



UBC Tallwood House at Brock Commons Vancouver, BC

When the University of British Columbia proposed a 404-bed student residence tower built of wood, Fast + Epp was keen to lend its expertise to the project.

Designed as a kit-of-parts, Fast + Epp's solution comprised 17 storeys of five-ply cross-laminated timber floor panels, a concrete transfer slab on level two, and a steel framed roof. The cross-laminated timber panels were point-supported by glue-laminated timber columns, all resting on the concrete transfer slab, while two full-height concrete cores provided lateral stability. By utilizing the two-way spanning capabilities of cross-laminated timber, Fast + Epp was able to eliminate the beams of a classic post-and-beam system (along with labour-intensive connections), dramatically reducing costs and the time needed for fabrication and erection.

A key to the project's success was early coordination. The wood structure was completed less than 70 days after the prefabricated components arrived on site – four months faster than a typical project of this size.

When completed in 2017, Tallwood House was recognized as the tallest mass timber hybrid building in the world, reaching 53 metres.

Fast + Epp

Status
Completed 2017

Project Cost
\$51 million

Area
157,000 ft² (14,593 m²)

Architect
Acton Ostry Architects and Hermann Kaufmann Architekten

Client
UBC Properties Trust

