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WOOD WORKS

Wood components are fundamental to the design of the Canada Border Service Agency building at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie.

Wood WORKS Awards

Ontario Wood WORKS honours architectural projects for innovative design

Awards recognize Distillery District arts centre, Fort Erie border building

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A project that involved the adaptive reuse of tank houses in Toronto's historic distillery district netted its architects a 2007 Ontario Wood WORKS Award.

Rough-cut, Douglas fir heavy timber trusses were used to span the walls of the two brick tank houses, enclosing the two-storey-high lobby, studios and administrative spaces of The Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

Rough-cut, stained Hemlock was used as exterior cladding. Stained, rough-cut oak planking was used as an interior cladding in the main large theatre space for balcony guard rails, stair rails and as a wall covering.

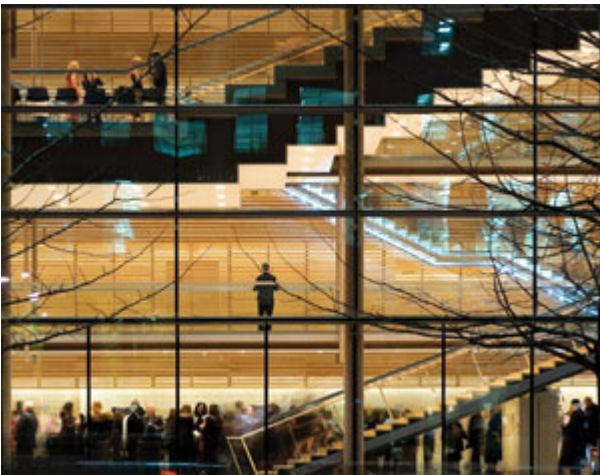
The 45,567-square-foot centre was designed by Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects. Constructed at an approximate cost of \$10 million, the centre opened in January of last year. The award was in the commercial wood design category.

The awards, which celebrate excellence and innovation in wood buildings, were presented at a gala last night in Toronto. Some 56 projects were nominated in seven categories this year, compared to 50 in 2006.

“We are impressed each year by the innovative projects that are submitted,” said Marianne Berube, Wood WORKS Ontario executive director.

“We see amazing new construction technology alongside equally impressive projects that feature traditional uses.” Also in the winners’ circle were:

- The Wellington Park Terrace in Guelph. Designed by Robert J Dyck Architect & Engineer, the 86,112-square-foot, four-storey retirement home incorporates a variety of woods and wood features. The award was in the multi-unit wood design category.
- Canada Border Service Agency building at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie. Designed by NORR Ltd. Architects and Engineers, the 29,000-square-foot facility includes spruce-pine-fir glulam beams and decking. The roof contains an interwoven glulam substructure, supporting an exposed wood roof deck. The award was in the institutional wood design category.







Wood helps humanize the design at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (1st). Post and beam barn-building techniques are utilized at the Seagram Barrel Warehouse/Centre for International Governance Innovation (2nd). Wood-frame construction is featured at this Tim Hortons store (3rd). Heavy timber trusses span the walls of brick tank houses at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts (4th).

- Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, the 265,000-square-foot structure features extensive use of wood in the interior spaces. The award was in the interior wood design category.
- Restoration Services Centre, Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Designed by Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc., the 11,800-square foot structure in Vaughan uses only Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood. It has been designed to meet LEED platinum by incorporating a wide range of environmentally friendly components and systems. The award was in the green design category.
- Seagram Barrel Warehouse/Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo. The 40,000-square-foot structure combines new office space with traditional brewing and wood barrel storage components. Large, spliced posts and beams rise five storeys. Post and beam barn-building techniques were incorporated as well. Architect was Barton Myers Associates. It won in the heritage category.

In the residential category, the winning project was a painter's studio in Dundas, designed by Lillepold Dowling Architects. The 530-square-foot structure was constructed of Douglas fir, spruce and eastern white pine.

Also honoured were individuals and organizations dedicated to pioneering and preserving the use of wood. Advocate awards were presented to Montgomery Sisam Architects and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Ltd. as well as the town of Gravenhurst, which was lauded for "embracing" wood construction as part of its heritage.

The jury's choice-corporate leader award was presented to the TDL Group Corp. of Oakville for using wood in its Tim Hortons stores.

Thirty per cent of the stores built in the province in 2006 and 2007 featured wood-frame construction.

The wood champion award went to Pierre Quenneville of Kingston, a leading innovator in wood structural design. Since 1992, he has served on the Canadian Standards Association's technical committee for design in wood structures.

Wood WORKS is a national initiative spearheaded by the Canadian Wood Council and industry partners to promote increased use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional construction.