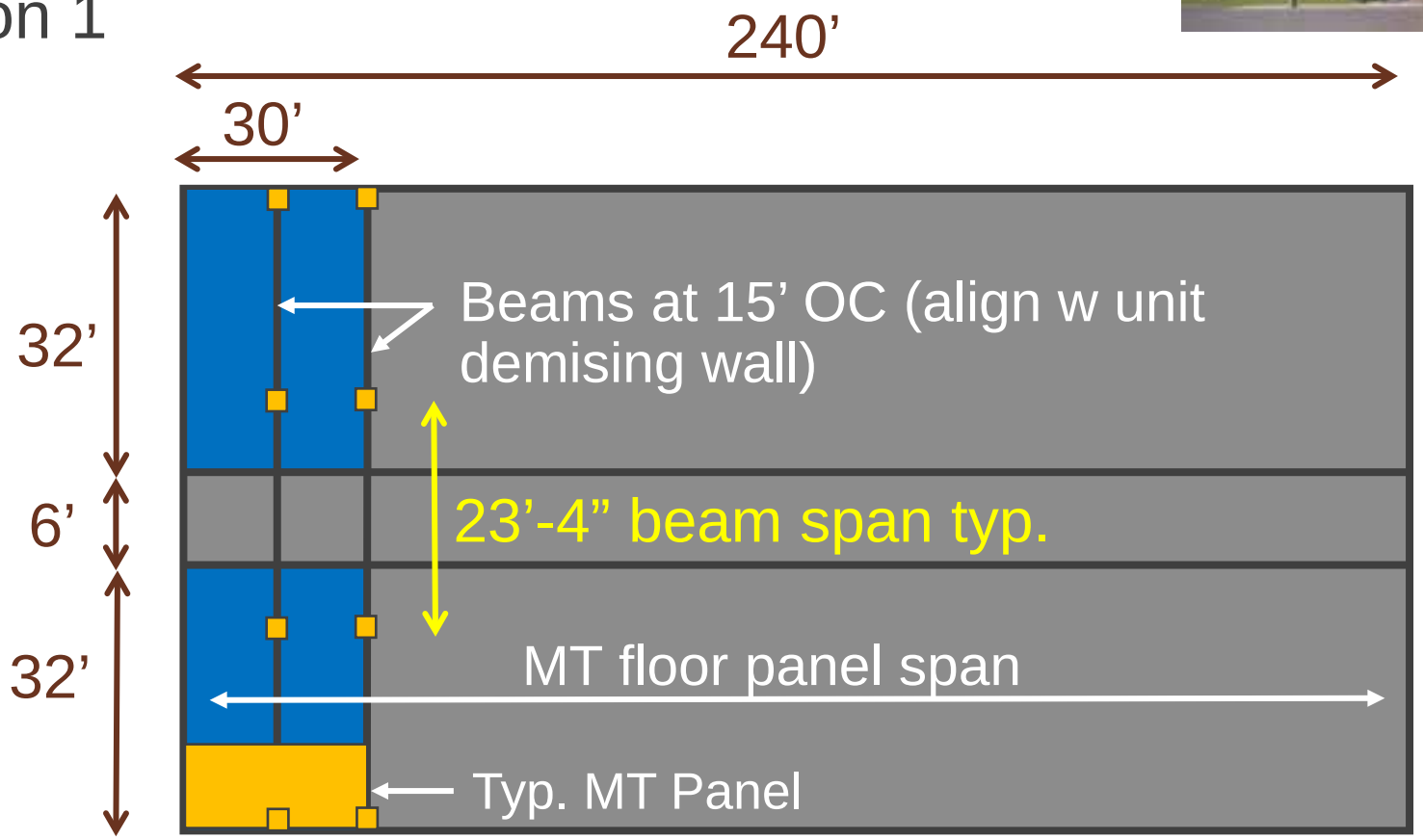
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1



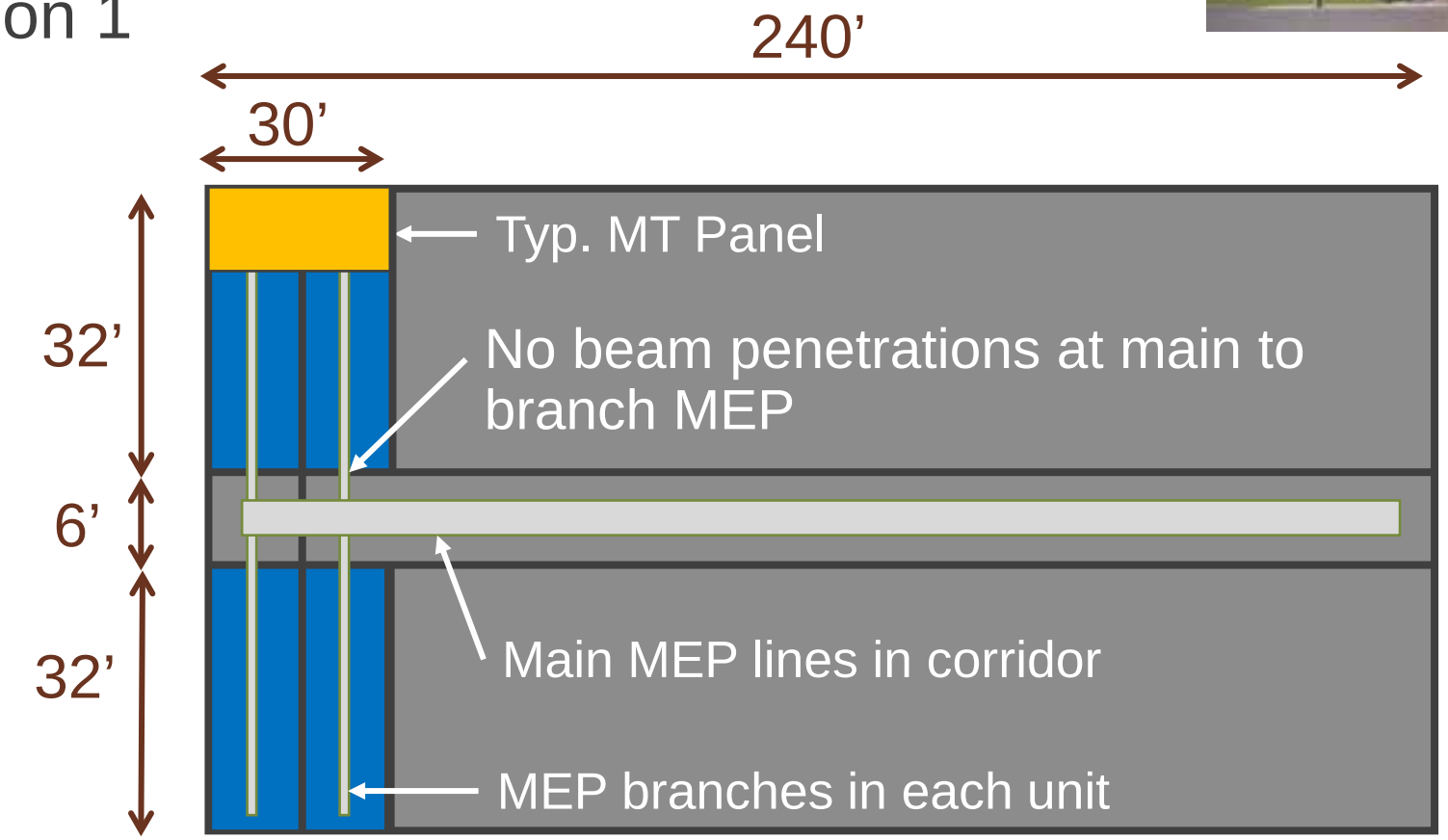
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 1



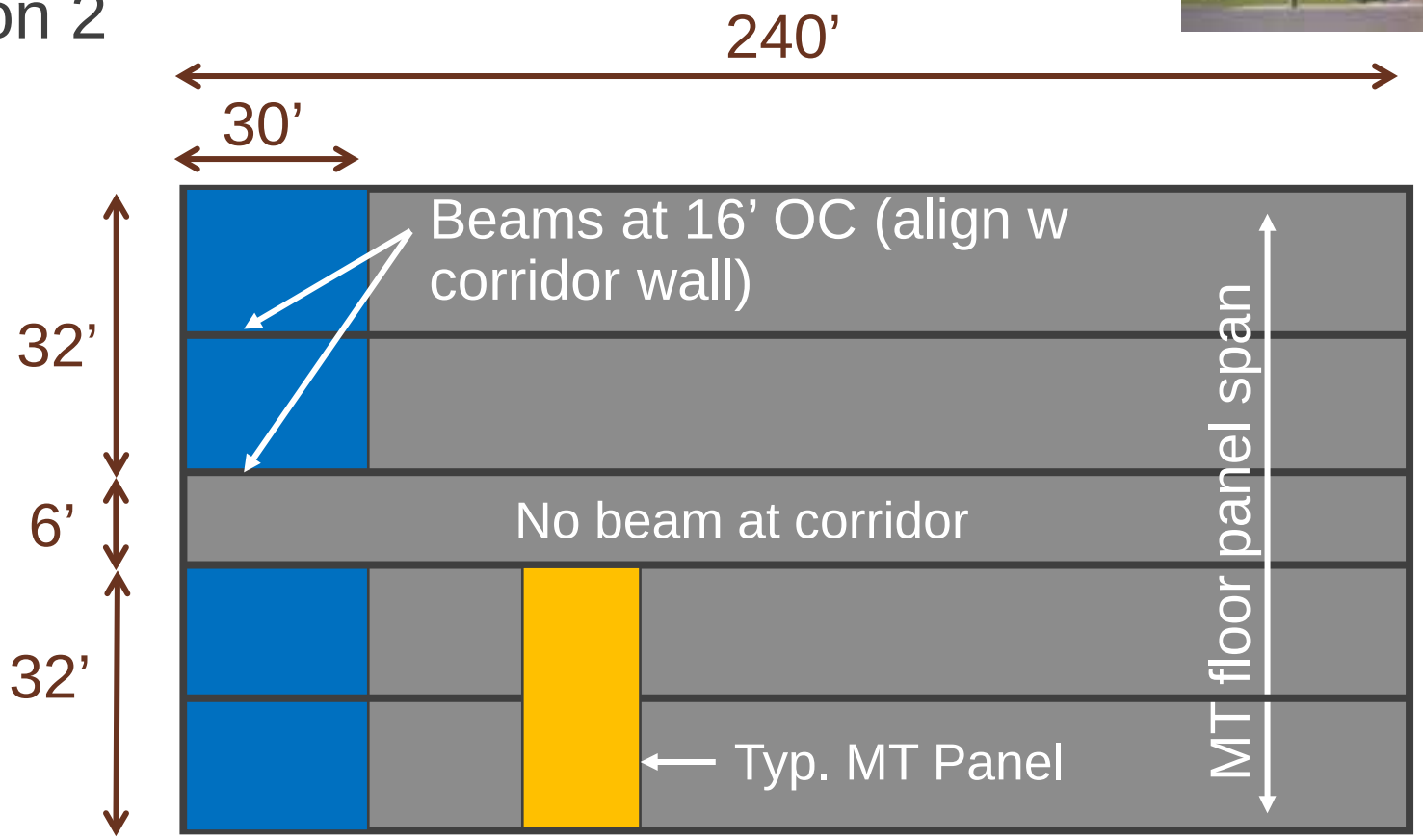
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 2



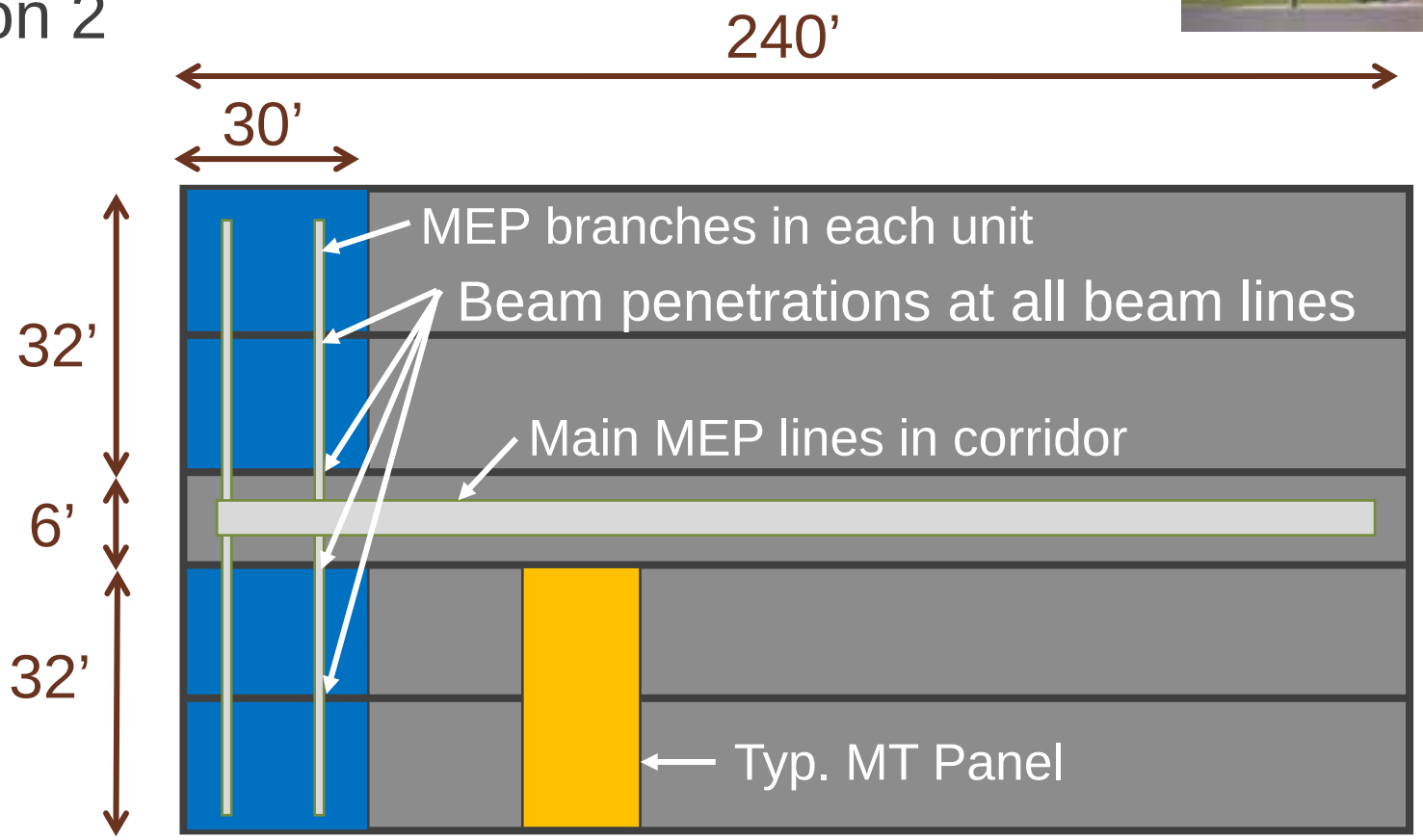
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IV-C Grid Options

- Option 2



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 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

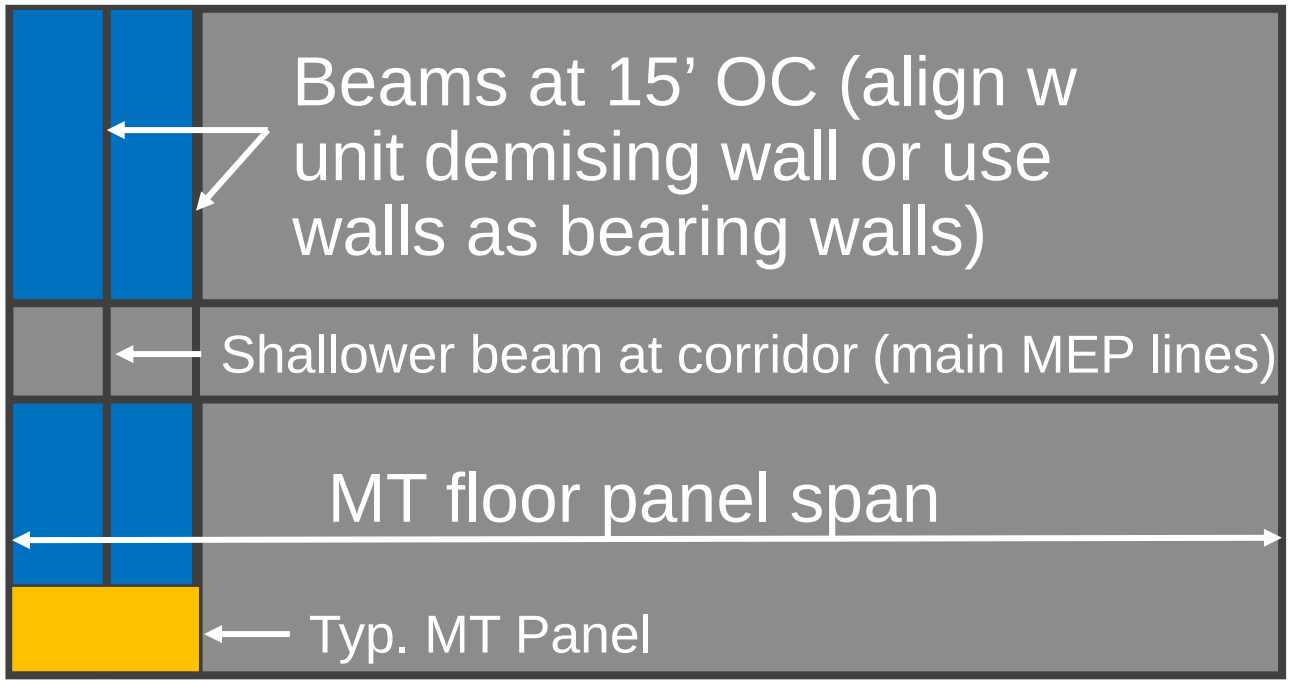
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 1



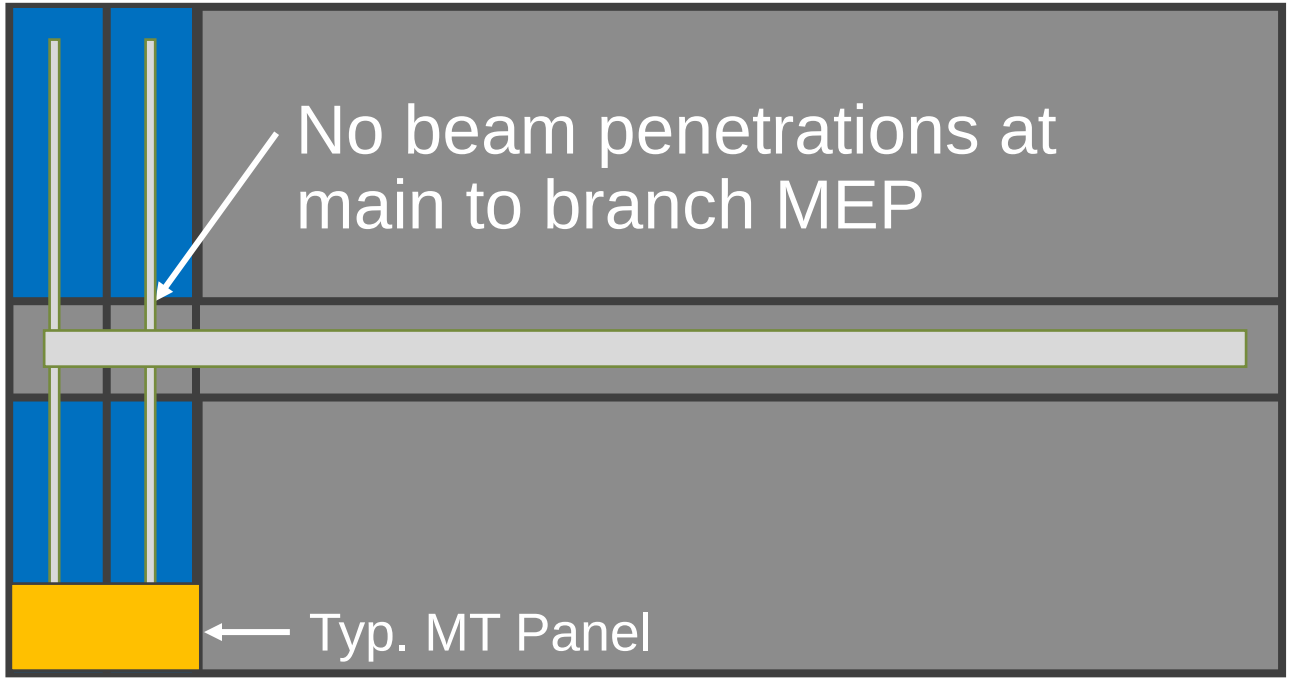
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 1



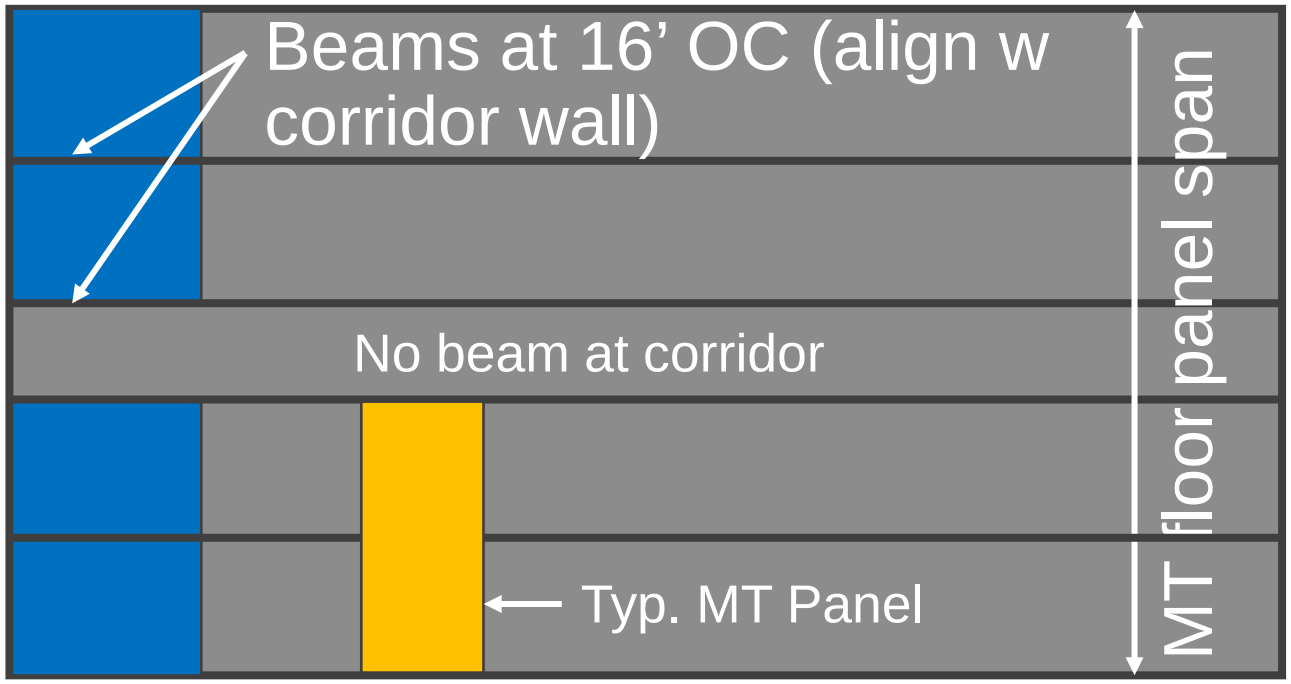
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 2



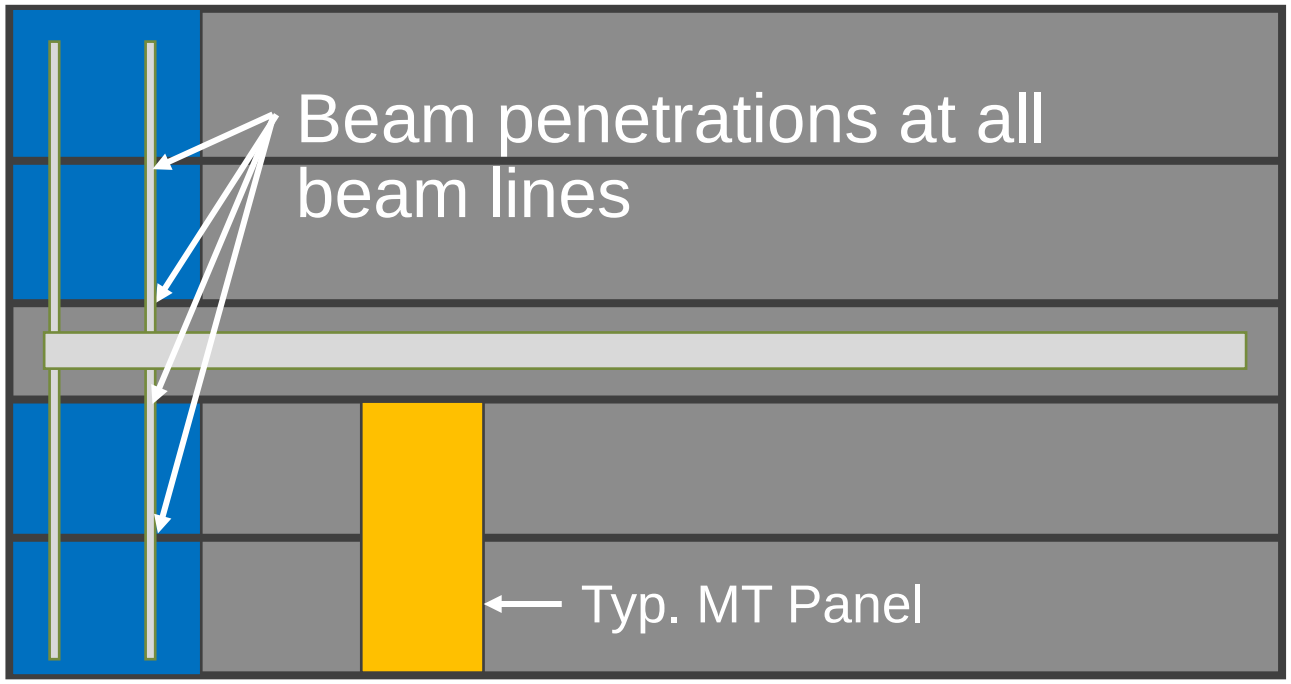
Key Early Design Decisions

Early Design Decision Example


Credit: Monte French Design Studio

Type IIIA Grid Options

- Option 2



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

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

Speed of Construction

Market Distinction

KNOW YOUR WHY

Sustainability

Lightweight

Leasing Velocity

Cost

Urban Density

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

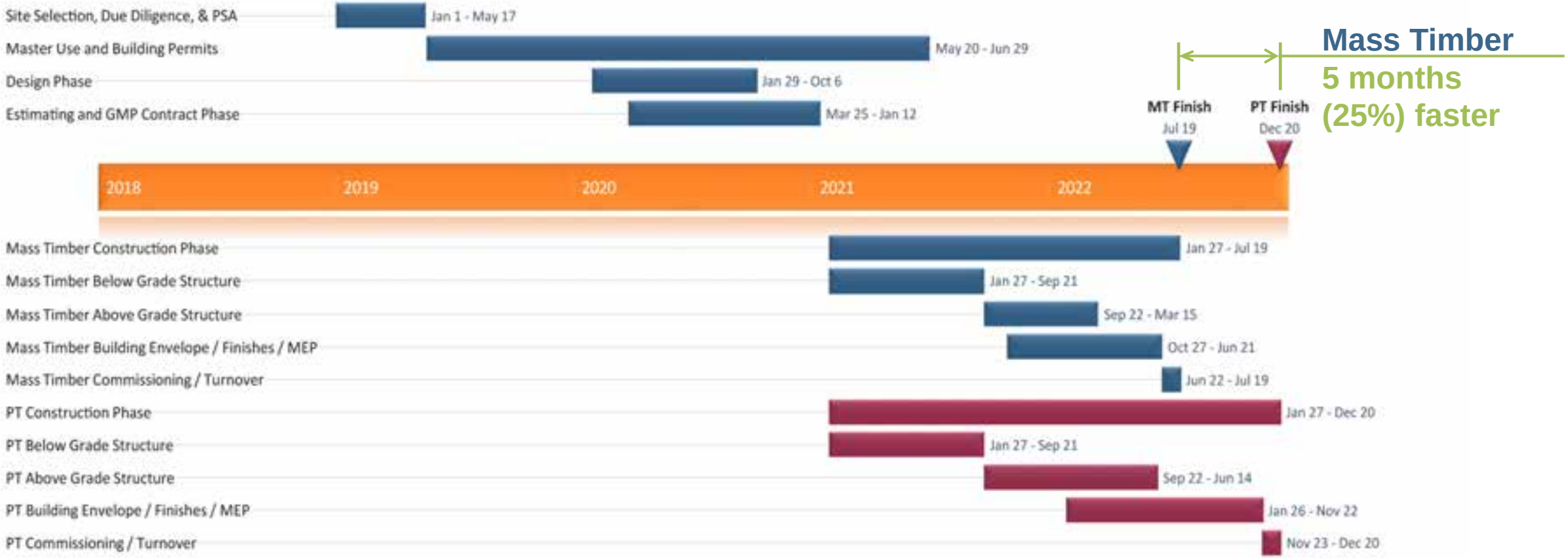
that developers will experience.”

- Connor Mclain, Colliers

Seattle Mass Timber Tower

Fast Construction

Construction Schedule:

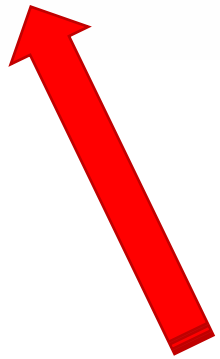


Source: Tall With Timber
A Seattle Mass Timber Tower Case Study by DLR Group[1]

Seattle Mass Timber Tower

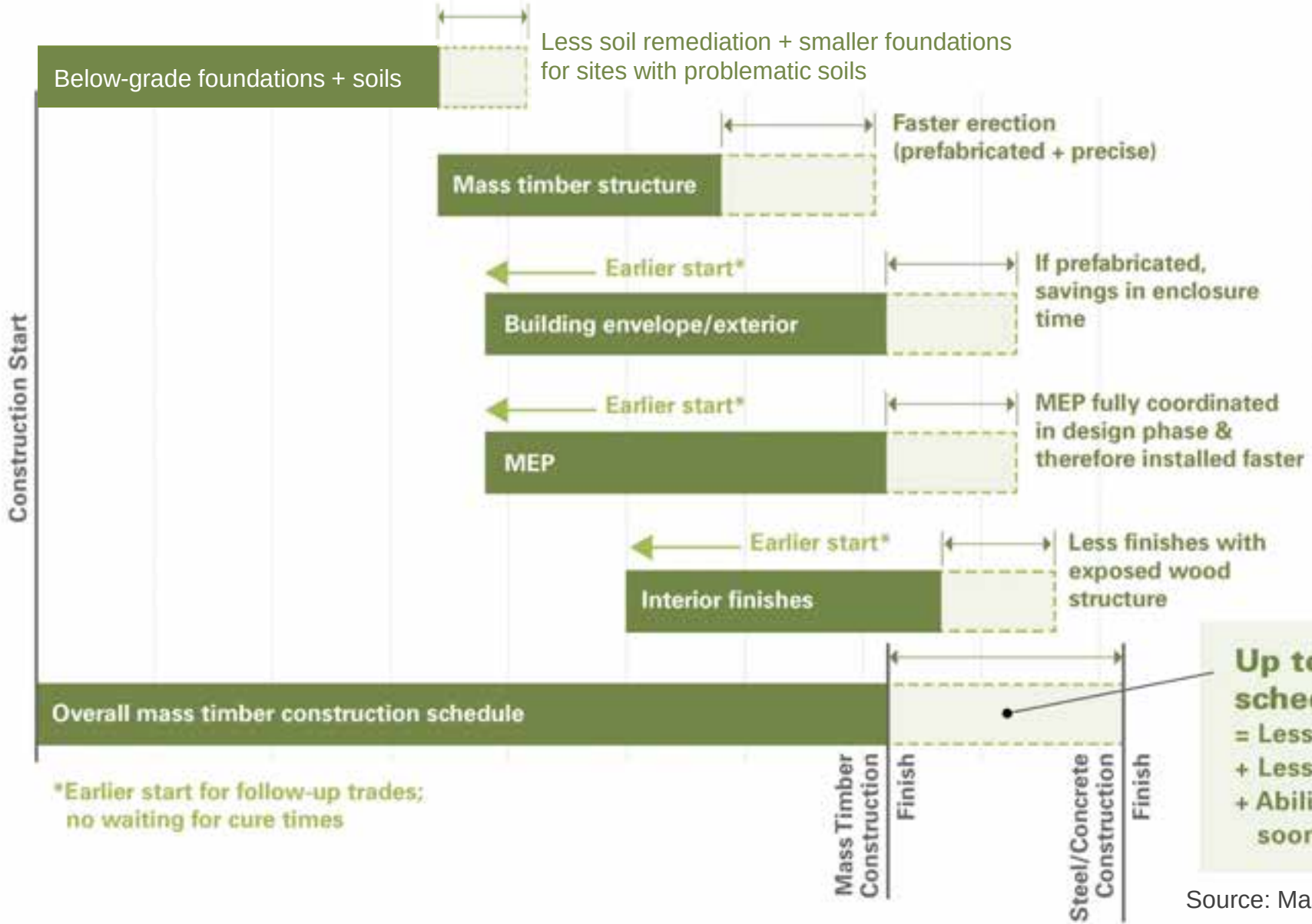
Faster Construction + Higher Material Costs = Cost Competitive

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

Compressing the Typical Schedule



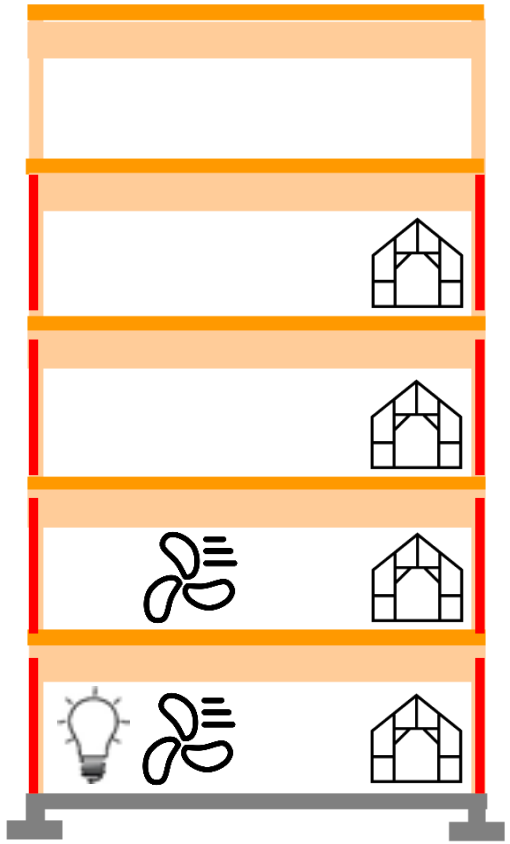
Look for these potential $$ schedule savings with mass timber in comparison to steel and concrete.

Up to 25% schedule savings
= Less carrying costs
+ Less GC overhead
+ Ability to lease/occupy sooner

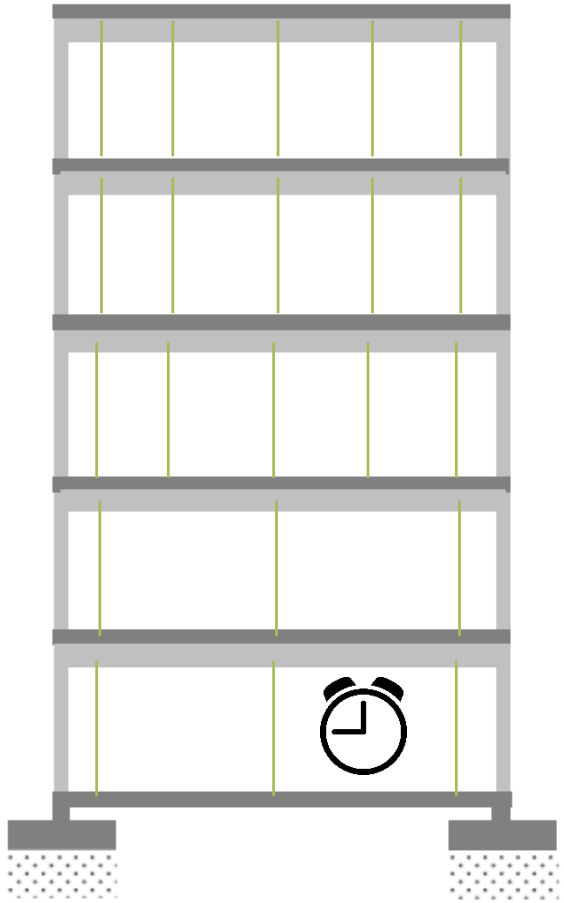
Source: Mass Timber Cost & Design Optimization, WoodWorks[2]

Schedule Savings for Rough-In Trades

Fast Construction



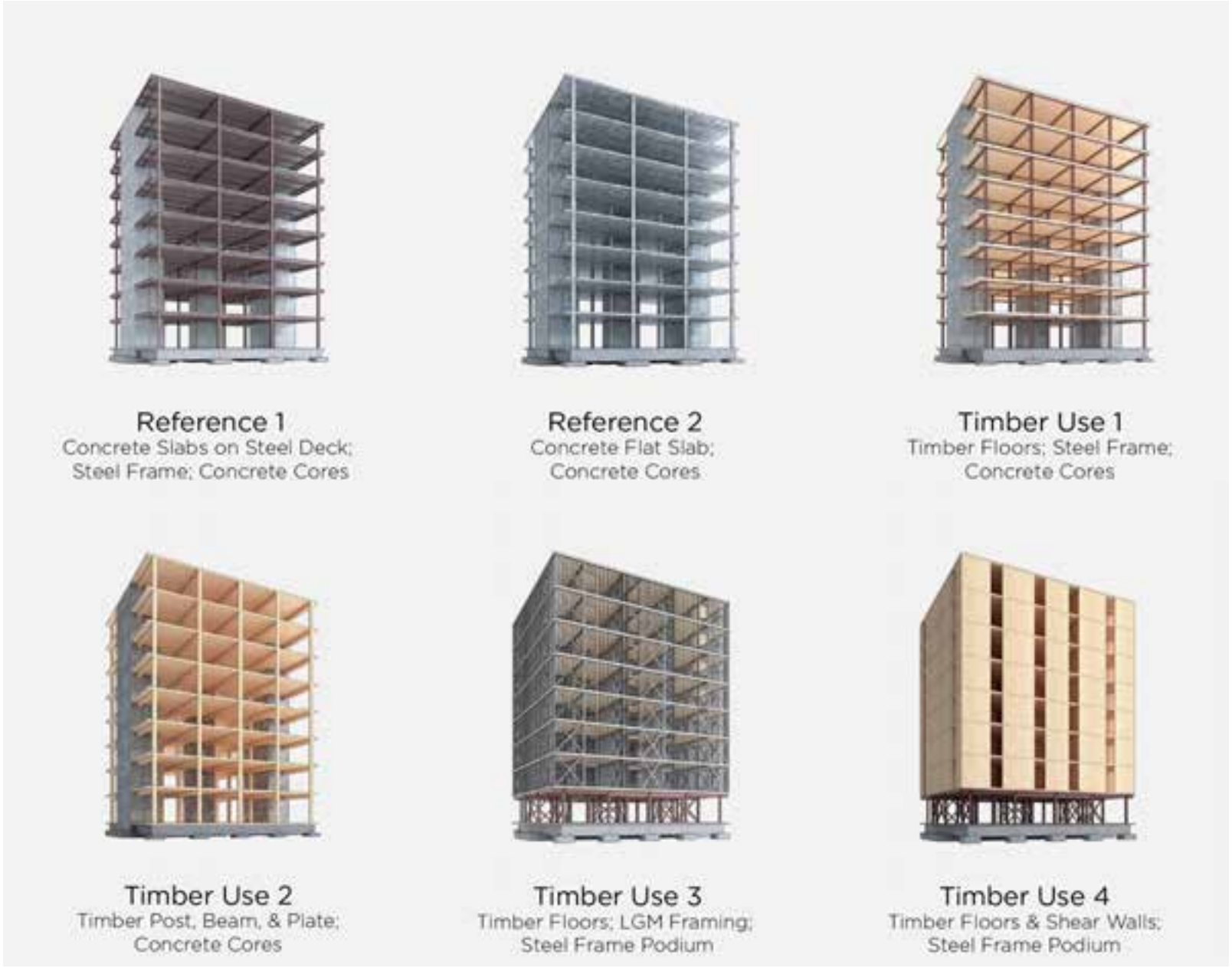
NO curing
(mass timber)



Curing & maze of shores (concrete)

Photo: WoodWorks

Holistic Cost Assessment



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 load-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.

Source: Generate Architecture + Technologies

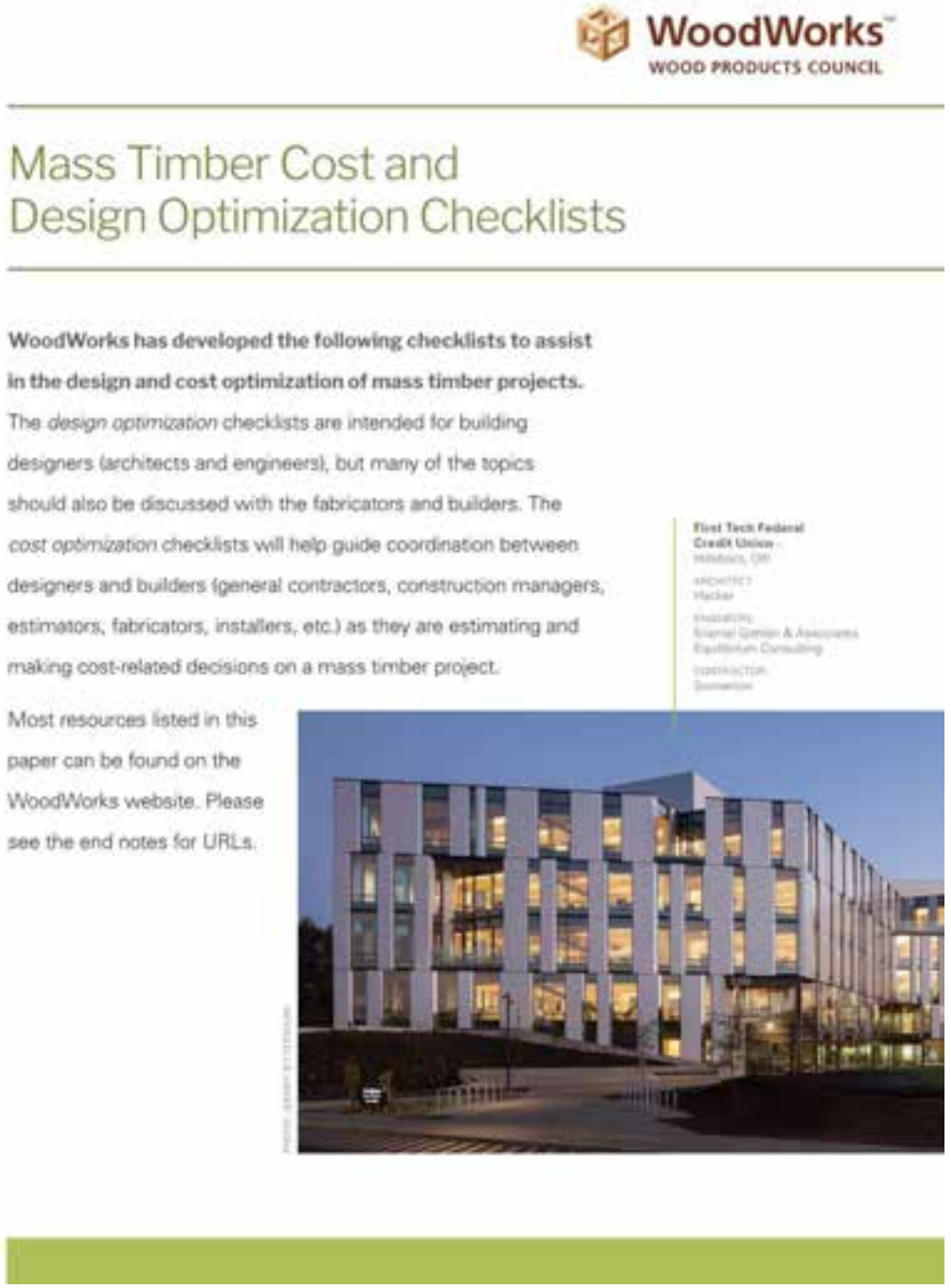
Reduce Risk

Optimize Costs

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

Download Checklists at **www.woodworks.org**

www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-Mass-Timber-Design-Cost-Optimization-Checklists.pdf



WoodWorks
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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.

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

Images: Korb & Associates

Questions? Ask us anything.

Laura Cullen, EIT
Regional Director | GA, MS
(404) 488-7495
laura.cullen@woodworks.org

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