

WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCATION

Powell River, British Columbia

SIZE

4,329 m²

COMPLETION

August 2013

ARCHITECT

KMBR Architects Planners Inc.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

CWMM Consulting Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Yellowridge Construction

ENGINEERED WOOD

FABRICATOR

Western Archrib

OWNER

School District 47 Powell River

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project was initiated when a seismic assessment of the original school (then known as Grief Point) determined that upgrading the existing structure to current code requirements would be uneconomical.

Committing to the design and construction of a replacement school on a new site, the Ministry of Education recognized the new school design and location presented an opportunity to enhance the educational program and provide an increased benefit to the entire community.

As a result, Westview Elementary has been designed as a 'Neighbourhood of Learning' model school for the District of Powell River, making it not only a place for learning, but also a facility for a wide range of community activities. The design of the school supports the '21st Century Learning' model of education, which embraces the integration of wireless technology and the opportunities it affords for

collaboration and the development of critical thinking and communication skills.

The two-storey building includes 12 regular classrooms, four kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms, a full size gymnasium, library, special education and multipurpose spaces. The school also contains additional physical education facilities to support wheelchair athletics, a community office and a full size playing field encircled by a running track and multiple exercise stations.

The project was tendered as a design-build contract and awarded to Yellowridge Construction with the aim of maximizing the social and economic benefits to the citizens of Powell River. Yellowridge hosted a job fair during the planning phase in an effort to hire local workers for as many aspects of the project as possible.



Photo credit: Ed White Photographics

“The use of wood honours our local culture and heritage, it also confirms our commitment to the use of sustainable resources.”

Jay Yule, Superintendent, School District 47 Powell River

WOOD USE

The choice of wood for prominent elements of the structure and finishes met the project objectives for economy, durability and the greatest possible involvement of the local workforce. The applications chosen were given careful consideration, the desire being to achieve the maximum visual effect while ensuring that the material was properly protected from weather and physical damage.

The primary structure is an exposed Douglas fir glue-laminated timber (glulam) post and beam frame that serves to accentuate the tapering geometry of the radial plan, particularly evident in the library and student commons. The structure extends out through the main school and community entrances where it forms part of the continuous colonnade that runs the length of the building.

This colonnade acts as a ‘front porch’ for the school. When weather permits, it is directly connected with the library and student commons through glazed garage doors and is accessible from the adjacent ground floor classrooms. It is a transitional space where informal gatherings naturally take place. The glulam posts and exposed wood roof structure create a welcoming atmosphere and a symbolic connection between the school and the landscape beyond.

Inside the building, B.C. wood is also used for finished flooring, doors and trims, and for corner guards and panelling in corridors. The presence of wood and abundant natural light contributes to a supportive learning environment and to the overall atmosphere of calm within the school.

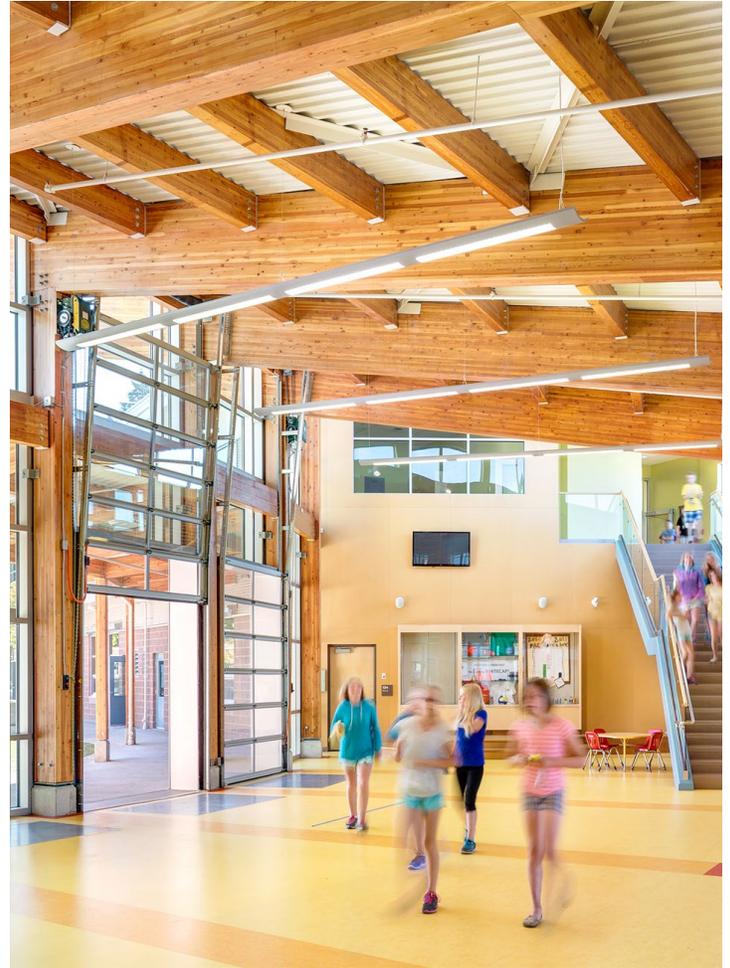


Photo credit: Ed White Photographics

ESTIMATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WOOD USE

<p>V Volume of wood products used: 217 cubic meters</p>	<p>GHG EMISSIONS ARE EQUIVALENT TO:</p>
<p>T U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in: 1 minute</p>	<p>128 cars off the road for a year</p>
<p>C Carbon stored in the wood: 194 metric tons of CO₂</p>	<p>Energy to operate 64 homes for a year</p>
<p>CO₂ Avoided greenhouse gas emissions: 412 metric tons of CO₂</p>	<p><small>*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, cwc.ca/carboncalculator. *CO₂ refers to CO₂ equivalent.</small></p>
<p>✓ Total potential carbon benefit: 605 metric tons of CO₂</p>	

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

The wood grain featured in this profile is lodgepole pine.