

ÉCOLE DES PIONNIERS DE MAILLARDVILLE

Port Coquitlam, BC | Completed 2023

Role of the firm: Structural Engineer of Record

Area: 8,665 sq. ft. (805 sq. m.)

Architect: Principle Architecture with Local Practice

Client: Conseil Scolaire Francophone de
la Colombie Britannique (SD93)

Following the seismic replacement initiative for the École des Pionniers de Maillardville, students now have access to a state-of-the-art educational space that includes a larger 2-storey classroom wing, creating 100 new student spaces. The project unfolded across several phases, encompassing the demolition of the existing structure, construction of the new school building, on-site and off-site development, and an expansion of classroom capacity – all while ensuring uninterrupted school operations.

The structure comprises a suspended slab and hybrid steel/timber framing with exposed communal spaces. The design included concrete cores with a hybrid gravity system featuring steel/timber trusses and panels. Exposed nail laminated timber (NLT) is used on several of the low roofs. This panel system is cost-effective, versatile and readily available. The simplicity of NLT makes it relatively easy to assemble, and it can support a range of structural and design needs.

The project's design ethos is characterized by a harmonious blend of sophistication, efficiency, and warmth, with an emphasis on utilizing wood wherever possible. The chosen materials and finishes were carefully curated for their durability, serving as vibrant backdrops that reflect the vibrant life and activity within childcare and school spaces.

