



News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Feature: Adohi Hall

Adohi Hall – designed in a collaboration by Leers Weinzapfel Associates, Mackey Mitchell Architects, Modus Studio, and OLIN – is a live-learn community for 700 students at the University of Arkansas. Completed and occupied since 2019, the building is the nation’s first large-scale (202,027 sf) mass timber building. In addition to a pioneering use of cross-laminated timber, the complex is an innovative approach to live-learn communities, with embedded arts and academic spaces.

Adohi Hall meets the challenge of creating a destination for a large new student community removed from the center of the campus. Conceived as a “cabin in the woods,” Adohi is a serpentine band of interconnected buildings framed in CLT clad in metal zinc-tone siding floating over landscaped courtyards. Landscape guides the building. A stand of existing mature trees anchors the northernmost courtyard; at mid-slope, a lively terrace marks the heart of the community; and in the lower courtyard, sitting steps follow the building down the hill to a sheltered lawn. The northernmost entry forms the “front porch”; the “cabin” hosts a central lounge, community kitchen, quiet hearth, and rooftop terrace; and “workshops” nestled in the lower courtyard house performance and studio spaces.

Warm touches of exposed structural wood are visible throughout. The “cabin’s” distinctive wood ceiling is framed in timber trusses that span the full width of the lounge spaces. The mass timber is a European spruce-pine-fir while native cypress forms exterior soffits, entryways, and interior walls. Minimizing waste, wood tables were made on campus from CLT packing crates while timber taken down on site was used for seating.

The name “Adohi” is Cherokee for “woods”, recognizing the enduring importance of native populations, and sustainable forestry to the region.



Adohi Hall. Text and image: Leers Weinzapfel Associates



The Cabin. Image: Leers Weinzapfel Associates

News from the Institute

1. Student Projects: Reconfigurable LVL Housing in Pikangikum

M. Arch. student, Sanjana Patel, is preparing a concept for LVL-based prefabricated housing in Pikangikum First Nations (a partner of MTI). The research emerges from two contexts: the housing shortage in the community and their preparation for commercial forestry operations through the Whitefeather Forest Initiative. An earlier study by Feiran Xu found laminated veneer lumber is a material that Whitefeather Forest resources are suited to produce. Guided by the Whitefeather Forest Initiative's senior advisor, hunting cabins and multigenerational housing using LVL were identified as key opportunities to add value back to the community. This project begins with a material that could become meaningful to Pikangikum people and asks: if LVL was produced in a local sawmill, how could it be used to produce culturally relevant, sustainable, and economical housing?

2. Student Projects: Sustainable Wood Supply for Mass Timber in Ontario

MFC Student, Vanessa Nhan, will be working on addressing the following question in her project: is there a sustainable wood supply in Ontario for mass timber? Mass timber is often described as the sustainable alternative to concrete and steel but its sustainability relies entirely on the integrity of the supply chain, which begins in the forest. The focus of this project is to examine wood supply commitments and annual allowable cuts on Crown land in Ontario. With the support of Glen Foley, Forest Modeling Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Emmett Snyder, Project Manager at MTI, she will model the wood supply in two Crown forest management units to recalculate the wood volume while accounting for shareholders and wood supply commitments to ultimately determine how much wood may be left over as unutilized and available for mass timber.

Other Updates

- Looking for mass timber related opportunities in BC public service? The Ministry of Jobs Economic Recovery and Innovation is searching for a [Technical Advisor](#). Posting closes July 18, 2021.
- Vancouver developers Westbank and Adera, also Hines, [taking leadership on mass timber](#).
- Congratulations to StructureCraft on receiving the CleanBC Building Innovation Fund for research in mass timber.
- [The CleanBC Building Innovation Fund](#) will be supporting 21 projects centered on low energy and low carbon solutions, many of which are mass timber. See the [full list of recipients here!](#)
- [Lumber prices have dropped](#) after months on the rise.
- Check out [this article](#) reflecting on investment in the construction tech industry after Kattera's closure.

That's all for now -- thanks for reading!



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