

SURREY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND CRITICAL CARE TOWER

LOCATION

Surrey, British Columbia

SIZE

59,400 m²

CAPACITY

151 additional beds (including intensive care), expanded laboratory, added academic space

COMPLETION

2013

ARCHITECTS

CEI Architecture Planning Interiors;
Parkin Architects

WOOD SUPPLIER

StructureCraft Builders Inc.

ENGINEER

Bush Bohlman and Partners

B.C. GOVERNMENT MINISTRY

Ministry of Health

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Visiting a hospital can be a stressful experience, so when the British Columbia Ministry of Health was designing the Surrey Memorial Hospital expansion, the architects were asked to come up with a warm, natural facility that would also meet rigorous building performance demands.

To achieve these ends, the design used wood in structural and decorative components. The lobby features exposed wood and provides a sense of calm for all in a stressful environment. Wood use throughout the public areas of the hospital expansion reinforces the connection to nature, helping to reduce stress and anxiety for both visitors and patients¹.

Research shows people respond emotionally to wood and are attracted to its visual variety and natural expressiveness; the

visual presence of wood in a room is both psychologically and physiologically beneficial².

When construction began in 2011, the Emergency Department and Critical Care Tower expansion was the largest health care project in the history of British Columbia, serving Fraser Health Authority's fastest growing community. The project adds acute care beds, a new emergency department, a specialized mental health and pediatric area, an adult intensive care unit, a neonatal centre of excellence, more space for the clinical academic campus of the University of British Columbia's School of Medicine, and a laboratory with the latest medical technology.



Photos: Ed White Photographics, courtesy of CEI Architecture and Parkin Architects

“The use of exposed wood in a project is one of the ways that we can improve conditions for our patients. Wood conveys a sense of warmth and comfort that supports the healing environment and improves the overall patient experience.”

Peter Goldthorpe, Vice President, Capital Projects
Real Estate & Facilities, Fraser Health Providence Health Care

WOOD FEATURES

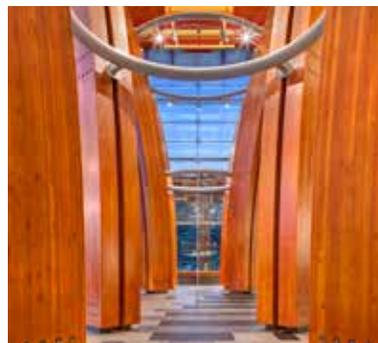
NATURAL CHOICE, CLEAR BENEFITS – Surrey Memorial used wood for canopies and cladding because it responds well to rigorous maintenance procedures, resists weather and UV damage, and looks fantastic². Wood is a natural choice for sustainable building construction; wood-based building designs have a lower energy and carbon footprint.

A COMFORTABLE, HEALING ENVIRONMENT – The hospital’s new lobby features exposed structural timbers, panelling and millwork, creating the impression the ceiling is being held up by trees. Wood provides a tangible connection to nature and the outdoors, and offers an aesthetic appeal unmatched by other building materials¹. Research by the University of British

Columbia and FPInnovations found wood interiors reduce stress by creating a comforting, supportive and healing environment².

WOOD FINISHES: HEALTHY AND HEALING – Wood products and finishes used for the millwork, interior walls and acoustic paneling in the hospital help to control air-borne contaminants because they are easy to maintain, dust-free after installation, and emit few, if any, harmful vapours³.

MODERN WOOD PRODUCTS: EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE – Surrey Memorial’s roof was made with prefabricated panels designed to achieve long spans with minimum connections. Wood was used for exterior soffits and, in composite form, for some of the cladding and exterior walls.



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¹ Fell D.2002. *Consumer Visual Evaluation of Canadian Wood Species*. FPInnovations, Vancouver, Canada.

² Rice J, Kozak Robert A, Meitner Michael J, and Cohen David H; 2006 *Appearance Wood Products and Psychological Wellbeing*, Society of Wood Science and Technology.

³ *Wood in Healthcare: A Natural Choice for Enhancing Human Well-Being*. NaturallyWood 2012. <http://www.naturallywood.com/sites/default/files/Wood-in-Healthcare.pdf>

The wood grain featured in this profile is Douglas-fir.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This profile is published by Forestry Innovation Investment, the Government of British Columbia’s market development agency for forest products.

For more examples of innovative wood building projects throughout British Columbia, visit:

naturallywood.com