

# GASTOWN CHILDCARE CENTRE

Vancouver, BC | Completed

Role of the firm: Structural Engineer of Record

Area: 8611.13 ft<sup>2</sup> (800 m<sup>2</sup>)

Budget: CA \$14 Million

Architect: Acton Ostry Architects

Sustainable Features: Passive House & LEED Gold Certified

Completed in 2021, the Gastown Child Care Centre is an innovative response to a concept proposed by the City of Vancouver to develop childcare centres atop under-utilized parkades in the downtown core. To support Vancouver's Greenest City goals, the project is designed to Passive House and LEED Gold standards, with a focus on net zero energy and low carbon fuel sources. The centre's rooftop solar panel system is one of the green design features.

The centre comprises two single-storey childcare facilities on the rooftops of the Gastown parkade at 150 Water Street and 151 West Cordova Street, named Waterview and Portside, respectively. The two 400m<sup>2</sup> facilities provide a total of 74 childcare spaces, each accommodating 12 infant/toddlers and 25 preschoolers. The use of partially prefabricated panels simplified construction logistics and expedited the schedule.

The structure is comprised of a steel transfer frame, point loading down onto the existing concrete columns below. Above this is a significant exterior play space, and a prefabricated timber cassette classroom building. Keeping the structure as light as possible (to not trigger a seismic upgrade) and point loading down onto the existing column grid was key to the design on this project.

Both facilities have big outdoor play spaces – 11,000 sq ft - as well as views of the NorthShore Mountains and Burrard inlet. With a pedestrian bridge connecting both facilities, the architectural expression is playful, contemporary, and complementary to its neighborhood, the historic Gastown.

