FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 (after 7:30 pm EASTERN)

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Ontario Wood *WORKS!* 2015 Wood Design Award Winners Announced

(Toronto, November 12, 2015) A select group of Ontario's leading architects, engineers, and project teams received Wood Design Awards at the 15th annual Wood *WORKS!* celebration in Toronto tonight. The awards program recognizes people and organizations that, through design excellence, advocacy, and innovation, are advancing the use of wood in all types of construction.

"The winning projects of this year's program showcase the many benefits of wood construction," says Marianne Berube, executive director of the Ontario Wood *WORKS!* program. "All of these buildings were thoughtfully created with people in mind. It doesn't matter if we're talking about a large commercial building or a small residential addition, a performance hall or a bar. Wood is a sustainable, innovative, cost-effective building solution that can meet the needs of many projects."

Ontario Wood *WORKS!* handed out twelve awards at the event; nine went to specific wood projects and three were given to professionals whose contributions to the design/build community made them stand out as wood design experts and advocates. Among the winning projects were the new St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, Pointe Cabin, the Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts, and the inimitable Bar Raval.

Wood use is definitely on the rise, and not just because new code changes adopted earlier this year permit its use in a wider range of buildings. "There are many reasons for the increased use of wood," explains Berube. "Wood has significant environmental advantages over competing materials and, in many applications, designers and developers are reporting significant time and cost savings. Prefabrication is also creating a lot of interesting new opportunities for wood construction, particularly in the mid-rise sector."

Wood *WORKS!* is a national, industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council that promotes and supports the use of wood in all types of construction. Working with the design community, Wood *WORKS!* connects practitioners with resources related to the use of wood in commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-unit residential construction, assists in product sourcing, and delivers educational seminars and training opportunities to existing and future practitioners.

Individual project profiles and high-resolution colour photos available on request.

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www.wood-works.ca/ontario

2015 Ontario Wood *WORKS!* Award Winners

Award	Winner
Ontario Wood Award *Sponsored by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry*	**Project: St. Jacobs Farmers' Market (St. Jacobs, ON)** **Architect: Architecture Incorporated, Architect** **Engineer: Blackwell** In 2013, a fire claimed the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, a landmark building with significant cultural and commercial importance. Plans to rebuild the market began immediately and from the outset, wood was specified for the structure and all interior and exterior finish surfaces except for the metal doors and concrete floor. The purpose or rebuilding in wood was to maintain the feel of the original market and utilize the warmth of the exposed wood on the interior. Fire rating requirements were met using heavy timber guidelines. The new building evokes the feel of its predecessor, with wood construction and a similar layout, but with notable improvements including an additional 10,000 square feet of space and larger aisles, as well as elevators and a sprinkler system.
Environmental Building Wood Design Award *Sponsored by Ontario Lumber Manufacturers Agency*	**Project: Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre (Stouffville, ON)** **Architect and Engineer: Dialog** This single-storey, 4,000 square foot education centre is expected to be the first Living Building Challenge (LBC) project in Ontario, and one of only six fully certified LBC projects in the world. The use of wood in the design was integral to the building's performance and appropriate to its function as a Forest Stewardship and Education Centre. To meet the LBC Red-List requirements, the selection of all building materials required that they be free of any toxic substances or compounds. The design team undertook extensive research to source innovative, locally manufactured Red List compliant materials that would not compromise performance, including Black Spruce Glulam beams and 100 per cent FSC-certified CLT panels from Quebec. CLT is the only fully renewable heavy-duty building material, and the production of CLT emits only a fraction of the carbon emitted in the production of other commonly used construction materials such as steel and concrete. In addition to providing a quality finish and being very durable, CLT also uses significantly fewer chemical compounds, and simultaneously sequesters and stores significant amounts of carbon. The Black Spruce Glulam beams and columns used throughout the building also have a much lower embodied energy than reinforced concrete and steel. Although they do contain somewhat more embodied energy than solid timber, the advantages of Glulam timber lay within the laminating process. This allows the timber to be used for much longer spans and heavier loads, therefore reducing the amount of raw material required in the project.
Interior Wood Design Award *Sponsored by Boise Cascade*	**Project: Bar Raval (Toronto, ON)** **Architect: PARTISANS** Bar Raval was conceived as a legacy space to rival the historic art nouveau pintxo bars and hot-spots throughout Barcelona. The design team were inspired by the passions of the clients who are masters of Spanish cuisine, art, and culture. The design developed out of a connection between the formal histories of art nouveau, the plethora of cured slabs of meat, and the anatomy of the chefs themselves: a tattooed muscle bound group of intellectuals. The design is a three dimensional tattoo sculpted in wood. The wood dances, creating a fluid stage for some of Toronto best culinary and mixology masters to perform their art. The use of wood as a material recalls the richness of old-world bars and speaks to the clients' desire for a bar with a vital permanence. Crafting the unique woodwork for Bar Raval was extremely challenging. The technologies, software, and coding to design and machine wood in this fashion at this scale simply did not exist in Ontario. To develop the processes and build the capacities required to bring Bar Raval to life, the architects partnered with MCM Inc., a custom millworking manufacturer based in Toronto.

	The major R&D breakthrough born out of this co-creative partnership was the development of a process that uses custom toolpaths to mill perpendicularly to complex surfaces, which was previously unachievable even with a 5-axis CNC. Experimentation with custom toolpaths is not altogether new; however, it has not hitherto been widely, let alone successfully, used and achieved on a project of this scale and complexity.
Residential Wood Design Award *Sponsored by Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association*	**<u>Project: Pointe Cabin (Georgian, ON)</u>** **Architect: superkül inc.** This small addition to an existing log cottage expands the family's living space by creating a separate and adjoining suite for the patriarch of the family, leaving the original cottage to the children and grandchildren. The addition has its own entry, living quarters and bedrooms. Distincltly modern, it contrasts with the more traditional form of the existing building while continuing the tradition of wood construction. Wood played a major role in the building's design. It was designed as a prefabricated, panelized wood structure to reduce construction waste and the duration of on-site construction. Wall, floor and roof panels were factory built, flat packed and brought by truck to the site. The entire frame of the addition was erected in a few days in January.
Multi-Unit Wood Design Award *Sponsored by Weyerhaeuser*	**<u>Project: Windows on the Green Condominium (Mississauga, ON)</u>** **Architect: SMV Architects, Romanov and Romanov** **Engineer: RJC Engineering** Located in the mature neighborhood of Erin Mills, Windows on the Green is a four-storey condominium residence developed by VANDYK group of companies. There are 150 condo units ranging from 615 to 1,200 square feet, including penthouse lofts with 19' ceilings and private outdoor terraces. The building's interior offers a classic-meets-contemporary design, mindfully crafted to reflect excellence in every detail. The use of wood on this project enabled the project team to implement a cost-effective structural system which also had significant benefits in terms of construction schedule. In addition to the lower material cost as compared to other construction materials, the builder was able to take advantage of pre-fabricated production processes which allowed panels to be shipped to site ready to be erected and with a higher degree of quality and accuracy. This increased overall efficiency on site in terms of both erection schedule as well as a minimal amount of remedial work. The flexibility of the wood product made for easily accommodated design changes; it also allowed for unique architectural expressions such as the vaulted loft units and open, double-height lobby space.
Institutional-Commercial Wood Design Award **< $10 M** *Sponsored by Resolute Forest Products*	**<u>Project: Toronto Public Library, Scarborough Civic Centre Branch (Scarborough, ON)</u>** **Architect: LGA Architectural Partners with Philip H. Carter Architect + Urban Planning** **Engineer: Blackwell** The overarching expression of the Library building is the series of four gently tilting wooden roof planes that create an elevated garden landscape resting on a series of crossing column clusters The large spans of the glulam structure create an open and flexible floor space below that allows the library to evolve with changing technology and needs of the surrounding community. The objective of optimizing the structure for material use resulted in virtually no repetition. The versatility of wood glulam allowed the engineers to optimize each piece for its specific use and to create a structure that is almost entirely made of wood, from the large columns and beams, down to the decking and window lintels. The complex geometry was achieved through the use of a Building Information Management (BIM) model built by the architect and engineer, which was then shared with the glulam manufacturer. The manufacturer then produced its own detailed digital model that was directly used for production of every structural element on a CNC router machine. The pre-fabricated structure allowed for a rapid installation of a complex structure through the winter months in only six weeks, reducing cost, construction time and waste.

Institutional-Commercial Wood Design Award >$10 M *Ontario Forest Industries Association*	**<u>Project: Gore Meadows Community Centre and Library, Phase 1 (Brampton, ON)</u>** **Architect: ZAS Architects** **Engineer: Halcrow Yolles** Located on a 143-acre rural site, the new Gore Meadows Community & Sports Centre is a unique multi-programmed facility containing over 300,000-square feet of amenities for the residents of a rapidly growing multi-cultural district in Brampton. Conceived of as the new "centre of the community", the facility combines sport, fitness, and library services. Phase one includes a community centre and library. ZAS delivered a LEED Gold design for the 34,000-square foot library and 36,000-square foot community centre that considers both multi-use and sustainable design features. The central organizing element of the building is the timber-framed promenade that stretches along the main façade linking the community centre and public library. The promenade, consisting of abstracted trees constructed of Alaskan Yellow Cedar and slender steel members, acts as the organizing design principle that connects and interacts with all the amenities of both facilities.
Northern Ontario Excellence Award *Sponsored by FedNor*	**<u>Project: École Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Kindergargen Addition (Kenora, ON)</u>** **Architect: Nelson Architecture** **Engineer: Lavergne Draward and Associates** The 10,000 sq. ft addition is intended to accommodate the full-day Early Learning Kindergarten program of the Kenora Catholic District School Board. The addition contains four Kindergarten classrooms, two Grade 1 classrooms and associated ancillary space. The project is an addition to the existing (circa 1970) school which had a primary structural system of glulam with a low-slope wood roof deck. In the context of the existing school, glulam was selected as the default structural system for the project. In the context of the larger community, the use of wood acknowledges wood's significant role in the community's industrial and cultural past. One of the principal educational goals of the addition was to broaden the children's connection to the natural world. The use of the wood exposed structure was intended to form a visual and conceptual connection between the school and the surrounding trees.
Jury's Choice Award *Sponsored by LP Building Products*	**<u>Project: Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts (Kingston, ON)</u>** **Architect: N45 Architecture** **Engineer: Halsall** The Isabel Bader Centre, a new creative arts centre for Queen's University, is home to the music, drama, film studies, and fine arts programs. The site is on the shores of Lake Ontario is historically significant and included several stone heritage industrial structures. Incorporating and adapting these stone buildings into the project was important. Although they were condemned, the team chose to not only stabilize the stone structures, but also to reuse/re-purpose the wood structural beams, columns and flooring. There were three predominant species: pine, spruce and hemlock. In the reuse, the wood was sawn into random widths and reinstalled as wall finishes and cabinetry in public spaces. A light stain was rubbed onto the reclaimed "old growth" wood to bring out the grain and emphasize its warmth. In addition, some of the wood was used to restore the heritage, double hung wood windows. The other significant material element in Kingston is limestone. The layering evident in the geological formation of the stone inspired the team's design of the main music performance hall, however the layered look was recreated with wood. To achieve a rustic layered look, four different wood species were used to create a random pattern and colouration. The use of wood was also important from an acoustical perspective because it helps create a rich, warm lustrous sound.
Engineer Wood Advocate Award *Sponsored by FPInnovations*	**<u>Engineer Award: Moses Structural Engineers (Toronto, ON)</u>** Demonstrated leadership in timber engineering, support of the wood-frame mid-rise initiative in Ontario, and ongoing efforts to educate existing and future practitioners about timber engineering have earned David Moses of Moses Structural Engineers this year's Engineer Wood Advocate Award. David is a tireless educator and wood advocate. This year he formed a partnership with Ryerson University to

	create and host an event for architectural science and civil engineering students called the TimberFever Design Build Challenge. The Challenge was created to promote learning in wood design and engaged eight teams of six students each who were all mentored by practicing architects and engineers. It was a very successful and inspirational educational event. His expertise in wood design has also made him a highly valued speaker who is regularly called upon to create and present educational programs geared to existing practitioners. His ongoing support of mid-rise, not only through the projects he has worked on but also through his website 6WOOD.CA, as well as through behind-the-scenes contributions like serving as a peer reviewer of FPInnovations' Mid-Rise Wood-Frame Construction Handbook, helps to expand the resources available for designers who want to increase their capacity for wood design.
Architect Wood Advocate Award *Sponsored by Timber Systems Limited*	**Architect Award: Quadrangle Architects (Toronto, ON)** This year's winning firm is a clear leader, acknowledged by the jury as a "trailblazer in the industry". They have used wood as a key structural element in many projects over the years but perhaps most notably in the HOT (Home Ownership Today) Condos, the project that won them a nomination for this award. HOT Condos is a four-storey condo development at the corner of two arterial roads in Mississauga. The project was conceived, designed and executed because of new codes and technologies in the field of light-frame wood construction. The goal was to create a new mid-rise prototype for the province. With the input of engineering consultants, the team settled on a design with a concrete foundation that could support up to six-storeys of wood structure with the loads efficiently distributed to the outside walls and corridor. The balconies are independent from the internal structure so they can be serviced or replaced without disturbing the integrity of the building envelope. These fundamental elements can be easily reproduced and are scalable up to six-storeys, to take full advantage of the code changes. Unfortunately, code changes in Ontario took longer than anticipated so, when HOT Condos was introduced to the market, immediate demand meant it was realized in four, rather than the anticipated six, storeys. Quadrangle has earned this award for their work to help bring code changes to Ontario. Starting with their involvement in the production of the "Wood Solutions in Mid-Rise Construction" publication and other educational materials, and encompassing their own exploration and pursuit of mid-rise wood-frame design options, it is clear that their work is leading the way for more wood buildings.
Wood Champion Award *Sponsored by Natural Resources Canada*	**Wood Champion Award: Mike Seiling, Director of Building, City of Kitchener; Immediate Past President, Ontario Building Officials Association** Whether their efforts are focused on design, research, innovation, advocacy or education, Wood Champions strive for excellence in their work and stand out as advocates for wood. This year, significant changes affecting wood construction were made to the Ontario Building Code. Mike Seiling, the Immediate Past President of the Ontario Building Officials Association helped coordinate mid-rise forums and educational events with municipalities and OBOA Chapters. The forums, based on the OBC changes, facilitated an open exchange of knowledge between municipal officials and the construction and development industry, a role that has increased the understanding and acceptance of wood construction in building and planning departments across Ontario.

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