



UBC Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability Vancouver, BC

With a vision to be the greenest building in North America, the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability – from the get go – was essentially a research experiment. The client’s goal was for the building to be energy “net positive” and lead the way in accelerating sustainable building technologies.

Fast + Epp, in close collaboration with the architects, set out to maximize the use of wood and ensure an elegantly-exposed structure. The four-storey building is constructed primarily of exposed solid laminated 2×4 floors, supported by glulam beams and columns throughout. Overall lateral stability is achieved with timber moment frames in one direction using custom prefabricated plywood box panels between glulam columns, and by plywood shear walls in the orthogonal direction. The design ensures future demountability and easy reconfiguration as the client’s needs change.

With the structure, facade, and many other finishes and systems made from pine-beetle-kill wood, the building cost-effectively captures and stores about 600 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases – more than was needed during construction.

Fast + Epp

Status
 Completed 2011

Project Cost
 \$37 million

Area
 62,000 ft² (5,800 m²)

Architect
 Perkins + Will

Client
 UBC Properties Trust

