The Business Case for Mass Timber: Completing the Value Proposition

June 15, 2023

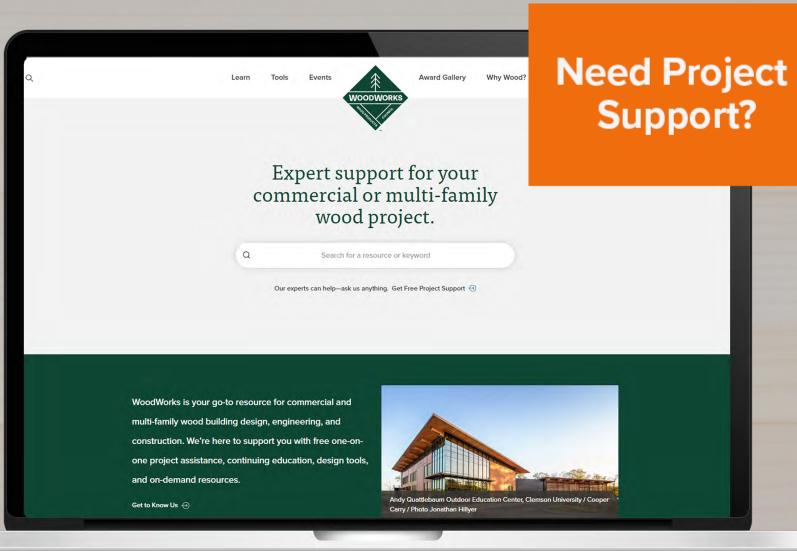
**Presented by** 

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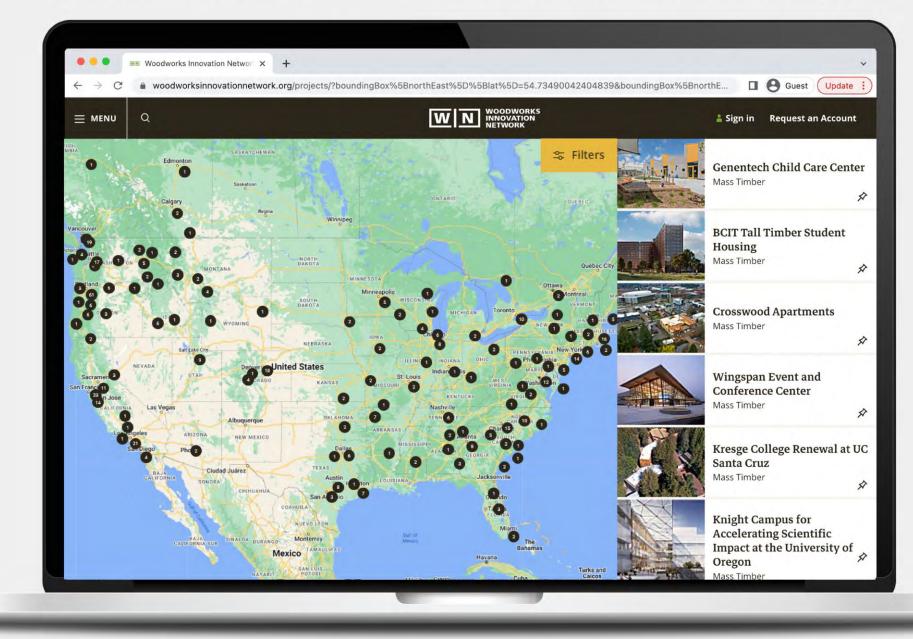
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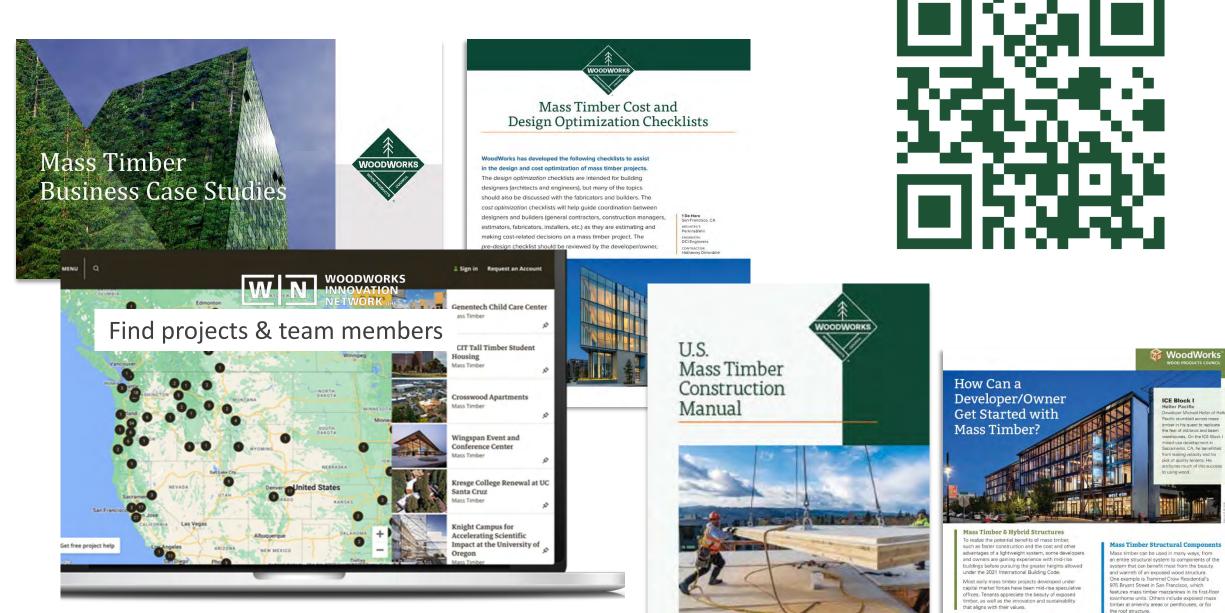
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### **Resources for Developers/Owners**



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

# **Course Description**

Would you like to pitch sustainable mass timber to a client? Are you wondering how mass timber might pencil in a project pro forma? If so, attend this session to learn how to complete value proposition for developers and owners. The aesthetic differentiation and biophilic benefits of mass timber have broad appeal to a wide range of stakeholders, from end users to ESG-investors. Professionals hoping to influence decisions to use mass timber will learn how this appeal can translate to return on investment in an overview of initial findings from WoodWorks' Mass Timber Business Case Study series, written for the developer/owner/investor audience. This session will provide an overview of the case study series highlighting key takeaways. Developers/owners, architects, engineers and builders will all learn how mass timber can create value.

# Learning Objectives

- 1. Discuss the environmental benefits of mass timber and how they resonate with a wide range of stakeholders from occupants to project teams, investors and communities.
- 2. Understand how the biophilic benefits of wood can contribute to occupant health, tenant appeal and the financial value of a real estate development.
- 3. Through case study examples, explore code-compliant design of mass timber structures.
- 4. Learn talking points to translate the biophilic and ESG-related benefits of mass timber into potential value creation for developers, owners, and investors; helping to convince these decision makers to invest in a more sustainable and healthier built environment.

#### MODERATOR

#### SPEAKERS



Laura Cullen, EIT Regional Director



Melissa Kroskey, AIA, SE Technical Director



Noel Johnson Partner





# Mass Timber Business Case Studies



### **Users:**

#### • Finance-side

(investors, developers/owners, appraisers, lenders) seeking to "make informed decisions"

• Services-side

(architects, engineers, contractors) seeking to "influence decisions"

#### • Government-side

(building code, policy or zoning) seeking to "**regulate decisions**"





#### Mass Timber Business Case Studies

# Contributors

Contributing Developers/Owners & Investors



We are grateful to the developers, owners and investors who have publicly shared their stories and financial data in these case studies.

Lead Analysis Team



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## Mass Timber Business Case Studies: Value Creation Analysis

#### **Development Overview**

- Property Information
- Product Strategy
- Investment Highlights

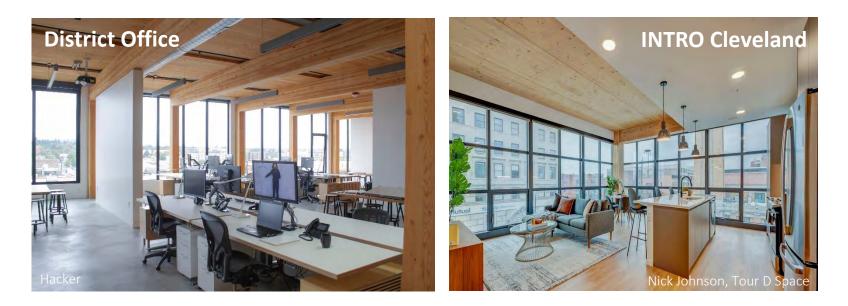
#### **Qualitative Discussion**

- Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Successes

#### **Quantitative Overview**

- Development Timeline
- Costs
- Rents
- Lease up

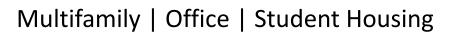




#### **Comparative Return Analysis**

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

	Market	Pro Forma	Realized
Yield on cost	6.25%	7.00%	7.35%
Cap rate	4.75%	4.50%	TBD
Value/rentable SF	\$550/ RSF	\$717/ RSF	TBD (\$800+/ RSF)
Leverage	65%	65%	N/A



### Mass Timber Business Case Studies: Value Creation Analysis



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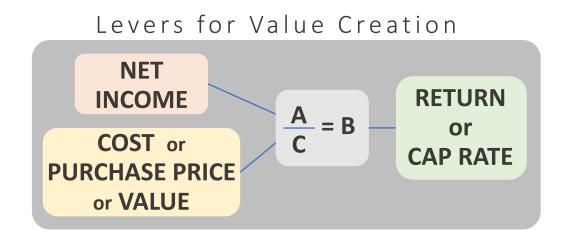




### Analysis

### The study uses simple, industry standard means of understanding economic viability

- Net Income (cashflows)
- Cost to develop (purchase price)
- Cap rate (initial return, excluding loans)





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### Initial Findings: General

### **Office & Multifamily Tend to:**

Lease up faster than submarket norms; which translates to:

- Higher net income
- Lower income volatility
- Better IRR
- Lower risk via quicker to refinance/ sell

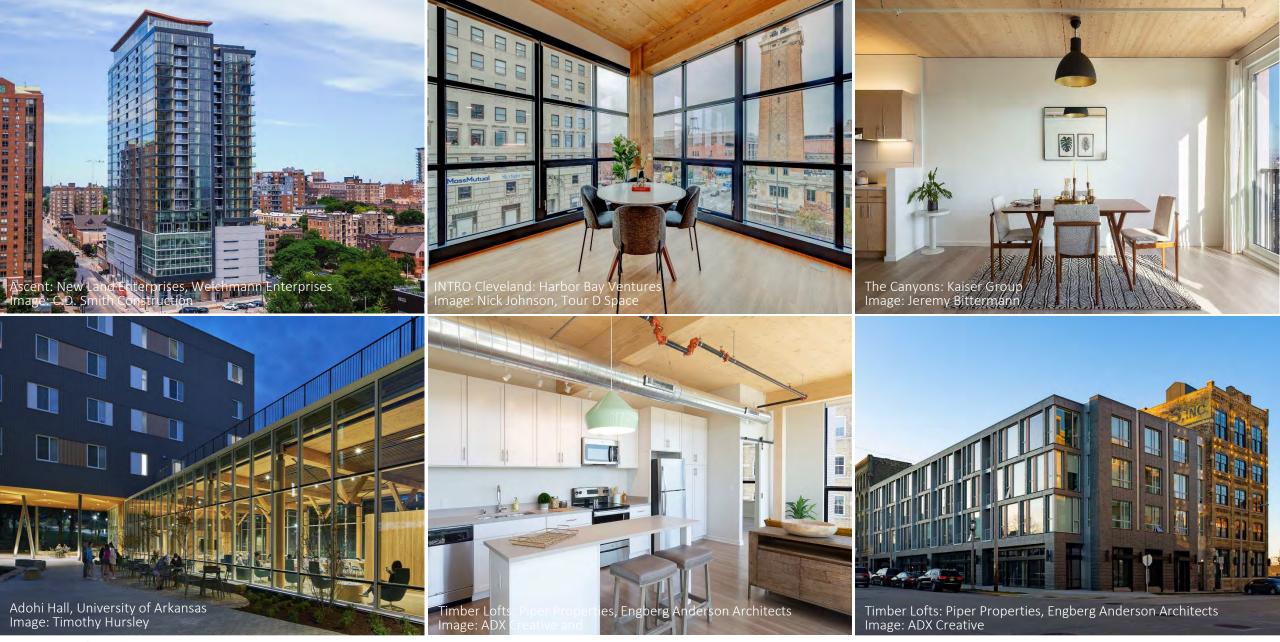
### Attract quality tenants; which translates to:

- Better rent collection
- Better (lower) cap rates
- Better (stable) occupancy







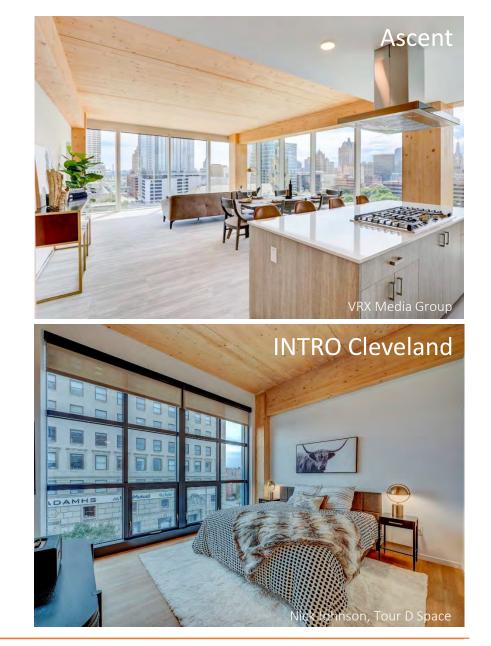




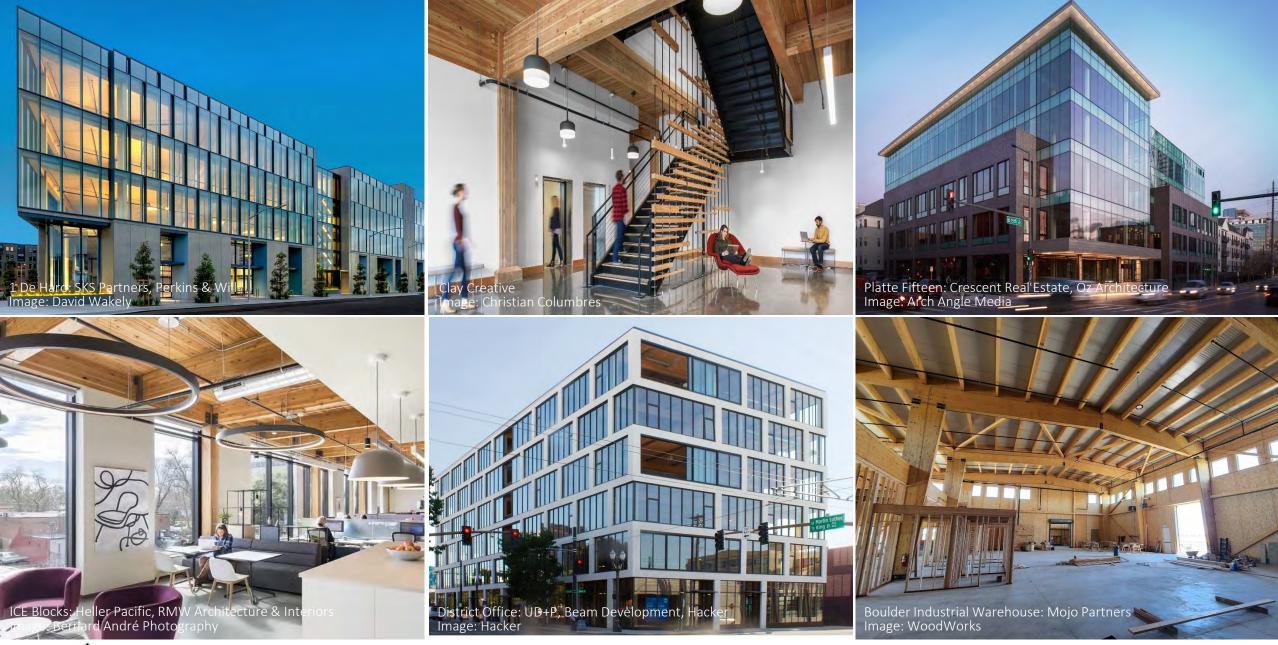
### Initial Findings: Residential

### **Residents respond to "look & feel"**

- Aesthetics seem to be broadly appealing; wider target markets = better market demand
- Robust pre-leasing = lower costs & risks
  - More income sooner = lowers operating & interest budgets
  - Faster to stabilization = faster to refinance
- Tangible distinction = mitigates future supply risk
- Tangible realization of desired brand identities







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INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



### Initial Findings: Office

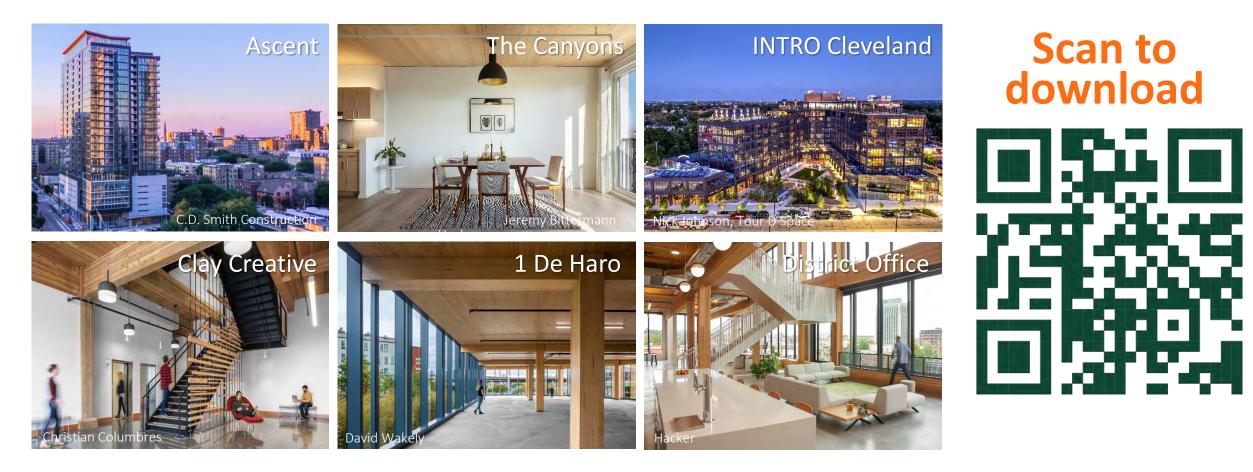
### **Firms Attracted for Myriad Reasons**

- Most tenants are "creditworthy"
- Desire intangible stakeholder benefits
  - o Workforce Desires
  - o Regulatory Perceptions
  - o Brand Position
- Tend to see impressive pre-leasing
  - o Enables better construction debt
  - Sets perceptions of desirable development
- Seeing sustained occupancy via subleasing
  - o Tested by COVID disruptions





### Mass Timber Business Case Studies: Value Creation Analysis





# **QUESTIONS?**

This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Course.



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