

MUNICIPAL RCMP FACILITY

LOCATION

Prince George, British Columbia

SIZE

6,900 m²

COMPLETION

2014

ARCHITECT/INTERIOR DESIGNER

IBI Group

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Bush Bohlman & Partners

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Maple Reinders, Inc.

PROJECT OWNER

City of Prince George

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This new 2-storey municipal RCMP Facility is located on the edge of the downtown core in the northern city of Prince George.

The design intent was to create a welcoming building that would be incorporated into the urban fabric of the city; one that would contribute to a positive profile for the RCMP, its associated protective services and its newly relocated community police force. The building design acknowledges these multiple functions through its exterior south 'DNA' wall treatment, and the use of fingerprint motifs in the public foyer.

Visioning sessions led the design team to adopt forest edge and mountain meadow imagery for the main public façade, and influenced the shape and contents of the urban plaza. Two pedestrian sidewalks guide people to the main public

entrance, symbolizing the location of the city at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako rivers.

The project was built according to LEED Silver certification standards, by incorporating sustainable design strategies such as regionally sourced natural materials, connection to an aquifer for cooling, a renewable district energy supply for heating, rainwater capture for irrigation, reuse of recycled wood from existing buildings, tandem solar chimneys for natural ventilation, the creation of exterior living walls to reduce solar heat gain, and an interior living wall for air purification.

The heating system is a heat exchanger tied to a new utilidor connecting the city's public buildings, which in turn is connected to a new central heating plant fuelled by wood waste.



Photo courtesy of Alchemist Studios

“There was a strong desire by the RCMP that the building provide a welcoming presence to the downtown core. This was achieved by the use of warm wood pillars and trellis work that are reflected in the large glass windows and stand tall and visible for all approaching the building. The wood pillars and trellis are prominent without being foreboding and are placed in such a way as to highlight an arc leading the public into the building.”

Leland Hanson, Manager, Civic Facility Department

WOOD USE

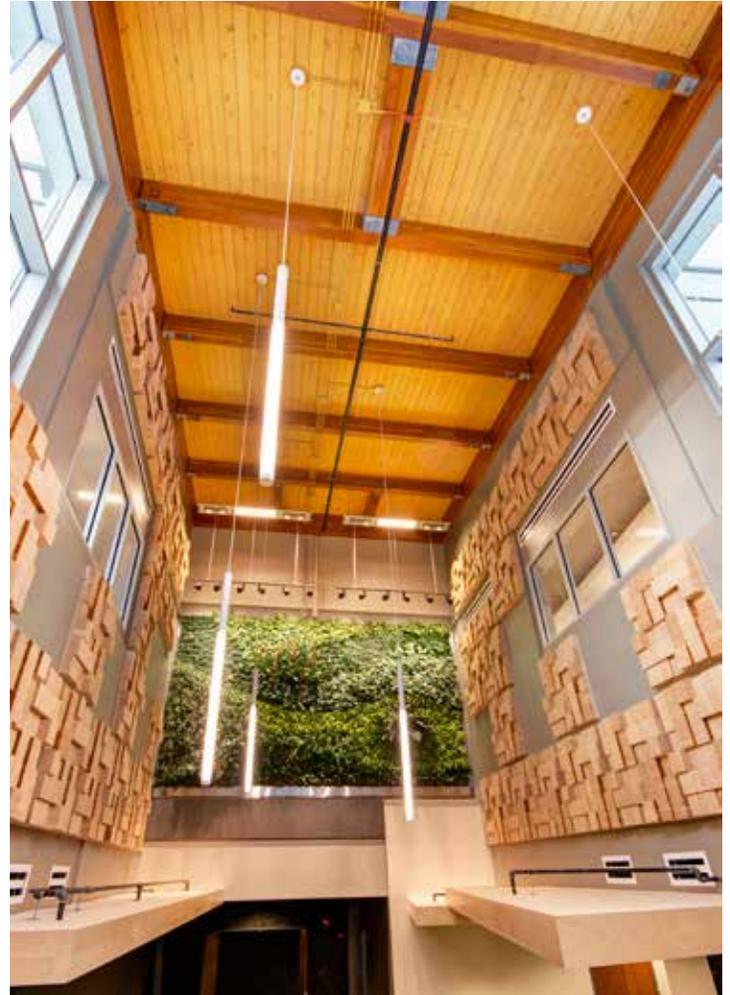
Wood was the material of choice for the structure and finishes in the facility. Using glulam columns and purlins, and a heavy timber roof deck in key public areas of the lobby and foyer spaces, imparts a warm and friendly atmosphere while conveying a sense of grandeur. Equally, the use of wood in the interior canopy ceiling and wall panels in the areas where the RCMP and civilian staff interact with the public, creates a calm and supportive atmosphere.

Perpendicular to the foyer is an atrium corridor within the primary secure area, which is framed with wooden columns that resemble a line of trees along a curved forest path. Light is filtered from the

clerestory windows past the wood columns and wood ceiling, enhancing this illusion.

Certified wood and wood products were chosen for their sustainable attributes and durability. The majority of the dimensional wood and glulam components were locally sourced. The design also incorporates salvaged glulam material from the demolished building that originally occupied the site. This salvaged material was used to create decorative wood panels in the entrance foyer.

The facility is one of the first to utilize the City’s carbon-neutral wood fibre-based district energy system, where the heat is generated from the kiln drying process at a local lumber mill.



Photos courtesy of Alchemist Studios

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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