



## 2017 awards event in B.C. celebrates the best in wood design and building

**VANCOUVER, March 6, 2017 /CNW/** - Excellence in contemporary design and building with wood was celebrated this evening in Vancouver at the Wood Design Awards in B.C. More than 400 distinguished design and building professionals gathered for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual event at the Vancouver Convention Centre (West), including architects, structural engineers, project teams, local government, industry sponsors and guests. Winners and nominees of the Wood *WORKS!* BC 2017 Wood Design Awards were honoured and recognized for their leadership and innovation in structural and architectural wood use.

The awards also marked the end of Wood Week BC – four events over 10 days that focused on the latest trends and topics on wood design and construction with a range of educational and networking opportunities.

There were 114 nominations in 13 categories for the 2017 awards – a record number - with nominations from all over the province, as well as some national and international project submissions from as far away as Shanghai, China. All projects showcase distinctive and unique qualities of wood such as strength, beauty, versatility, and cost-effectiveness in a wide range of projects and a variety of wood uses.

Lynn Embury-Williams is executive director of Wood *WORKS!* BC. "With wood now recognized for its ability to significantly reduce carbon impacts in our built environment and increase construction efficiency, it is playing a leading role in a design and building revolution. The relentless exploration of new frontiers with wood is the foundation of our awards program and the projects presented here this evening provide a view into the future," she said.

The panel of four judges included **Adele Weder**, MASA, MRAIC (Hon), Architectural Journalist and Critic, Vancouver, BC; **Bob Smith**, BScF, MSc, General Manager – Specialty Products Sales & Manager, Canfor, Vancouver, BC; **Karla Fraser**, Senior Project Manager, Urban One Builders, Vancouver, BC; and **Ed Lim**, P.Eng., United Building Systems, Vancouver, BC.

The **Wood Champion Award** was presented to **Dana Westermarck, Oris Consulting, Richmond**, who was one of the first to establish wood as the best material for a significant new market sector: five- and six- storey mid-rise wood frame residential construction. He has willingly shared the lessons he learned, and inspired and supported a team of consultants in the development of this new type of construction.

**Fast + Epp, Vancouver**, an internationally respected firm that has led the way for wood in many of Canada's most innovative wood structures, was the recipient of the **Engineer Award**. The firm's project, Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, Surrey, was cited in the nomination for its unique undulating roof structure, which achieves the significant clear spans required for pools, and ensures long-term operational cost savings.

The **Architect Award** was presented to **HCMA Architecture + Design, Vancouver**. The firm, which has earned many significant awards for its work, has been a leader in supporting the movement toward using wood as a first choice in design and construction. The firm has also recognized the important economic, social and cultural aspects to the livelihood of many British Columbian communities that the wood industry provides.

The **Wood Innovation Award** recognizes creative and innovative approaches in the use of wood in building design, product design and/or processes. The winner of this category was Iain Weir-Jones, Weir-Jones Group, Vancouver, for **Shoreline by MGA** in Vancouver. The jury felt that the wood created a contemporary design with unique warmth and character to stimulate and promote a healthy office and shop environment.

The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, represented by Brett Crawley, Vancouver, was presented with the **Environmental Performance Award** for **Bella Bella Passive House, Bella Bella**. The jury was impressed with the efficiency of the modular construction which employed less material waste, required fewer material

deliveries (further reducing the carbon footprint) and reduced the dust, noise, air and water pollution, compared to traditional on-site construction methods.

**Winners in the wood design categories include:**

**Residential Wood Design:** Bo Helliwell and Kim Smith, Helliwell + Smith | Blue Sky Architecture, West Vancouver - **Arbutus House, Victoria**

**Multi-Unit Residential Wood Design:** Innovation Building Group Ltd., represented by: Ron Nadeau, Whistler - **Solana, Whistler**

**Commercial Wood Design:** Chris Jacques, Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd., Vancouver - **Tsawwassen Mills, Tsawwassen**

**Interior Beauty Design:** Rod Windjack, HDR | CEI Architecture Associates Inc., Vancouver - **Mulgrave Senior School Addition, West Vancouver**

**Institutional Wood Design - Small:** Shelley Craig, Urban Arts Architecture, Vancouver - **UBC Engineering Student Centre, Vancouver**

**Institutional Wood Design - Large:** Patkau Architects, represented by: Patricia and John Patkau, Vancouver - **Audain Art Museum, Whistler**

**Western Red Cedar:** Franc D'Ambrosio, D'AMBROSIO architecture + urbanism, Victoria - **Cadboro Bay Residence, Saanich**

**International Wood Design:** Michael Green, MGA | MICHAEL GREEN ARCHITECTURE, Vancouver | Steve Cavanaugh, DLR Group, Chicago, IL, U.S. - **T3, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.**

**Jury's Choice award:** Kengo Kuma, Kengo Kuma and Associates, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan - **Shaw Tower Teahouse, Vancouver**

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Award, part of the North American-wide Wood Design Awards, was presented to the Oregon-based architecture firm Hacker, for its project, Lakeside at Black Butte Ranch, Black Butte, Oregon.

"We thank all the nominees for their ingenuity and innovation with wood design and building excellence that continues to make British Columbia a leader nationally and internationally," concluded Ms. Embury-Williams.

**High Resolution Images -**

<https://tinyurl.com/jafrc4x>

Photo Credit: Wood *WORKS!* BC – 2017 Wood Design Awards in BC

**To learn more about the Wood Design Awards in BC, please visit the Wood *WORKS!* BC website at [www.wood-works.ca/bc](http://www.wood-works.ca/bc)**

Wood *WORKS!* is a national industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council, with a goal to support innovation and provide leadership on the use of wood products and systems. Through workshops, seminars, conferences and case studies, *Wood WORKS!* provides education, training and technical expertise to building and design professionals and local governments involved with commercial, institutional and industrial construction projects throughout BC.

**For further information: Lynn Embury-Williams, RPF - Executive Director, Wood *WORKS!* BC,  
1.877.929.9663 (1),  
1.778.887.8302**



Winner: Engineer: Fast + Epp, Vancouver, B.C. – Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, Surrey, B.C. (CNW Group/Canadian Wood Council for Wood WORKS! BC)



Winner: Institutional Wood Design: Large: Patkau Architects, represented by: Patricia and John Patkau, Vancouver, B.C. – Audain Art Museum, Whistler, B.C. (CNW Group/Canadian Wood Council for Wood WORKS! BC)