



News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

Feature: Lodestar Tower

This September, [DS Studio](#), [Fishtnk](#), and [Tom Svilans](#) announced the completion of their mass timber public art commission in Kelowna, BC. Lodestar Tower seeks to make an example of how an age-old material can be digitally modified to suit contemporary needs.

Situated in a public plaza, the tower invites interaction and becomes a placemaker for an underused space. Dina Sarhane, principal architect of DS Studio, noted the team identified three necessary components of the structure: an enclosed structure for protection and to bring the massiveness of the city's scale down to the human scale; a colonnade to define space and signal that something special is happening here; and a marker so that the gathering space can be seen from afar.



Lodestar Tower. Image Credit: Andrew Latreille

The sculpture is made from FSC-certified and laminated Yellow Alaskan Cedar (a carbon negative material), as well as custom-fabricated steel braces. The Lodestar's design was not predetermined – the resultant shape was driven by exploring the strength limits and capacity of the wood. Through an iterative process, the size and scale of its legs and cells gradually became stretched and pulled into its now signature form of straight and curved pieces. The tower is hybrid wood and steel construction, with custom joinery joining the cells. Alaskan Yellow Cedar is a naturally durable and strong wood species, and [Goodfellow Inc.](#) applied a high-grade exterior coating to further protect it. By design, the wood will change colour and texture over time.



Custom joinery of Lodestar Tower's mass timber components. Image Credit: Andrew Latreille

Mass Timber Today Podcast Episode 8



ROBERT SCHMITZ

Episode 8



Tune in to a new episode of the Mass Timber Today Podcast! In this episode, Craig Applegath speaks with Robert Schmitz, who is a partner at White Arkitekter based in Stockholm, Sweden. In this episode, they delve into the embodied carbon advantages of mass timber, exploring how the growing mass timber industry can contribute to reducing environmental impacts across different sectors. They also examine the crucial role timber-focused architects play in driving the adoption of mass timber and gain insights from Robert's Scandinavian perspective on the specific challenges and opportunities associated with building using this sustainable material. They discuss the importance of working closely with manufacturers to value engineer mass timber projects from Robert's firsthand experience with Sara Cultural Centre. Robert also highlights the potential for mass timber to cultivate its own architectural expression from traditional techniques of wooden construction.

Highlights from this episode:

" You can't do a concrete building and then just apply timber on it. It doesn't work that way. You have to think of it as a timber building from the very beginning and work with the expertise of timber manufacturers so that we understand how can we best utilize the boards, for example"

" that's the fun part of being an architect these days, is that we are on the verge to have a new dogma for architecture in timber"

[Listen to Episode 8 | Robert Schmitz: Learning from the Mass Timber Experience of Scandinavia](#)

Other Updates

- The 31st annual [OWA Woodlot Tour and Conference](#) will take place April 23-24, 2024. [Registration](#) opens December 1st! Visit the OWA website for tickets.
- Register for [the “Renew, Reuse, Regrowth” virtual summit](#), hosted by the Architects Newspaper on December 6th. The conference places a focus on the reuse of existing building materials. Use our discount code "MTI20" for 20% off!
- The Architect's Newspaper releases a [Mass Timber digital issue](#). The magazine maps out the industry in the United States, and documents new case studies.

Mass Timber Institute Website



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