A traditional 32-figure wooden carousel is housed within a concrete, wood and glass carousel pavilion at the base of an existing mature forest at the Butchart Gardens. The building consists of two main elements: a 90-metre long serpentine wall made of board-formed concrete, and a glass drum with an exposed timber structure. The wall creates cave-like rooms for children’s parties, concession and service spaces, and also forms the retaining wall at the rear of the main circular carousel room. The circular roof over the carousel is constructed of exposed glulam beams and a four-metre diameter glazed oculus.

The upper domed roof is covered in a thin layer of native mosses, sedums and corsica mint. The lower roofs are a continuation of the forest understorey: snow berry, ferns, salal.

Wood was the natural choice for the structure and interior cladding for the Children’s Pavilion at the Butchart Gardens. Wood’s availability, cost, ease of construction, beauty and acoustic qualities set wood ahead of any other options presented to the design team.