



News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Mass Timber Institute student researcher designs reconfigurable laminated veneer lumber structures for the north

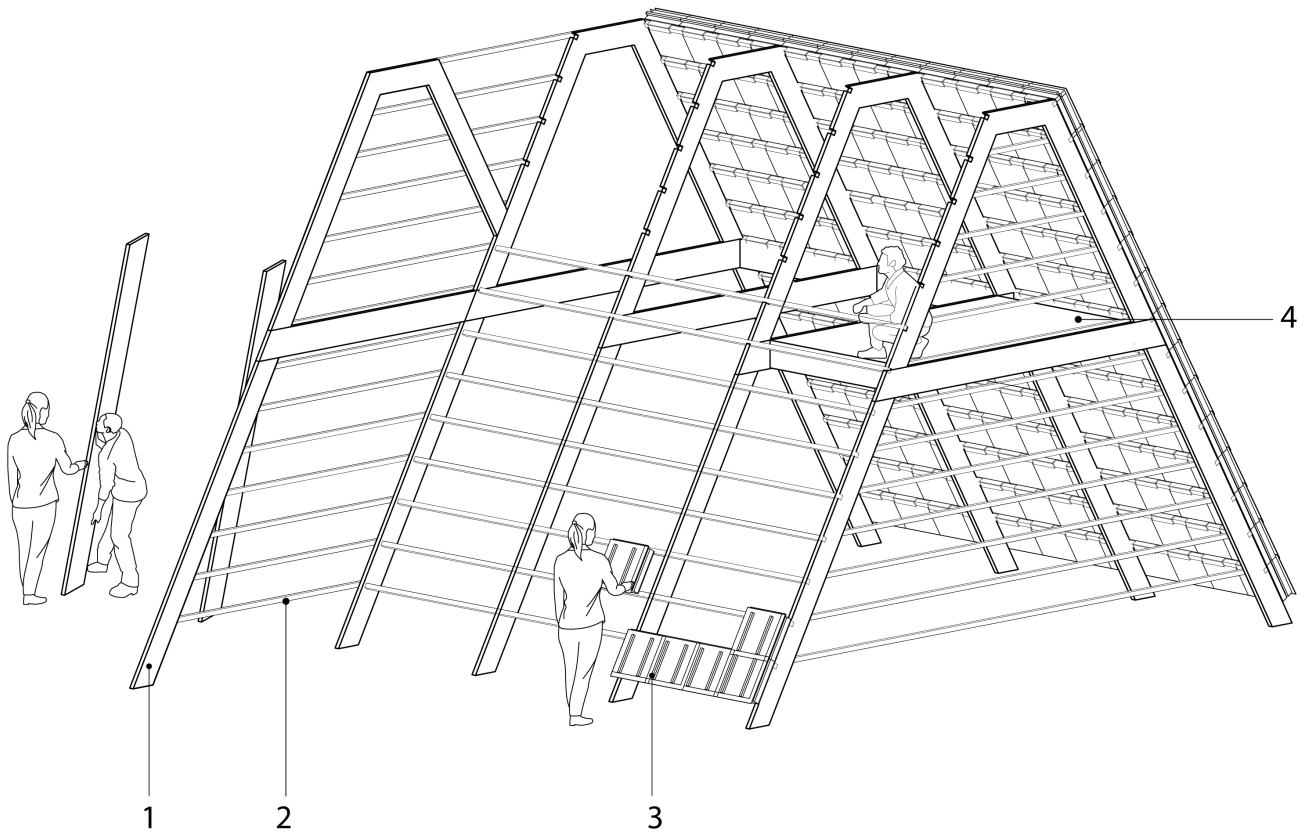
Sanjana Patel, Daniels M. Arch. student and Mass Timber Institute Research Intern and Communications Lead, recently completed her internship project with the Mass Timber Institute on a reconfigurable mass timber housing concept for the [Whitefeather Forest Initiative](#) in Northwestern Ontario. This project culminated in the design of *Nest*, a modular mass timber structure inspired by the merging of two wigwams that is suitable for use as both a hunting cabin and as an expandable permanent home. In the process, she investigated the interconnected topics of prefabricated housing, cultural values of Pikangikum people, and the legacy of the *Indian Act*. You can see the design and read more about the project on the [Mass Timber Institute website](#).



Previous student work at the Institute had identified a [strong economic case for Laminated Veneer Lumber \(LVL\) production as a pathway to enterprise](#) in the Whitefeather Forest. *Nest* further explores that discussion by examining modular housing that could be designed with locally-produced LVL and minimal use of heavy machinery.

ASSEMBLY PROCESS

Lighter portions of the structure may be assembled by people, while heavier beams — such as those used in the roof of the home — would require a crane to erect.



1. 50 x 250mm LVL structure
2. Ribs to attach to structure
3. Envelope module to hang on ribs
4. Floor modules can be used to stand on and add envelope modules that are higher up.



Dining room/interior. Rendering: Sanjana Patel

Reflecting on the design, Patel says: “The tectonics of a wigwam were inspiring while creating a kit-of-parts design. It’s easily built and unbuilt with materials at hand, and the coverings can be carried by people. Out of love for pattern making, I also found inspiration in the nesting and repetition present in a wigwam’s structure.”

News from the Institute

1. Places of Production Publication

Congratulations to the brilliant students in the Places of Production: Forest and Factory research studio, MTI PI Robert Wright, Daniels Professor Brigitte Shim, the Canadian Wood Council and all other contributors for their book: <https://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/news/2021/09/16/canadian-wood-council-and-daniels-faculty-partner-publish-places-production-forest>

2. TimberCon Fall 2021

Get excited: TimberCon is back! Once again we are co-chairing this great virtual event with the The Architect’s Newspaper on October 21. If you haven’t already, check out the program and [grab your ticket here](#).



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