## Opinion/Editorial



## Timber City Exhibit

Softwood Buyer December 2016

The Softwood Lumber Board (SLB) recently celebrated the opening of its Timber City exhibition at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Curated by Yugon Kim and Tomomi Itakura of Boston-based architectural design firm ikd, Timber City explores the many benefits offered by state-of-the-art mass timber construction, including strength, fire resistance, sustainability, and beauty. Located near the National Mall, the National Building Museum welcomes over 500,000 visitors annually and is the United States' leading cultural institution devoted to interpreting the history and impact of the built environment.



The Timber City exhibit presents an exciting opportunity for the SLB and softwood lumber industry to reach new audiences and highlight recent innovations that are bringing tall wood buildings into mainstream, modern building design and construction. Timber City's immersive installation features architectural models, dramatic prefabricated wood walls, and largescale samples of mass timber such that, immediately upon entering, visitors can see, feel, and even smell wood's positive impacts in a built environment.

The exhibit's stories recount how timber products have evolved to be responsive to code changes; explore innovative, new timber technologies, including cross laminated timber (CLT); and show how U.S.-based timber manufacturing is helping to revitalize communities throughout rural America and benefit urban centers. Timber City highlights the recent, worldwide boom in timber construction, including the U.S.-based project, Framework in Portland, Oregon, winner of the 2015 U.S. Tall Wood Building Prize that was sponsored by the USDA, SLB, and the Binational Softwood Lumber Council. The buildings featured throughout the exhibit are living proof of how the innovations presented in Timber City can be combined to realize function, design, beauty, and environmental benefits.

Timber City takes care to help visitors recognize the innumerable environmental benefits of wood and wood products, especially compared with competing materials. In addition to being renewable and sustainable, the harvest, transport, and manufacturing of wood yields far less pollution and requires less energy compared with other common building materials. Importantly, wood is also the only building material that can both reduce and remove carbon from the atmosphere—a significant and unique contribution to mitigating climate change.

According to SLB CEO Steve Lovett, "The innovative mass timber wood products and building technologies featured in the Timber City exhibit are at the beginning of a revolution that is transforming the built environment. As an industry, we are very excited about what these mean for our businesses, our employees, and the communities in which we live and work as we change the way America builds."



Timber City is on view at the National

Building Museum in Washington, D.C. until May 21, 2017. Make plans today to visit!