



**Correction Notice:** In the original version of this release, the Shingwauk Education Trust Anishinawbek Discovery Centre was mistakenly identified as the Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig Anishinawbek Discovery Centre.

**ATTENTION:** Design / Architectural / Building / Environmental / Community News Editors & Reporters ([high resolution photos available with associated photo credits - download here](#))

**WINNERS FROM:** Kingston, Kitchener, London, Mississauga, Port Stanley, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Catharines, and Toronto

**FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023, at 7:00 PM EST**

## **Ontario Wood *WORKS!* 2023 Wood Design Award Winners Announced**

(Toronto, May 2, 2023) Nine outstanding wood projects from across Ontario were celebrated at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Ontario Wood *WORKS!* Awards Night. The awards program honours the people and organizations that, through design excellence, advocacy, and innovation, are advancing the use of wood in all types of construction.

Ontario Wood *WORKS!* presented the nine awards at a reception held at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, an event hosted in conjunction with the Ontario Forest Industries' 80<sup>th</sup> AGM. "It is a privilege to recognize Ontario's wood design leaders through our Wood Design Awards program," said Steven Street, executive director of Ontario Wood *WORKS!*. "Collectively, the winning projects this year shine a light on the role that wood construction can play in addressing some of the larger challenges facing society today, notably housing supply, sustainability, and a shortage of skilled trades."

There are many reasons to build with wood," added Street. "Strength, beauty, and versatility are certainly important considerations, but one of the primary drivers behind wood's expanded use is its positive impact on construction schedules. Prefabricated wood systems can significantly increase construction efficiency and quality, delivering better buildings faster. Another key driver is sustainability. As society develops a deeper understanding of the carbon impacts of buildings, it is clear that wood systems have a critical role to play in reducing the embodied emissions of the built environment to achieve ambitious sustainability targets. Wood construction is transforming the way we build, helping mitigate climate change and providing sustainable construction solutions that are better for people and the environment."

Wood *WORKS!* is a national, industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council that provides free technical support to facilitate the use of wood in all types of construction. Working with the design community, Wood *WORKS!* connects AEC+D professionals with resources they need to use of wood in commercial, industrial, institutional, and multi-unit residential construction.

**High-resolution colour photos available. For photos, additional information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Sarah Hicks: 1-705-796-3381 • [shicks@wood-works.ca](mailto:shicks@wood-works.ca)**

**Individual project info for each winner follows:**

# Ontario Wood *WORKS!* 2023 Wood Design Award Winners

Winning Project	Project Credits
<p><b>Shingwauk Education Trust Anishinawbek Discovery Centre   Sault Ste Marie</b></p> <p>Shingwauk Education Trust (SET), in consultation with Trustees, Garden River First Nation Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Spiritual and Academic Advisors to SET, are the visionaries of the design and natural uses of material that went into the construction of the Anishinabek Discovery Center.</p> <p>The Knowledge Keepers were consulted on how they saw the building being designed that would align with the Vision of Chief Shingwaukonce. Grand Chief Bawdwaywidun was asked to incorporate Chief Shingwauk's idea into the Anishinabek Discovery Center. This was further supported by Two Row Architects as they were designing the conceptual drawings.</p> <p>SET, as the main organization that administered the project, oversaw the implementation of the site construction plans and ensured the idea of a Kinoomaage Gamig (Teaching Lodge) that would be captured and viewed by the public on top of the building. "Using wood as a natural material presented an opportunity to connect with our natural world and the spirit of the trees (Mitig). It is held in our traditions that the Trees are connected to the spirit and can send its positive energy into the Anishinabek Discovery Center," said representatives of SET.</p> <p>SET acquired the funding for this project and credits the Elders and Knowledge Keepers for keeping Chief Shingwauk's vision in its proper spiritual place.</p>	<p>Owner: <b>Shingwauk Education Trust</b></p> <p>Architect   Architecte: <b>Two Row Architect</b></p> <p>Engineer   Ingénieur: <b>Timber Systems + WSP Thunder Bay</b></p> <p>Contractor   Entrepreneur: <b>Colliers Group</b></p> <p>Wood Supplier   Fournisseur de bois: <b>Timber Systems</b></p> <p>Photography   Photographie: <b>Erik Skouris + Matthew Solarski</b></p>
<p><b>Neil Campbell Rowing Centre   St. Catharines</b></p> <p>The Neil Campbell Rowing Centre demonstrates how simple, elemental, and respectful design can support a broad spectrum of uses and enhance the identity of a venerable place, while also achieving both Net-Zero Energy and Zero-Carbon Emission benchmarks.</p> <p>This building served as a key venue for the 2022 Canada Summer Games and will host the 2024 World Rowing Championships. It also provides year-round fitness and rowing training for Canadian athletes and is the social and performative heart of the Henley Island rowing community.</p> <p>The facility is designed with an innovative mass timber composite roof structure, fondly referred to by the designers as the timber structural sandwich. The custom-designed stressed skin panels span predominantly in one direction with glulam acting as webs that engage the CL T panels in tension and compression. The internal glulam web lattice optimizes the use of timber. This assembly clear spans up to 12 metres, with a double cantilever of 5 metres. The top cross-laminated timber (CL T) panels are 19 metres long and span the full width of the building. These panels are the longest manufactured in Canada, and this parameter set the width of the design.</p>	<p>Architect   Architecte: <b>MJMA + RAAI</b></p> <p>Engineer   Ingénieur: <b>Blackwell Structural Engineers</b></p> <p>Contractor   Entrepreneur: <b>Aquicon Construction</b></p> <p>Wood Supplier   Fournisseur de bois: <b>Timmerman Timberworks + Nordic Structures</b></p> <p>Photography   Photographie: <b>Scott Norsworthy</b></p>

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### Passive Laneway Housing Prototypes | Toronto

These three prototypes are the vanguard of forty laneway and infill homes, sustainably advancing urban intensification in a location well served by public transit and existing municipal infrastructure.

Designed using Passive House (PH) principles, prefabricated wood construction plays a central role to the project's overall feasibility, constructability, and sustainability, and provides a central framework for innovation, systems integration, and repeatable, high-performance design. The prefabricated approach reduced negative community impacts of construction, reduced waste, and comprehensively enhanced performance outcomes - exceeding carbon neutral and net-zero annual energy objectives.

Sympathetic to the scale, massing, and neighbourhood context, the prototypes provide 'accessibility through proximity' and are clustered to create a shared outdoor courtyard and to initiate a 'living laneway' concept with homes accessed from the lane. The three prototypes include a 3 bedroom+2 study (2,100 gsf) infill house, and two laneway houses; a 2 bedroom + study (1,100 gsf) and 1 bedroom + study (900 gsf).

Architect | Architecte:  
**Baird Sampson Neuert Architects**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**Local Impact Design**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**Index Construction**  
Wood Suppliers | Fournisseurs de bois:  
**Kabinetry Design Studio + Richmond Laminate**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Tom Arban Photography**

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### YW Kitchener-Waterloo Supportive Housing for Women | Kitchener

YWKW's new apartment building at Block Line in Kitchener is a supportive housing development of 41 compact yet accessible 1-bedroom transitional housing units designed for safety, accessibility, and inclusivity. The design response achieved optimal utilization of the challenging site through a narrow building form comprised of prefabricated CLT and glulam structural elements in an arrangement that maximized material efficiency and minimized the installation time.

The compressed 1-year schedule necessitated a high level of coordination amongst stakeholders. A collaborative design-build project delivery approach was critical to realizing the completed building on-time and on-budget. Given that the YWKW project was one of the first mass timber, multi-unit residential buildings proposed in Ontario, there was a great deal of collaboration and communication required between the construction partners, trades, building department and specialized consultants.

At the time, mass timber was considered to be a more costly structural system. By understanding the timing and logistical restraints of other systems, the design-build team were able to prove the mass timber system was a cost-competitive solution. In addition to the time and cost savings achieved during construction, the project was also able to obtain significant reduction in carbon emissions through the sequestered carbon of the mass timber structure, the net-zero ready systems design, and the continuous, exterior applied, thermal bridge free, envelope.

Architect | Architecte:  
**Edge Architects**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**MTE Consultants**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**Melloul Blamey Construction**  
Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:  
**Element5**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Riley Snelling**

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### 12 Ossington Avenue | Toronto

Ease and speed of construction were key considerations for the selection of nail laminated timber in this newly constructed hybrid steel and heavy timber commercial building at 12 Ossington in Toronto. The design intent was to convey the down-to-earth spirit of Ossington by employing principles of good architecture in a way that signals the vision for the future of the neighbourhood.

Architect | Architecte:  
**Hariri Pontarini Architects**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**RJC Engineers**  
Developer | Développeur:  
**Hullmark**  
Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:

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The simple directness of the architecture of the fully accessible building is approachable and honest. The beautiful arched windows, with high-efficiency glazing fill the space with an abundance of natural light. The project has a high-efficiency HVAC system and a green roof with a full rainwater harvesting collection system. It is a beautiful addition to the neighbourhood and the mindful selection of systems and materials delivers sustainability, style, and elegance, without pretention.

**Structure Fusion**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Hullmark**

### **Carpenters Union Local 249 Training Facility | Kingston**

This 25,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building includes training, administration, and social spaces for the Carpenter's Union Local 249. Each of these three program elements is arranged into separate blocks with shared interior circulation spaces and an exterior courtyard. The training block includes a high bay workshop with an overhead crane, woodworking shops, and classrooms; the administration block contains reception, offices, secure records storage, and a lunchroom; and the social block includes a multipurpose room with a kitchen and a boardroom.

The building celebrates the art and craft of the carpenters, showcasing examples of both traditional and modern work throughout the building. Examples include the use of heavy timber structures, custom wood entry doors at the main entrances, a bespoke 20-foot-long solid walnut boardroom table with a steel sub-structure, wood grills and lattice work, and fine millwork. The building design also highlights the integration of other materials and systems that are now part of the work of the Carpenters' Union, as well as the work of the structural steel and masonry unions who also contributed to the project. All work was completed by union trades.

Architect | Architecte:  
**Shoalts and Zaback Architects**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**RJC Engineers**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**David J Cupido Construction Ltd.**  
Developer | Développeur:  
**United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Union Local 249**  
Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:  
**Timber Systems**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Krista Jahnke + Shawn Butler + Michael Malleson**

### **Port Stanley Fire Station | Port Stanley**

Port Stanley's new 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> fire station is the first net zero energy fire station in Canada. The project is designed to post-disaster standards and boasts a prefabricated mass timber structure comprised of cross-laminated timber and glulam. The CLTs provide the shear walls and roof deck assemblies while the Glulam beams and columns provide the clear span space for the three double drive through truck apparatus bays.

Mass timber is a renewable, low carbon material that delivers several advantages to this project. Among other sustainable systems and energy-saving features, the fire station boasts a high-performance, energy-efficient CLIPs envelope system. CLIPs (cross-laminated insulated panels) are an off-site manufactured exterior wall panel solution that delivers superior thermal performance in a system that can be rapidly assembled on-site to exacting standards. Heating is supplied by a geothermal system and hydro is provided by solar panels that are installed on carport structures in the parking lot.

Architect | Architecte:  
**Thomas Brown Architects**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**Stephenson Engineering**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**PK Construction**  
Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:  
**Element5**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**98 Images**

### **Churchill Meadows Community Centre and Mattamy Sports Park | Mississauga**

The 73,000 sf<sup>2</sup> Community Centre uses Canadian-made glulam and CLT as the focal point of the design. The introduction of mass timber serves multiple aims; while the timber elements provide an innovative and pragmatic structure for the north and west elevations and the feature stair, the true purpose is to reinforce the

Architect | Architecte:  
**MJMA Architecture & Design**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**Blackwell Structural Engineers**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**Aquicon Construction**

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community connection to nature and the park beyond. The design accomplishes this by strategically placing the glulam timber columns to mediate the linking of inside-to-outside along the full length of the park side of the building.

The structural approach to the glulam column design is novel. Columns are spaced at 1200 on centre, each of them wind-bearing elements supporting curtainwall loads. Long span roof trusses, however, are spaced at 3600 on centre to optimize the roof deck and construction process. This implies that only one of three glulam columns is carrying axial loads. It was critical to the aesthetic and economy of the project that the columns be identical and optimized. Rather than use an inefficient spandrel beam to spread loads to adjacent columns, and recognizing that these are slender, stability-critical elements, the approach taken was to conceive of each triple of columns as an integrated unit with the central, loaded column stabilized by its adjacent wind columns. The wind columns constrain the buckling behaviour of the central member via a line of compact struts. Rotational restraint was introduced at the base to further optimize the timber design. The result is a cost effective, rigorously conceived, and robust mass timber structural system.

Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:  
**Bryte Designs/ Nordic Structures**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Scott Norsworthy**

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### **Nshwaasngong Childcare and Family Centre | London**

The Nshwaasngong Child Care & Family Centre is an Indigenous led childcare centre that provides early childhood services and cultural and language programming, such as land-based learning, ceremonies, and community support, to children and families in London and across Southwestern Ontario.

The building was conceived as a feminine form to hold and protect Indigenous children and their caregivers. The oval-shaped floor plan has a tiered curved roof that is lower in spaces where the children are the most to be 'kid sized' to create a feeling of security. It was also important to enclose the children in natural and non-toxic materials. Cross-laminated timber (CLT) was selected as the primary building material for this reason but also for its warmth, its ability to capture carbon, and as a contemporary material that instills many Indigenous traits.

The central interior spaces are flooded with daylight by a ring of clerestory windows. The sunbeams entering through the clerestory change their position as the sun travels across the sky each day and cycles through a low path in the winter to a high path in the summer. The change of seasons and time of day impact on how the central spaces are experienced and help the children to understand the cyclical nature of an Indigenous world view. Efforts were taken to expose the wood members so that the children can see and understand how Nshwaasngong is put together much like the interior of a traditional longhouse, wigwam, or bighouse.

Architect | Architecte:  
**Two Row Architect**  
Engineer | Ingénieur:  
**Latéral**  
Contractor | Entrepreneur:  
**Sierra Construction**  
Wood Supplier | Fournisseur de bois:  
**Element5**  
Photography | Photographie:  
**Rimkus Building Consultants**

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