

## **Wood WORKS! Award Winners Announced: wood design is healthy, sustainable, supports jobs**

(Toronto, November 7, 2012) A select group of Ontario's leading architects, engineers, and project teams received Wood Design Awards at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Wood WORKS! celebration in Toronto. The awards recognize people and organizations that, through design excellence, advocacy, and innovation, are advancing the use of wood in all types of construction across the province.

"These are exciting times for wood design," says Marianne Berube, executive director of the Ontario Wood WORKS! project. "Ongoing technical advancement in the forest product and construction industries, alongside creative design thinking, is giving rise to an incredible new generation of wood buildings."

"Design and construction solutions that incorporate sustainably sourced wood products support forest industry employment in the province, significantly lower the carbon footprint of any building, reduce our dependence on non-renewable materials and fossil fuels, and provide warm, beautiful, human-centered environments that people love," added Berube. "It is our privilege to celebrate some of the best of these buildings each year through the awards program."

Winning projects include an innovation center that took the concept of 'locally-sourced materials' to a new level, obtaining all wood materials within a 30km radius of the project; a residence whose strict indoor environment requirements were best met with wood, clearly illustrating the health benefits of wood buildings; an urban in-fill condo project that skillfully used the building code to maximize the building's height; and a park revitalization that used trees killed by the emerald ash borer to produce a facility that the jury called 'an extraordinary example in this typology of building.'

Twelve awards were presented at the event. "We are proud to honour people who, through their work, are creating beautiful, healthy, sustainable buildings with wood – a responsibly managed, renewable natural resource that is grown, harvested and manufactured right here in Ontario," concluded Berube.

**Individual project profiles and high-resolution colour photos available on request.**

**For additional information or to arrange interviews contact Sarah Hicks:**

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*Wood WORKS! is a national, industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council that promotes and supports the use of wood in construction. Working with the design community, Wood WORKS! connects practitioners with resources related to the use of wood in commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-unit residential construction, assists in product sourcing, and delivers educational seminars and training opportunities.*

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## 2012 Ontario Wood *WORKS!* Award Winners

Award	Winner
<p><b>Ontario Wood</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Centre Inovo Centre, Hearst</u></b>  <b>Design/Build: Strategik Builders</b>  <b>Engineer: Genivar</b></p> <p>New to the 2012 awards program, and supported by the MNR's Ontario Wood branding initiative, the Ontario Wood award recognizes the significant contribution the forestry sector makes to the Ontario economy by honouring a project that uses an abundance of Ontario-sourced wood products.</p> <p>The community of Hearst wanted to build an innovation centre that would provide training and exhibit areas and demonstrate different renewable energies. Hearst's economy is deeply rooted on the forest industry, and their mandate became clear to source all wood products for the structure locally. In the end, all wood in the structure came from within a 30 km radius of the centre. The project overcame code challenges with local officials and demonstrates innovation through creative uses of standard dimensional lumber.</p>
<p><b>Green Building Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by OWL Distribution</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Vale Living with Lakes Centre, Laurentian University, Sudbury</u></b>  <b>Architect: J.L. Richards &amp; Associates Ltd. in association with Perkins + Will</b>  <b>Engineer: J.L. Richards &amp; Associates Ltd.</b></p> <p>The Vale Living With Lakes Centre provides researchers and technicians with laboratories, classrooms, offices, environmental bays and a watershed restoration facility. As well as being a centre of excellence for critically important ecological research, the facility is an extraordinary building with an exceptionally low environmental footprint. The design responds to the topography of the shoreline and site and has room for approximately 80 faculty members, staff and students in 2600 m<sup>2</sup>. The structure of the Centre is glulam post-and-beam with wood-framed infill walls and solid wood floor and roof decks. The upper portion of the 2-storey facility is clad in eastern white cedar. Wood products are used extensively to meet or exceed all building code requirements and provide a warm, congenial working environment. Locally sourced and manufactured wood products were used extensively.</p> <p>The Centre is estimated to be 70% more energy efficient than a conventional building of the same size and type, resulting in an annual operating budget of less than \$42,000. The majority of heating and cooling is obtained via heat pumps and 40 geo-exchange wells drilled beneath the parking lot – a significant achievement in a climate that can dip below -30C in winter. Minimizing operating costs means maximizing research funding. Over the next 25 years, the predicted energy savings amount to more than one million dollars.</p> <p><a href="http://www.perkinswill.com/publications/a-case-study%3A-vale-inco-living-with-lakes-centre.html">http://www.perkinswill.com/publications/a-case-study%3A-vale-inco-living-with-lakes-centre.html</a></p>
<p><b>Interior Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Tembec</i></p>	<p><b>Project: <u>Metropolitan Pharmacy, Toronto</u></b>  <b>Architect: JET Architecture Inc.</b></p> <p>The challenge of this project was to fit a pharmacy and medical clinic into a compact area of 1500 ft<sup>2</sup> with a ceiling height of 21ft and a level change. The pharmacy and medical clinic is a commercial typology that has traditionally been kept separate. This project presented a unique opportunity to define a brand for this new business venture.</p> <p>The interior fit out combines traditional millworking methods with leading edge industrial technologies. A building information model (BIM) was used to refine the form of the construction while</p>

	<p>computer numerically controlled (CNC) milling was used to cut out the components of the millwork. The idea is simple, consisting of a grid of product shelving used to form the space and its flow. The contoured grid of millwork guides the flow of space from entering the pharmacy, to waiting for a medical appointment or having a prescription ordered. The millwork components were kept to fit within an 8 ft maximum length to work with the standard plywood sheet dimension of 4x8 ft.</p>
<p><b>Residential Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Weyerhaeuser</i></p>	<p><b>Project: +HOUSE, Mulmur</b>  <b>Architect: superkül</b></p> <p>This four-season house in rural Ontario is designed to minimize its environmental impact, and to integrate with its natural surroundings. In response to a unique set of client needs, the design set out to exceed the norm – and achieved an exemplary synthesis of sustainable and healthy design and aesthetics, in which wood products played a central role.</p> <p>Sited on the footprint of a previous house, the house's FSC-certified timber-frame green roof angles back towards the hill, extending its natural slope. Extensive 4.3 metre-high wood-frame lift-and-slide doors on the south facade offer expansive views of the landscape and access to a long cedar deck, integrating the living spaces with the outdoors. Bedrooms are located on opposite ends of the rectangular plan, and the open kitchen and great room are situated in the heart of the building; all are fitted out with rift-cut white oak millwork.</p> <p>+ HOUSE's clean profile, refined details and eminently functional spaces belie a wealth of complex, health sensitive technology beneath. Catering to the client's environmental sensitivities, each building material and finish was vetted by the architect and tested by the client to ensure that she would have no adverse physical reaction. To this end wood was again central to achieving the project's design goals. The house is built of Durisol Block - an inert cement-bonded wood fibre product that produces no VOCs and inhibits the growth of fungi and molds. To minimize the creation of electro-magnetic fields, the house favoured wood structural roof members over alternative materials. And in keeping with the goal of zero-VOCs, the interior walls are finished with a natural clay plaster, a self-finishing and breathable product applied over the Durisol block that requires no paint finish (there is no drywall in the house).</p> <p>At the same time as it responds to the client's environmental sensitivities, it was designed to minimize its greater environmental impact. Pursuing a healthy product for both client and environment meant extensive product research, narrowed down according to locally availability and climate suitability. Other features of this LEED Gold-targeted project include a green roof, FSC certified lumber throughout, heat-mirror triple glazing, a large south overhang minimizing solar gain in the summer, operable skylights and windows on all four elevations offering passive ventilation and natural day lighting across 100% of the occupied floor area, and a pond-loop geothermal system.</p>
<p><b>Multi-Unit Wood Design</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by the Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association</i></p>	<p><b>Project: 360 Lofts Condominium, Ottawa</b>  <b>Architect: Farrow Dreessen Architect Inc. (successor firm to Dreessen Architect)</b>  <b>Engineer: AAR</b></p> <p>Wood construction was an early choice for this 38 unit, 2072 m<sup>2</sup> condominium apartment building due to the tight footprint of the property and limited site access. There was no room for a tower crane, lay-away space or formwork. The building is designed to fit the site with zero lot line clearance on one side, less than 0.6m on the front, 3m on the rear and 2m on the remaining side. The regular footprint of the building was varied on each floor, giving a dynamic quality to the building while maintaining regularity in construction and framing.</p> <p>Through a skilled interpretation of the building code, from the street the building design appears to be</p>

	<p>six stories in height, a taller-seeming building than would normally be possible without pursuing an alternative solution. The building is an affordable, attractive and exciting in-fill development that demonstrates the significant construction advantages wood can bring to urban in-fill projects.</p>
<p><b>Institutional-Commercial Wood Design &lt;10 M</b></p> <p><i>LP Building Products</i></p>	<p><b><u>Project: Kingston Park Revitalization, Chatham</u></b>  <b>Architect: Brown and Storey Architects Inc.</b>  <b>Engineer: Y. C. Liu Engineering Ltd.</b></p> <p>Kingston Park is a 17 acre public space in Chatham, in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. It received funds from the federal and provincial Recreation Infrastructure for Communities, supplemented by the municipality, to provide new amenities for the park: washrooms, meeting areas, picnic pavilions and a major water feature set into a revitalized and reforested park landscape. Part of the funds to plant over 200 new trees came from the Emerald Ash Borer Fund which was instituted to replace the hundreds of thousands of ash trees that have been killed by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle.</p> <p>The 1630 m<sup>2</sup> washroom / changeroom / meeting room pavilion breaks away from the traditional ‘field house’ washroom into a larger structure that absorbs the washrooms, creates new kinds of generous open spaces, and is an emblematic wood structure. The jury called the structure “an extraordinary example in this typology of building.” The washroom pavilion along with three new picnic pavilions took an innovative stance in the usage of already-felled ash trees that had been lost to the Emerald Ash Borer. The recovered white ash was lumbered in Chatham and milled for the siding and fascias of all pavilions. The white ash that was milled was chosen for its durability, hardness and resilience to bumps, dents, and bicycle wear and tear. A light, semi-translucent stain was applied to the wood to further strengthen it and retard the effects of weather and use. Cedar was used for the three picnic pavilion structures as well for the landscape steps in various sloped areas. This reflects a design decision to commit to wood as a unifying aesthetic for the park.</p>
<p><b>Institutional-Commercial Wood Design &gt;10 M</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Resolute Forest Products</i></p>	<p><b><u>Project: District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board Office, Thunder Bay</u></b>  <b>Architect: FORM Architecture Engineering</b>  <b>Engineer: FORM Architecture Engineering</b></p> <p>FORM Architecture Engineering worked with the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Building from the initial feasibility study to the completion of the new wood frame facility. From the onset of the design FORM proposed the use of wood as the natural choice for construction in the region. Wood offered the benefits of local availability, speed of construction with little lead time for delivery and addressed the need for sustainable design while offering a natural aesthetic that would complement the client’s experience. Simply put, FORM recommended wood and the Client agreed, recognizing the importance of sustainability and the added benefit of a warm and welcoming environment.</p> <p>One of the interesting challenges for the project was the physical changes that occurred during both the design and construction and how wood frame construction provided the best solution to accommodate those changes. Through the design process DSSAB had advised FORM of the potential increase in space requirements that could occur should the delivery of programs expand, with the building footprint at maximum site capacity there was only room for vertical expansion so FORM carefully evaluated the structural design to ensure a third floor could be added at any time in the life of the building. Second floor roof framing could become a floor with the removal of insulation and what was the mechanical penthouse would become an internal service room. Elevator shafts and stairwells could also be extended with little impact. DSSAB confirmed the required expansion just prior to tender and FORM was able to incorporate the changes in the bid documents without significant impact to the schedule. DSSAB continued to experience change with the introduction of a new CAO as well as a restructuring of the entire program structure during construction and though reconfiguration of spaces occurred, it was completed with little fuss or delay to the work.</p>

	<p>The building is located in the heart of the downtown urban fabric and therefore little site was available for the contractor and subtrades for staging and preparation. As a result, the main floor was designated for that purpose and interior work commenced from the top floor and proceeded downward. FORM was able to achieve a sense of continuity within the exterior and interior design of the building by highlighting the beauty and warmth of wood as a building material in the form of wood veneer composite panels, suspended wood feature ceilings, exposed glulam columns, wood doors right through to the local manufacture of the wood veneer MDF signage package and the wood wall trim. The use of many wood products in the DSSAB building was key to creating the welcoming atmosphere the client requested while staying within budget.</p>
<p><b>Northern Ontario Excellence Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by FedNor</i></p>	<p><b><u>Project: Water Garden Pavilion, Thunder Bay</u></b>  <b>Architect: Brook McIlroy</b>  <b>Engineer: Blackwell Bowick Partnership Ltd.</b></p> <p>The redesign of the City of Thunder Bay's historic port is based on a philosophy of sustainable revitalization which embodies the spirit, materiality and culture of Canada's North. In this Northern Ontario project an elegant building was created in wood from structure to finishes. The project was part of the City's waterfront redesign and sustainable revitalization. Central to the design of the Water Garden Pavilion was a unique approach of 'embedded culture' whereby local materials and techniques were used to create an intimate connection with the surrounding environment. Through locally sourced materials, local contractors, suppliers, and consultants, the Pavilion continues to support the City's forest products industry across multiple means.</p> <p>The Water Garden Pavilion is an 8,000-ft<sup>2</sup> mixed-use building that provides support for the adjacent skating rink/splash pad including change rooms, zamboni room, public washrooms, restaurant and flexible exhibit hall and gallery space. The Pavilion demonstrates how wood can be used to soften modern buildings and materials. On the Pavilion's exterior, ash wraps a series of HSS columns, framing the south, south-west, and south-east elevations. These wood clad columns support the over-extended black ash soffit. Working with the fabricator, the means of construction of the column cladding was developed over the course of the project with detailed drawings and mock-ups, testing different options for assembly. Together, an informal seating and rest area for visitors is created around the south and south-west elevations, providing views onto the skating rink/splash pad, marina and Lake Superior. Ash also frames the Pavilion's doorway entrances and windows, softening the use of brick and surrounding concrete of the waterfront.</p> <p>Through considered placement of wood, the building encourages visitors to get close to the wood. For instance, the use of wood on both door frames and entrances almost welcomes people 'through wood'. The use of wood has also contributed to attaining LEEO Gold certification; a demonstration of how wood can help achieve sustainable design.</p>
<p><b>Jury's Choice Award</b></p> <p>Sponsored by FPIInnovations</p>	<p><b><u>Project: The Gathering Circle at the Spirit Garden, Thunder Bay</u></b>  <b>Architect: Brook McIlroy and Ryan Gorrie</b>  <b>Engineer: Blackwell Bowick Partnership Ltd.</b></p> <p>Thunder Bay has a significant Aboriginal population, yet the presence of this founding culture (which has inhabited this shoreline for 9,000 years) in the fabric of the cityscape is virtually invisible. The Gathering Circle is the central component of a larger waterfront park area called the Spirit Garden within Prince Arthur's Landing. The concept and design for the Gathering Circle evolved from a series of workshops involving representatives from Fort William First Nation, Robinson Superior Treaty Communities and the Red Sky Métis. Through these sessions the design team identified a young Aboriginal artist and architect (Ryan Gorrie) originally from Thunder Bay who collaborated with the</p>

	<p>architecture/landscape team and had a central role in its design.</p> <p>The Gathering Circle occupies a highly visible location on the downtown waterfront overlooking Lake Superior and Thunder Bay's Sleeping Giant landform. The design reflects Aboriginal concepts of the inclusive circle, peaceful co-existence and respect for nature. Its design reflects an adaptation of a traditional Aboriginal bentwood building technique, using modest means of construction and sustainable building practice. Young spruce trees were harvested in the spring by a local Aboriginal craftsman and were bent and lashed to create twenty arched, truss-like column supports. The trusses were then mounted along the circumference of the circular platform and layered with a pattern of curved cedar strips creating a semi-enclosed shroud. The platform is a circular drum-shaped concrete retaining wall that also provides seating for viewers into the circle. Four radiating tentacles emanate from the drum into the undulating landscape. The pattern echoes imagery associated with Anishinabe woodland art. The outer wall of the drum is lined with ten weathering steel laser-cut panels designed by local Aboriginal artist Randy Thomas.</p> <p>The Gathering Circle is an open-air theatre, meditation space and event area for theatre, blessings, storytelling, performance and celebration. It gives expression to a rich culture and serves as a common ground for gathering together all cultures. The Circle reflects Aboriginal concepts of the inclusive circle, peaceful co-existence and respect for the natural world created through adaptations of traditional building methods.</p>
<p><b>Engineer Wood Advocate Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Nordic Engineered Wood</i></p>	<p><b><u>Engineer Award: Yolles, a CH2m Hill Company</u></b></p> <p>Yolles has a deep and rich history in designing with wood. Their portfolio includes a wide variety of building types and multiple award winning projects. From specialized interior design, to community centres to world class art galleries, they regularly provide timber engineering solutions for large and complex projects. Working together with their clients, they have engineered some of Ontario's most famous landmarks. World class projects such as the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, the Cassie Campbell Community Centre and the Art Gallery of Ontario are only just a few projects of many that exemplify this commitment to timber engineering excellence. Since the inception of the Ontario Wood <i>WORKS!</i> Awards, their work with wood has been regularly recognized, earning 7 Wood <i>WORKS!</i> project awards in the last 12 years.</p>
<p><b>Architect Wood Advocate Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by Timber Systems</i></p>	<p><b><u>Architect Award: Perkins + Will</u></b></p> <p>Over the last 12 years, Wood <i>WORKS!</i> has had the privilege of working with many architects who design with wood and who understand the significance of supporting wood-based architecture in Ontario. This year, Wood <i>WORKS!</i> is proud to recognize the firm of Perkins + Will for their regular use of wood in community centres, a commitment that has resulted in beautiful public spaces for hundreds of thousands of Ontarians and brought the use of wood in this project type into the mainstream. Some recent project examples include: the Kiwanis Aquatics Centre and Grantham Branch Library, Brooklin Library and Community Centre, Angus Glen Community Centre and Library, Cassie Campbell Community Centre and Newcastle Recreation Centre. The firm understands the properties of wood and uses them to advantage in these buildings. "We design several pools a year. There are so many advantages to using wood. For one thing, [in the Angus Glen project] the thermal properties of wood facilitated extending the structure through the building envelope, which provides additional architectural freedom."</p>
<p><b>Wood Champion Award</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by</i></p>	<p><b><u>Wood Champion Award: FORM Architecture Engineering</u></b></p> <p>FORM Architecture Engineering is a strong advocate for the use of wood. Whenever the opportunity is made available they happily educate clients and user groups about the various benefits of wood in</p>

<p><i>Natural Resources Canada</i></p>	<p>design and construction. Said one of the firm’s representatives of their commitment to wood, “the forest industry is a strong economic factor in our region and choosing wood for the structural system and finishes reflects both the industry and the interest of our community”. Members of the firm regularly deliver presentations on the benefits of wood and sustainable design, based on their reputation, commitment and success with wood construction. They take pride in knowing their promotion of wood is making a difference in people's design choices.</p> <p>In addition to education and advocacy efforts, FORM has successfully completed numerous wood construction projects in their region including the DSSAB building (winner of the 2012 Large Commercial-Institutional Wood Design Award) La Vérendrye School , George Jeffrey Children's Centre, St. Joseph's Care Group's Sister Margaret Smith Centre, St. Martin's Catholic School / École Franco-Terrace and the recent Confederation College REACH which challenged the building code and</p> <p>Working with FORM, Confederation College made a conscious decision to incorporate wood into their newest facility, REACH, even though current building codes would not permit its use for this type of assembly occupancy. The firm proposed an alternate solution to the city that was successful and the resulting wood structure created a wonderful complement to the space as a learning and healthful environment.</p>
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