Photo: Michael Elkan, courtesy of Acton Ostry Architects

AUSTRIA GREEN PLANET BUILDING

Brock Commons Tallwood House

Vancouver, Canada

At 53 meters high, Brock Commons Tallwood House is currently one of the tallest solid timber buildings in the world. It impresses with its consistent implementation of solid wood construction: Apart from a solid base floor and a solid core, the building consists of solid timber elements in its exterior walls, load-bearing structure and ceilings. Due to the high degree of prefabrication, it was realized very resource-efficiently and quickly. The avoidance of questionable materials in the interior construction is worth mentioning.

The office of Hermann Kaufmann Architekten brought the technical expertise for the development of the timber construction in solid timber into the design and implementation process. The actual planning was carried out by a local architectural firm, and the implementation by companies based in Canada.

This resulted in the realization of a building that is extremely well known, particularly in Canada and the USA, and which is also one of the award winners of the Canadian Green Building Council (LEED Canada) in 2018 and has already received numerous other awards.

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

klimaaktiv

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Companies involved

Client
- The University of British Columbia

Expertise in timber construction design and implementation
- Hermann Kaufmann + Partner ZT GmbH

Architecture
- Acton Ostry Architects Inc

Structural Design
- Fast + Epp, Vancouver

HLS planning
- Stantec, Vancouver

Electrical planning
- Stantec, Vancouver

Fire protection planning
- GHL Consultants Ldt., Vancouver

Building physics
- RDH Building Science Inc., Vancouver

Acoustics
- RWDI, Vancouver

Landscape design
- Hapa Collaborative, Vancouver

Timber construction company
- Seagate Mass Timber, Surrey

Facts

Student residence
- Completed 2017
- Floor area: 15,115 m^2
- Building floor area: 840 m^2

Energy and environmental aspects
- Solid timber construction saves a volume of 2,650 m^3 of concrete, which is an equivalent of about 500 tons of CO_2
- Solid construction

Characteristics
- Heating energy demand: 13.5 kWh/m^2a

Building labels and awards (selection)
- LEED Silver
- Holzbaupreis Vorarlberg 2019 (recognition).
- International Prize for Wood Architecture 2018
- Canadian Wood Council Wood Works 2018 (Architect Award)
- Sustainable Architecture & Building 2018 (Green Award)
- Architectural Institute of British Columbia 2018 (Award)

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