



Sir Matthew Begbie Elementary School Vancouver, BC

Part of the BC Ministry of Education's Seismic Mitigation Program, the new two-storey, 34,000 square foot elementary school embraces a modern design with open learning spaces. The use of cross-laminated timber as the primary construction material for this project will be a flagship for the Vancouver School Board as one of the district's first CLT schools. The timber will be exposed on both walls and ceilings within large areas of the building, providing a warm and inviting environment for students.

The new school building is situated on the middle tier of the school site, with the existing school located on the upper level. Given the constrained tiered site configuration and mandate that the existing school remains operational during construction, Fast + Epp employed a number of design and prefabrication methods to speed up construction time and minimize disruption to both the students and neighborhood. Innovative and efficient hybrid systems have also been implemented to achieve the desired architectural form.

Fast + Epp also partnered with the University of Northern British Columbia and the University of Alberta to conduct a series of testing programs for improved material and performance efficiency. The successful integration of these innovative systems may lead the way for other school designs that follow.

Fast + Epp

Status
Design Phase

Project Cost
Undisclosed

Area
34,000 ft² (3,200 m²)

Architect
HCMA Architecture + Design

Client
Vancouver School Board

