

GBMtm Global Buyers Mission

September 7-9, 2017
Whistler, British Columbia

WoodTALKS Speaks to the Importance of Collaboration

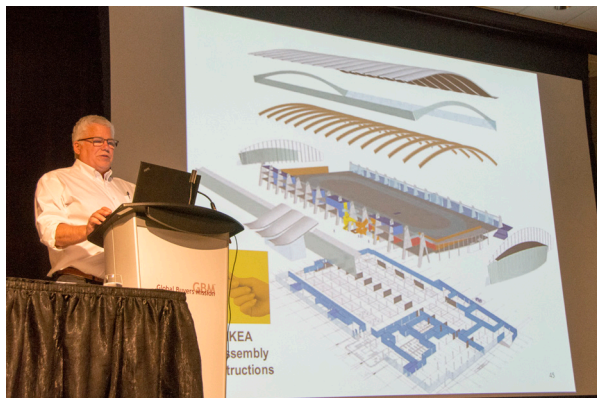
This week, 800 buyers, sellers and specifiers of value-added wood products have gathered in Whistler, for the Global Buyers Mission (GBM), Canada's largest show of its kind. And on day one, WoodTALKS—a wood design and construction education event held in conjunction with the GBM—was front and centre with seven speakers.

First to the podium —surprisingly perhaps—was **Rob Third, President of George Third & Son**, a centuries-old steel fabrication and engineering company. But

the bewilderment was short lived as Rob spoke about his company's prominent role in the timber/steel hybrid structures used in the Richmond Speed Skating Oval and Telus Pavilion Canopy and in particular the complex, integrated design processes that were required. Not historically a wood enthusiast, Rob noted that his company now advertises their services jointly with StructureLam. Next up was

Vancouver architect Oberto Oberti, the man behind some of the biggest ski resorts on the planet. Oberto highlighted the aesthetic, economic and healthy environment benefits of these structures, calling them the “gifts of timber structures”.

Architect Thomas Robinson of Portland, provided an update on the 12-storey Framework building, winner of the US Tall Wood Building Prize Competition. Thomas focused on the many regulatory hurdles in the US and in particular, the rigorous fire, seismic, and other safety tests required to prove the building's durability. Thomas also spoke of the importance of this evolution of building, given how it links Oregon's trees to jobs and helps bridge the urban/rural divide.

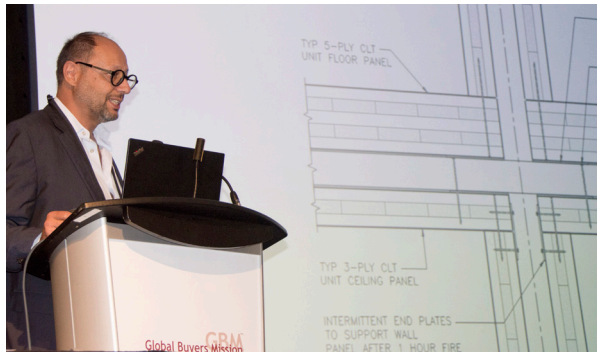


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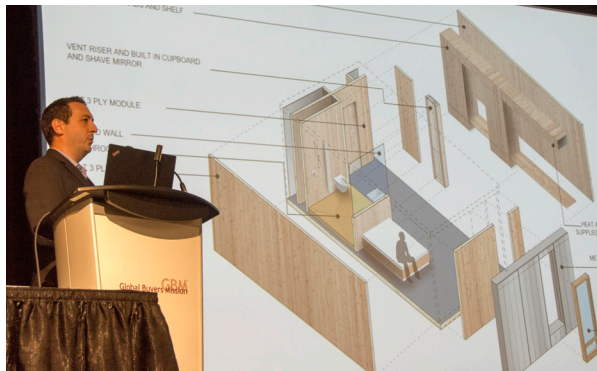
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Perhaps the most fascinating talk, and certainly the one with the longest title, was Designing a prefabricated, modular, mass timber workforce accommodation in the far north – for an oil and gas company no less. A joint effort by **Perkins+ Will Architects (Derek Newby and Paul Cowcher)** and **Equilibrium (Eric Karsh)**, the design team talked of their efforts to re-invent the definition of a work-camp from a “storage place for people” to a “generous and civilized” residence. Prefabrication was necessary due to the harsh weather conditions and associated high labour costs as was a design with long-life and reusability, rather than the “disposable” approach of most off-the-grid camps.



Finally, **Architect Luke Stern** presented on the design and construction of the Temple of Light, a spiritual yoga retreat and study centre in Kootenay Bay, British Columbia. In addition to the project’s complex design and fabrication process to cope with the challenge of non-orthogonal, non-planar project geometry, the design team had to deal with its remoteness and the challenge of transporting and erecting the temple. Luke emphasized the importance of collaboration across the design and construction team and the “power of a physical mock-up”.



With Thursday’s focus on the WoodTALKS presentations, Friday brings us back to the trade show floor, and the main event – the Global Buyers Mission itself. After a morning welcome presentation buyers from around the world will meet and conduct business with a wide range of British Columbian and Canadian wood producers in the trade show. We’ll have a review of this and more on Monday.