



**“BIG BOX” College of New Caledonia | John A. Brink Trades and Technology Centre
| Prince George, BC**

mcfarlane |green ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN INC

The project reclaims an abandoned Canadian Tire retail store for the College of New Caledonia. The renovated building supports a range of activities, including specialized shop areas for carpentry, wood technology, electrical training, automotive repair and customized industry training, as well as classrooms and faculty offices.

The design team selected wood to offset the sterile and cold environment of the traditional “Big Box” store. The design reflects a simple, honest and practical use of wood as the principal medium of the carpentry school which is one of the facility’s four main teaching programs. Wood was used as a means of humanizing the project in both scale and material. The project budget was modest and materials were chosen for the practical durability and overall effect. The design team chose to use wood in a few distinct places in order to create the greatest impact with a limited amount of resource. The cafe and the entrance elements demonstrate the elegance of simple wood construction, while at the same time, paying tribute to Prince George’s primary resource. The engineered edge grain plywood floor was used for its durability and contrast to the existing Canadian Tire tile that was reused elsewhere in the building. The wood floor area highlights the common use cafe area creating a material oasis in the practical and effective building.



Wood materials used:

- Recycled edge grain plywood flooring
- Recycled edge grain plywood large bench in the cafe
- Fir plywood case work and benches in various shop spaces
- Fir dimensioned lumber is used to enclose the freestanding cafe
- Cedar fencing/screen and walls for exteriors
- Fir plywood flooring and walls in electrical and carpentry shop spaces

**Design team:****Architect:**

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