



Wilson School of Design

Richmond, BC

A building intended for creative professionals can be one of the most challenging to create – to break the mould, push the limits and yet, suit the diverse needs of all its end users. This was the mandate of Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s new design school, a pedestrian-oriented campus for innovation in the fashion, interior, graphic and product design industries.

Compounding this mandate was a challenging site – its proximity to the Fraser River Delta meant the design team was constrained by a high water table, infirm soils, and seismic conditions. Any structural solution would need to perform “like a ship” – remaining light, but rigid. To meet these challenges, Fast + Epp engineered a glulam post and beam frame with exposed cast in place concrete cores. Concrete-metal composite decking spans over the glulam frame, with much of the buildings electrical systems integrated into it.

The new building frames a central green space, creating spaces for study, socializing and gathering. Upper floors are designated for event and conference spaces, and a testing lab, with advanced technology such as laser cutters, 3D printers and ultrasonic welders.

Fast + Epp

Status
Completed 2017

Project Cost
\$36 million

Area
70,000 ft² (6,503 m²)

Architect
KPMB Architects and Public Design

Client
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

