



Office of Science and Technology  
Meeting the Urbanization Challenge  
Smart City Solutions from Austria and California  
LCT ONE: Case Study of an Eight Story Wood Office Building  
October 11, 2013



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The Natural Change in Urban Architecture

# A 4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION FAMILY BUSINESS

## PART OF ROHMBERG GROUP – GENERAL CONTRACTORS

1892



The building company was founded by master builder **Cornelius Rhomberg** who managed the company until his death in 1912.

1938



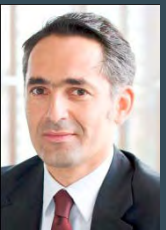
The company „Rhomberg Bau“ was founded by distinguished businessman master builder **Walter Rhomberg**

1963



Master builder **Walter-Heinz Rhomberg** enters the company. He takes over the operative management board from 1972 to 2002.

1999



DI **Hubert Rhomberg** enters the company. Since April 1st, 2002 he leads the operative management board.



Pre-Certified Gold  
81,5%

ÖGNI

- SUSTAINABLE
- RESOURCE-EFFICIENT
- PROFITABLE



## Natural Change in Urban Architecture

Develop a timber based construction system for sustainable multi-storey buildings in urban environments

### LifeCycle Tower

- Timber construction system up to 30 floors / 100 m
- Industrial pre-fabrication
- Passive house standard and power generation



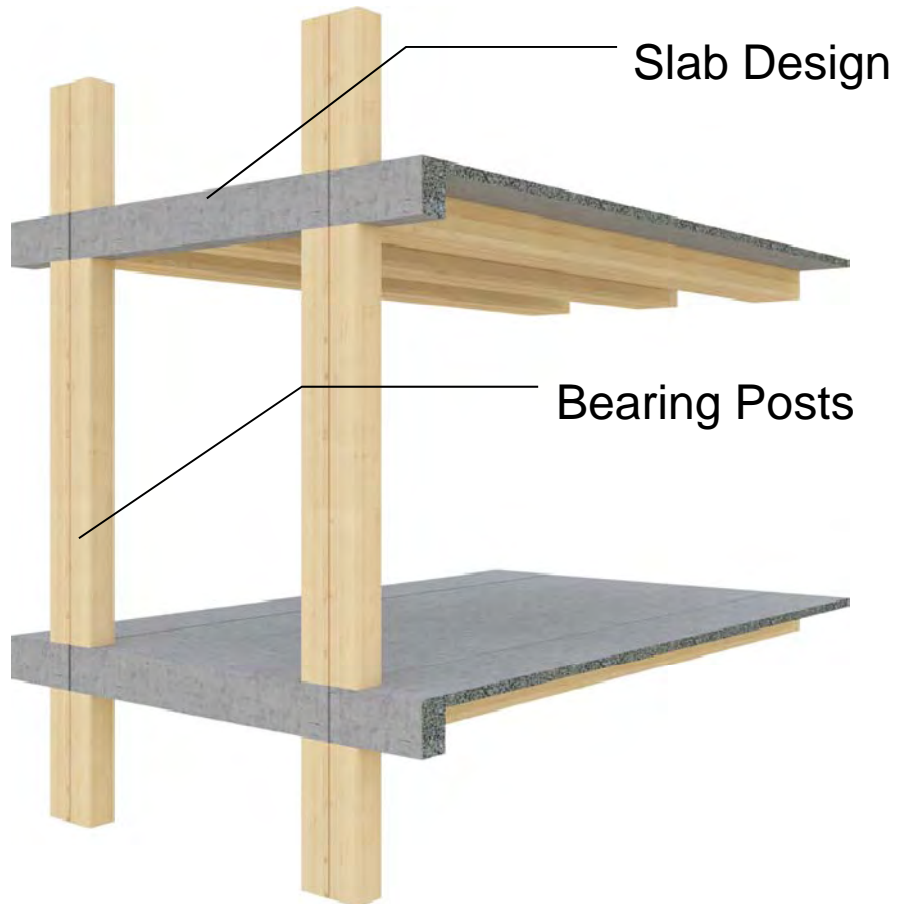
Architekten **Hermann Kaufmann ZT GmbH**



# CREE INSIDE



## Slab and Posts



## Core, Floors and Walls





**Cree Tall Wood Buildings**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNblLm3m8UM>

<http://www.creebuildings.com/us/>

# Nabih's Experience



## Austria

- Multi-family projects
- Pre-fabricated in wood
- Low energy standard



# Nabih's Experience



**Ireland**  
Imported low energy, pre-fabricated homes from Austria



**Berkeley**  
Remodeled home to Passive House Standard





## Study for Austrian Trade Commission

Opportunities for transferring know-how between Austria and the USA

### Consulting

Architectural, structural and energy consulting services including the Passive House Standard.

### Products

Development of high performance products

### Systems

Development of modern, industrial construction methods.

## LIFE CYCLE TOWER – LCT ONE





# MOTIVATION for the LIFE CYCLE TOWER

# ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGE

*We don't inherit the Earth from our Ancestors;  
we borrow it from our children*

*Native American Proverb*

**If 5 billion people  
lived in our  
“western“ manner...**

**...we would need the resources  
of more than 2 planets!**



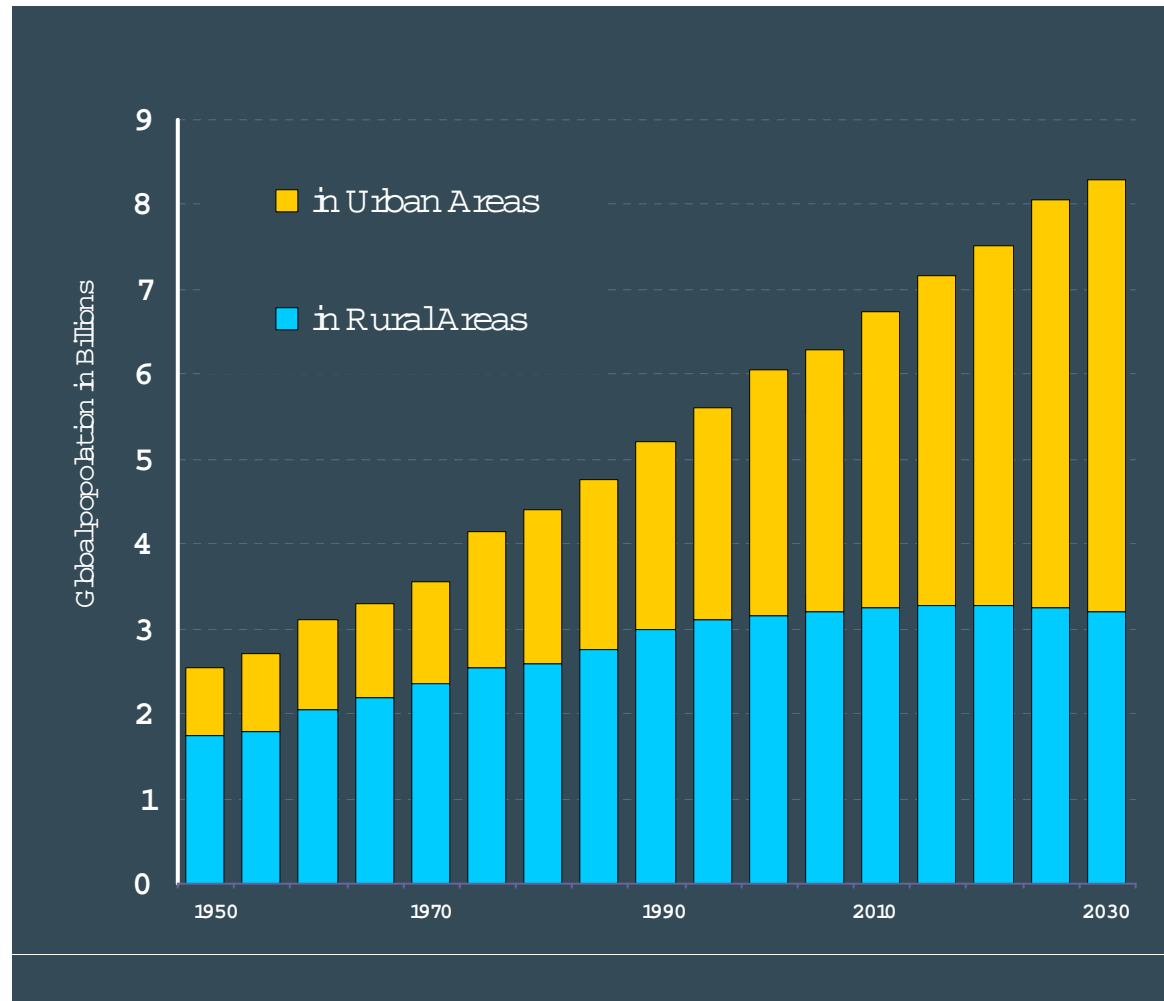
Source: Prof. Dr. Schmidt-Bleek, Wuppertal-Institut

# FUTURE IS URBAN

More than half of humanity now lives in cities - and that figure will likely reach 75% by 2050.



Source: National Nations



# INFRASTRUCTURE UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERNS



Worldwide, the building industry is responsible for:

- 40% consumption of resources <sup>1)</sup>
- 30% - 40% emission of greenhouse gas <sup>1)</sup>
- 60% of the transportation <sup>2)</sup>
- 25% - 40% consumption of energy <sup>1)</sup>
- 30% - 40% of solid waste generation <sup>1)</sup>

1) Source: UNEP SBCI – United Nations Environment Program

2) Ton kilometer

# TRADITIONAL BUILDING INDUSTRY

- We build every building manually
- Using very complex methods
- Long construction schedules
- High consumption of energy and resources
- Commercial buildings are exclusively built out of steel and reinforced concrete



# RESEARCH

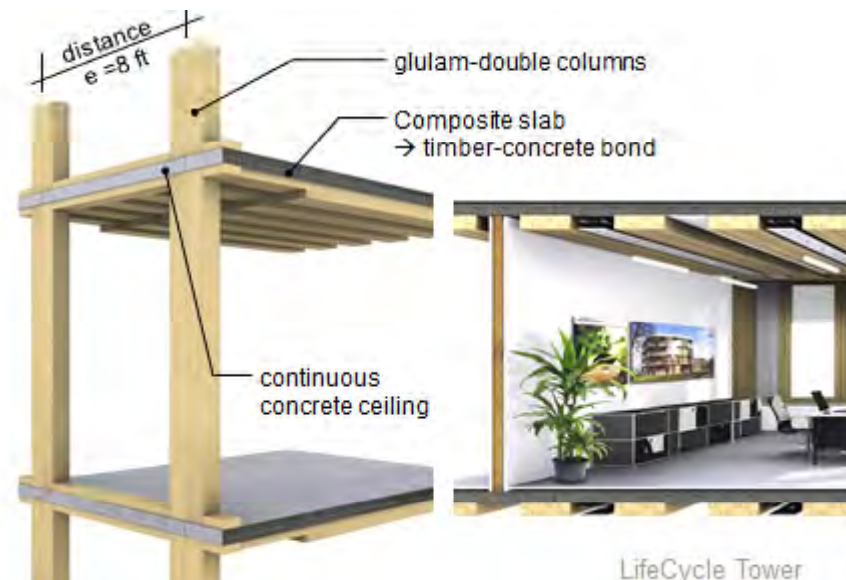
# DEVELOP LIFE CYCLE SYSTEMS



Include:

- Structural
- Façade
- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Fire Sprinkler
- Alarm System
- Code Analysis
- Energy Targets

The amount of wood used as the main building material for a 30-story LifeCycle Tower re-grows in United States forests within 3.5 minutes



LifeCycle Tower

# LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT



MATERIAL  
SELECTION

MANUFACTURE



OFF-SITE  
ON-SITE  
CONSTRUCTION

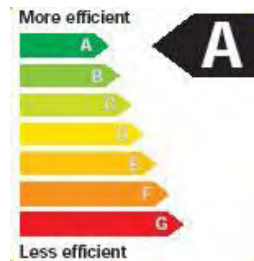


DEMOLITION

RECYCLE /  
REUSE  
DISPOSAL



Ecological  
Backpack



Passive House  
ZNE



Urban  
Mining



How do we use the resources of the planet?

The items of daily life are heavier than we think:



**Jeans**

**0.8 kg**

**32 kg**



**Cell**

**0.3 kg**

**500 kg**



**Desktop**

**5 kg**

**1500 kg**



**Gold ring**

**0.005 kg**

**2000 kg**

**Product-weight**

**Ecological Backpack**

Source: Schmidt-Bleek 2000, *Das MIPS-Konzept*, Droemer Knauer, München

Urban Mining

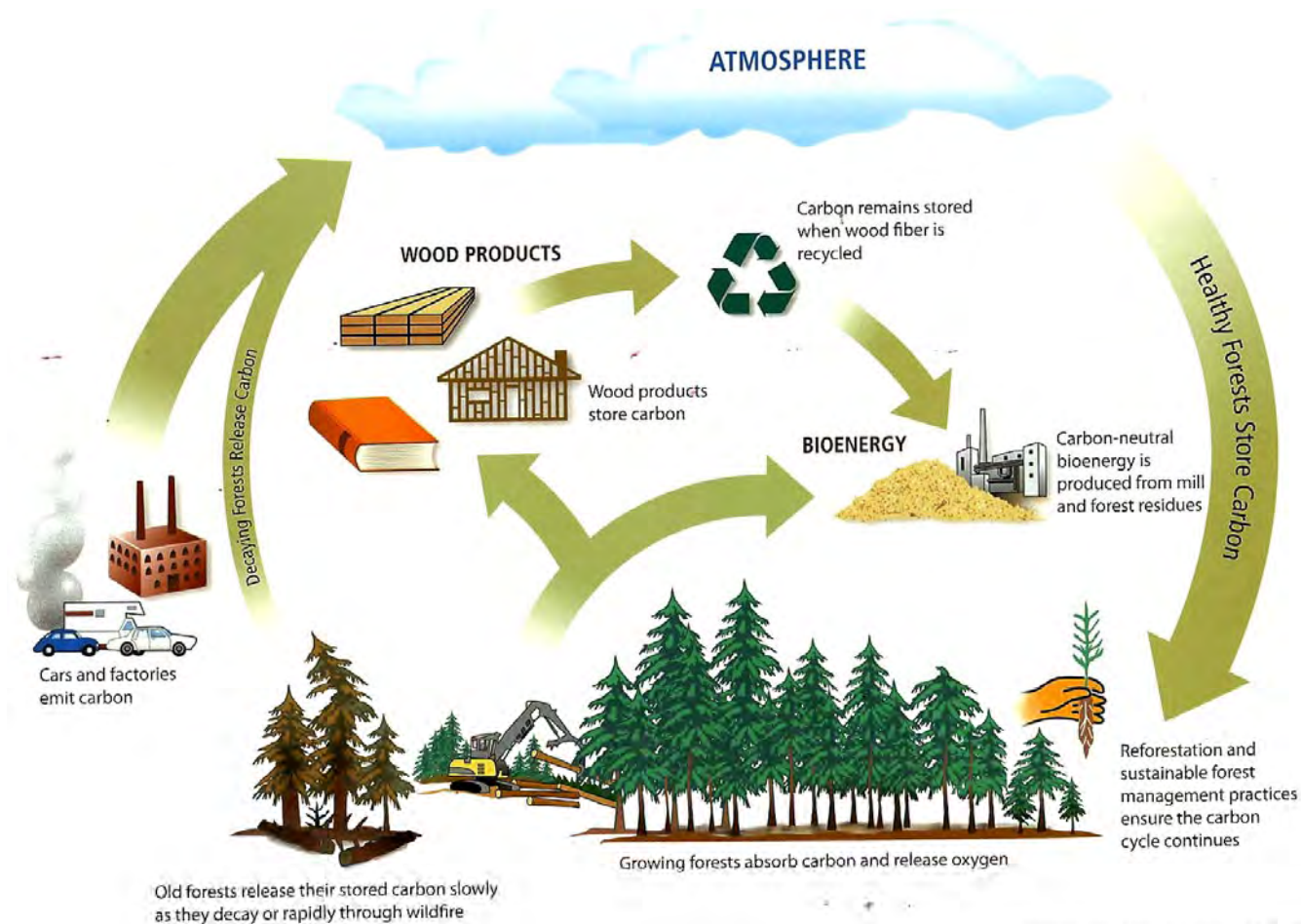
# Urban Mining: rubble is valuable.

You do not have to go to great lengths to produce something that already exists: the term urban mining is becoming significantly more relevant in the field of sustainable building.



# MATERIAL SELECTION

## FORESTRY CARBON CYCLE – IT'S SUSTAINABLE



*Adapted from California Forest Products Commission*

# MANUFACTURING

## ENGINEERED, HIGH PERFORMANCE TIMBER PRODUCTS



Glue laminated timber



Finger jointed framing lumber



Structural members



Cross Laminated Timber

# OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION

## ASSEMBLE AND FABRICATE COMPONENTS



Computer Numerical Control (CNC)  
wood working machinery



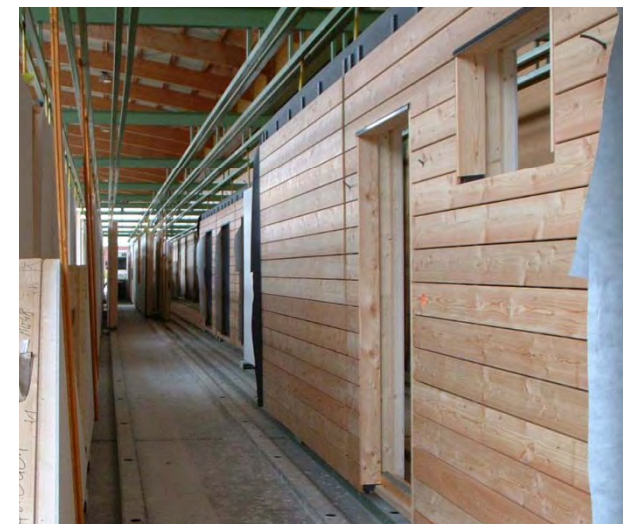
Precision workmanship



Assemble on Tables



Flip components over



Assemble completed wall,  
floor and roof components

# ON-SITE CONSTRUCTION ASSEMBLE COMPONENTS AND ERECT



Wall components



Floor components



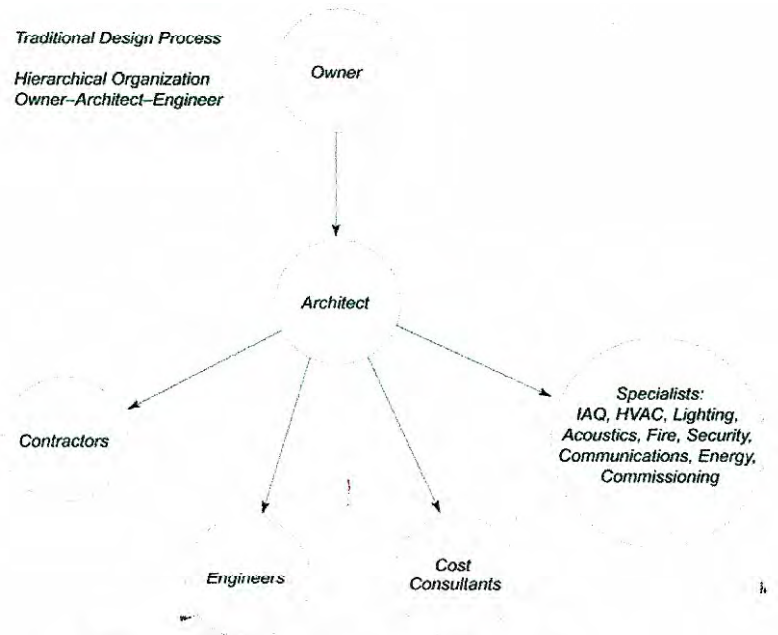
Roof components



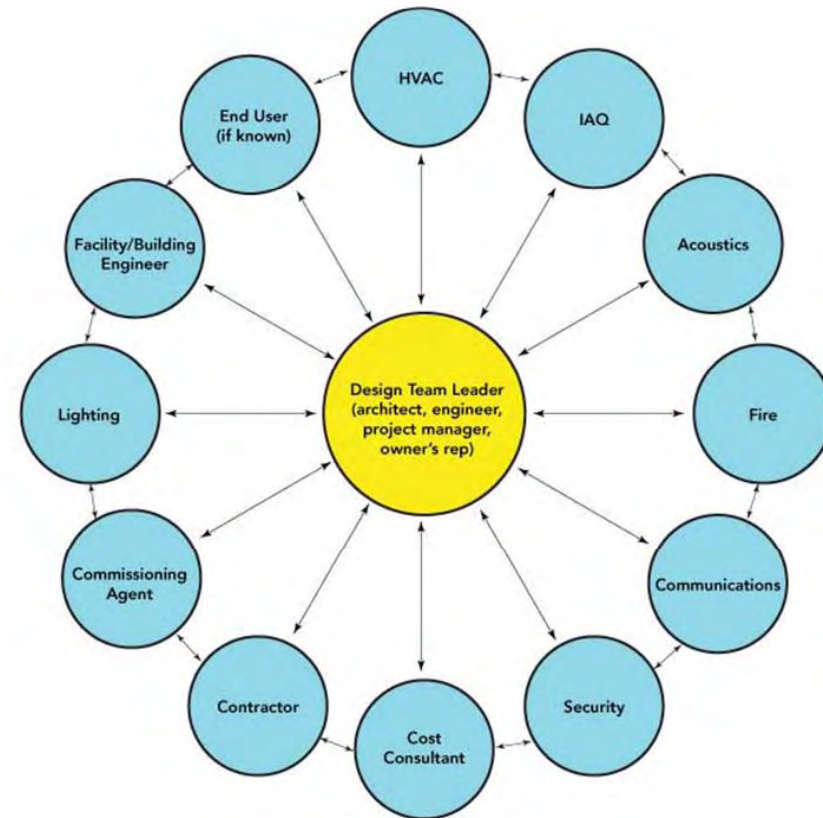
Mechanical system components

# PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

# TRADITIONAL METHODS OF DELIVERING BUILDINGS



**Figure 2-1 Traditional Project Design Team**  
Adapted from ASHRAE (2009)



TRADITIONAL METHOD  
DESIGN – BID - BUILD

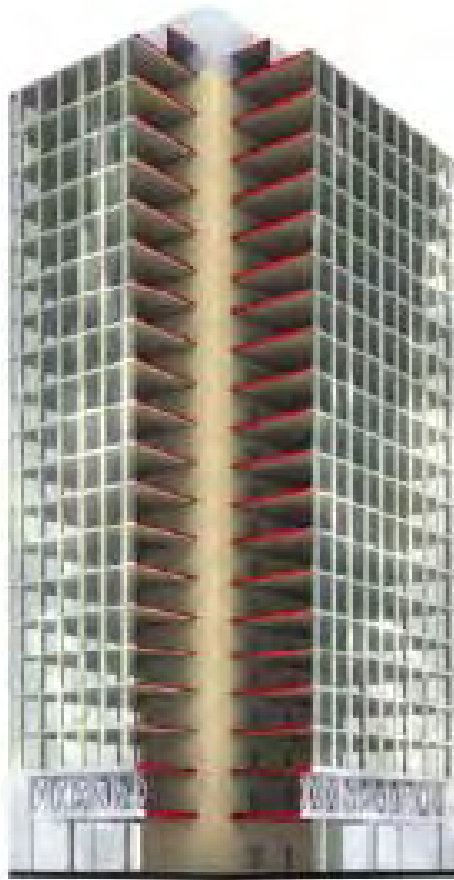
INTEGRATED DESIGN PROCESS



# DESIGN / BUILD SYSTEM APPROACH

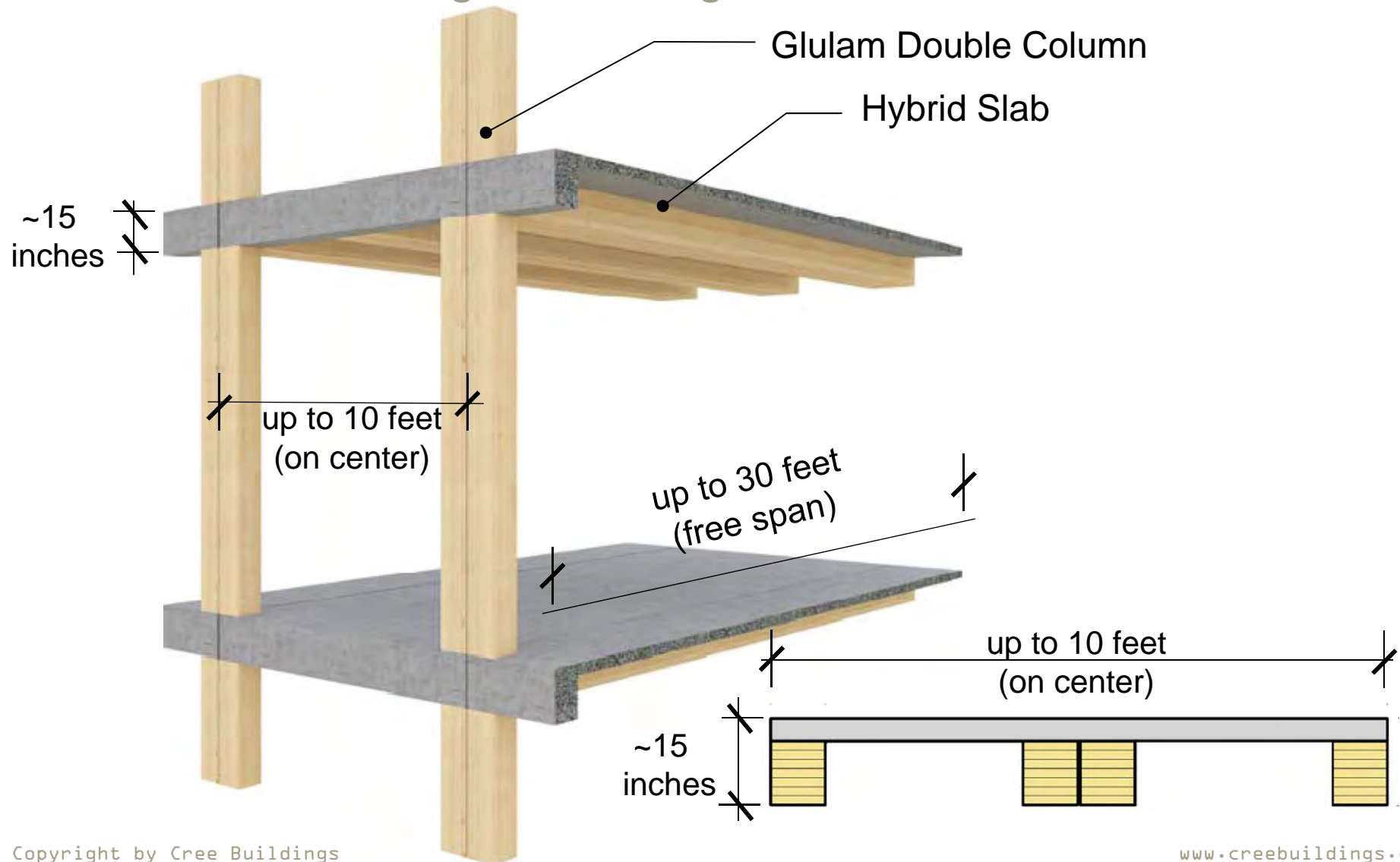
## Cree's in-house Integrated Design Process

Core



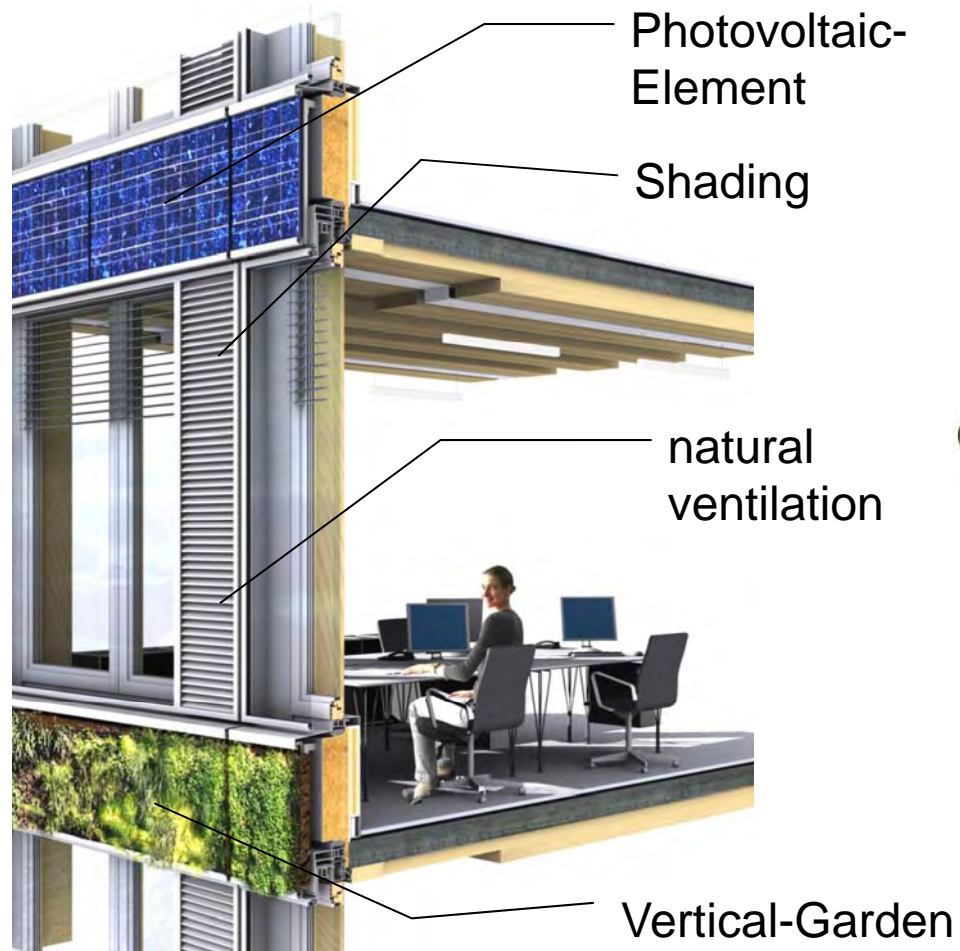
# DESIGN / BUILD SYSTEM APPROACH

## Cree's in-house Integrated Design Process

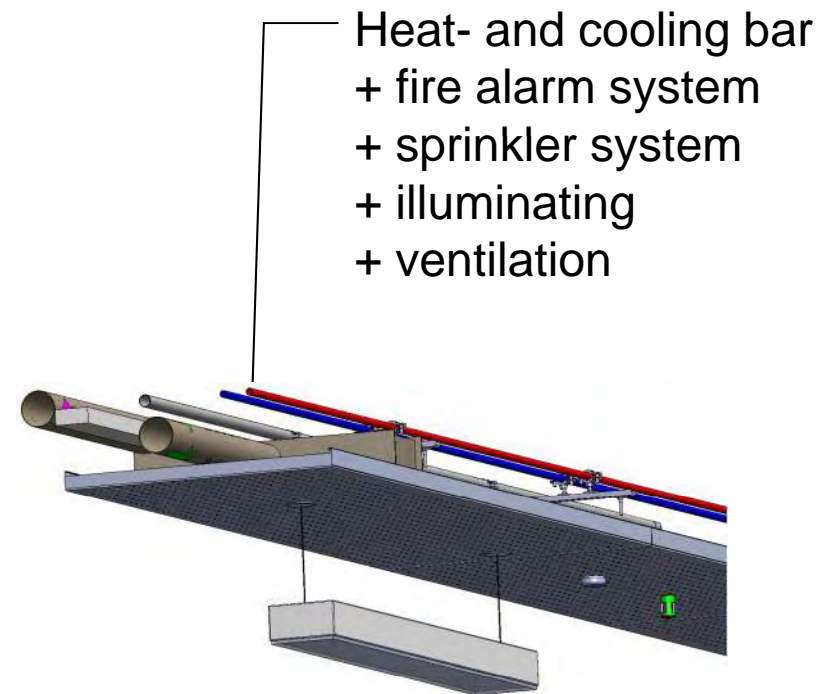


# DESIGN / BUILD SYSTEM APPROACH

## Facades



## MEP



## SLAB DESIGN



TESTED SYSTEM IN EUROPE -  
MAY OBTAIN ICC CERTIFICATION FOR USA



# LCT ONE

# A Case Study

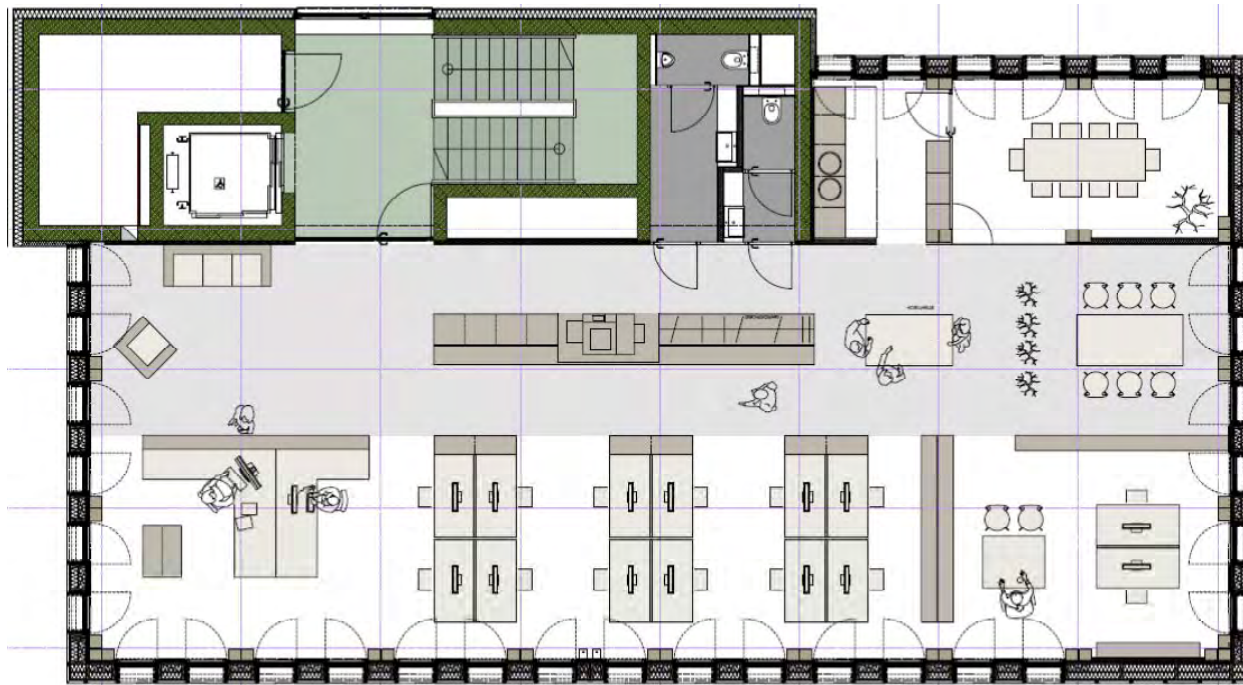
## OFFICE BUILDING LCT ONE

Height: 8 stories  
FA: app. 17,000 ft<sup>2</sup>











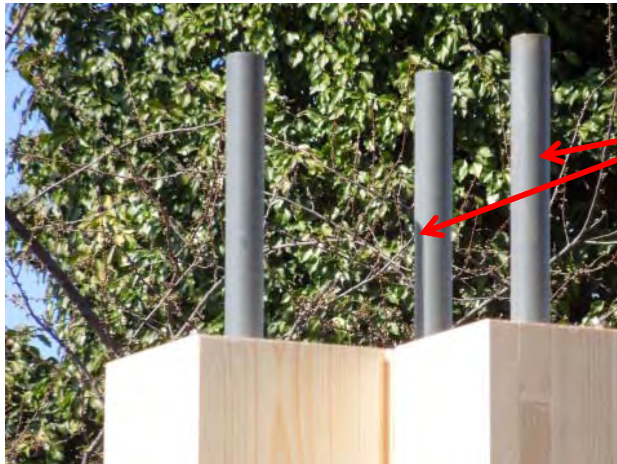
# LCT ONE



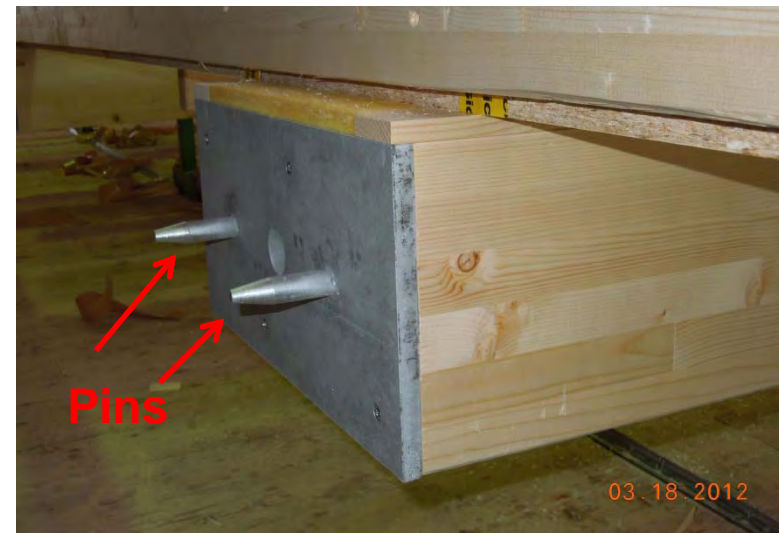
# OFF-SITE - PREFABRICATION – hybrid wood / concrete floor slabs



# OFF-SITE - PREFABRICATION – Load Bearing Posts



Tubes



Pins

# ON-SITE — INSTALL WALLS — Ground floor



# INSTALL — FLOOR SLABS



# INSTALL — FLOOR SLABS THROUGH TUBES AND PINS



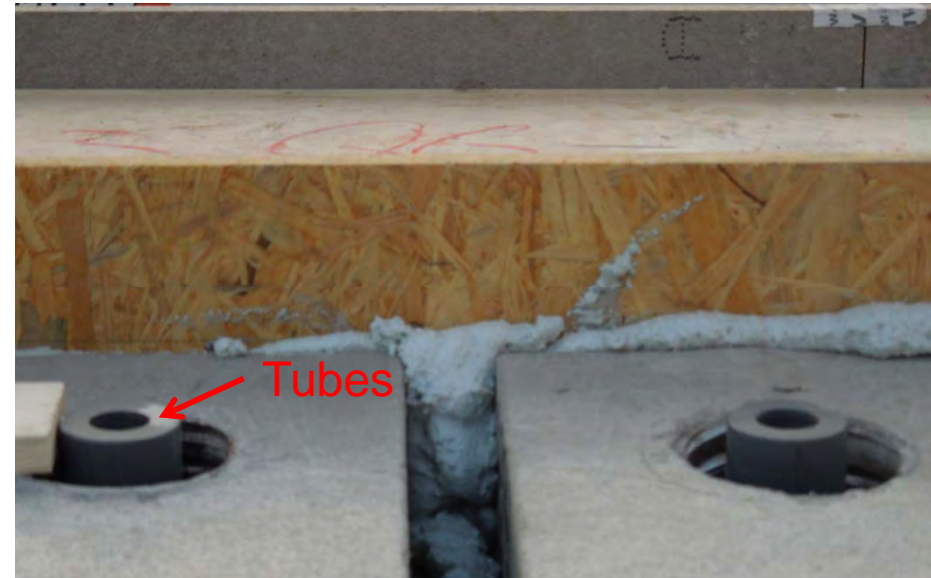
Close up



Close up



# TUBES - PROTRUDING ON TOP OF SLABS



# INTERIOR — Exposed timber — watertight and airtight





# OTHER PROJECTS

**OFFICE BUILDING  
IZM Montafon**

Length: 420 ft

Width: 65 ft

Height: 5 stories

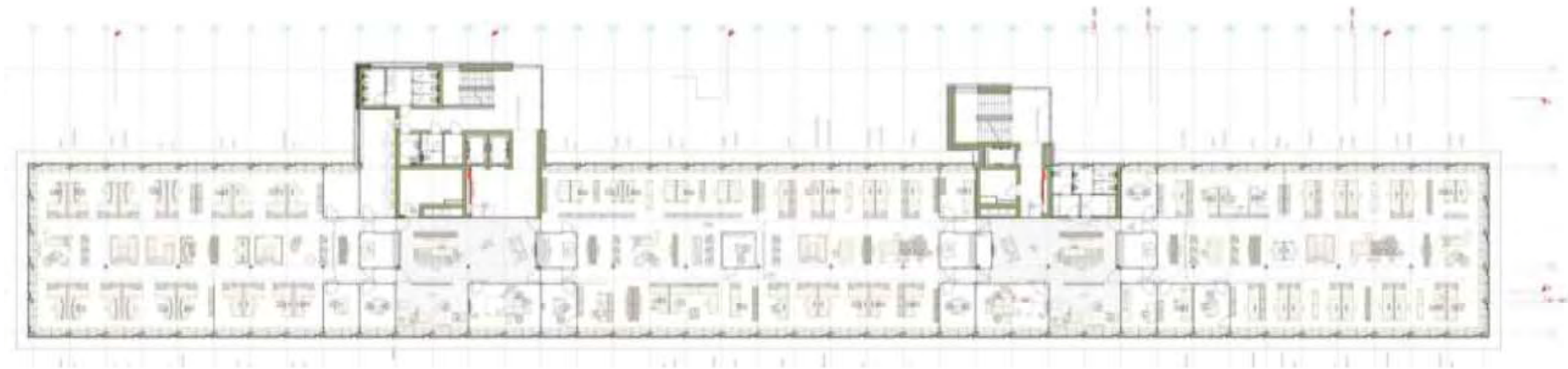
FA: 107,000 ft<sup>2</sup>



## OFFICE BUILDING IZM Montafon



Architect:  
Hermann Kaufmann –  
winner of international  
design competition using  
this system approach





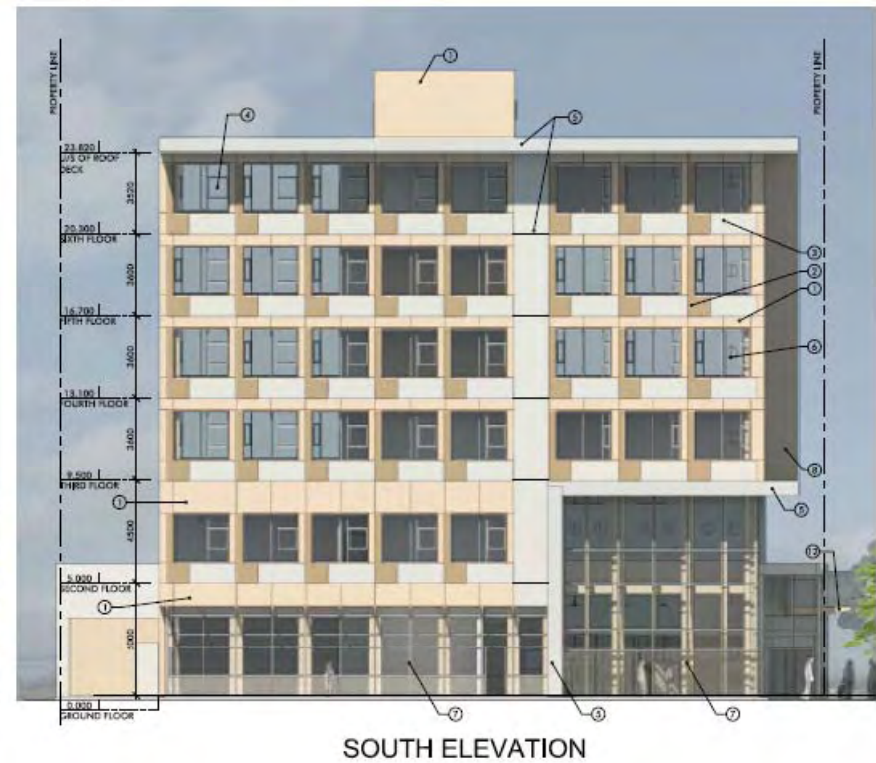








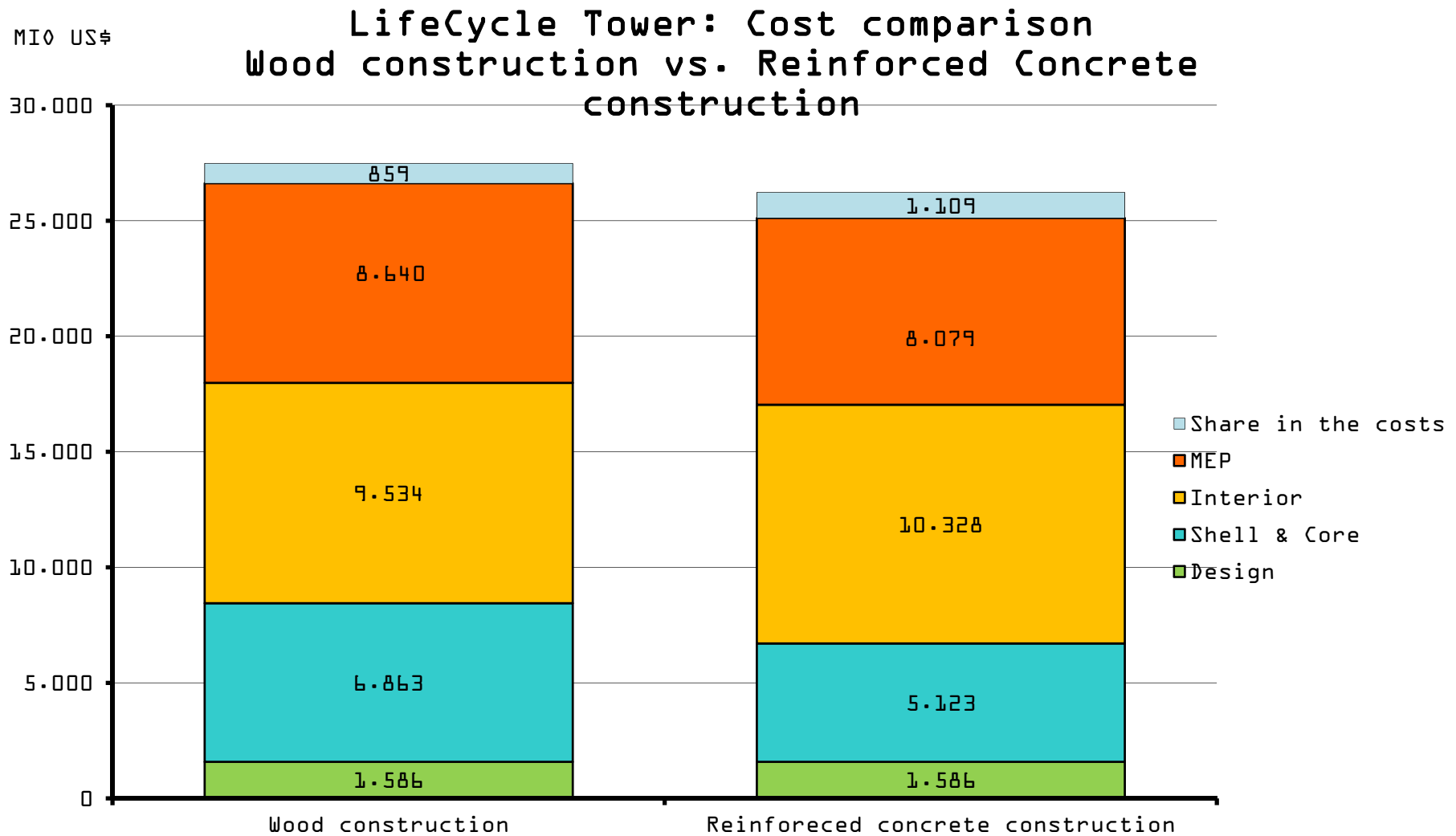






# PERFORMANCE

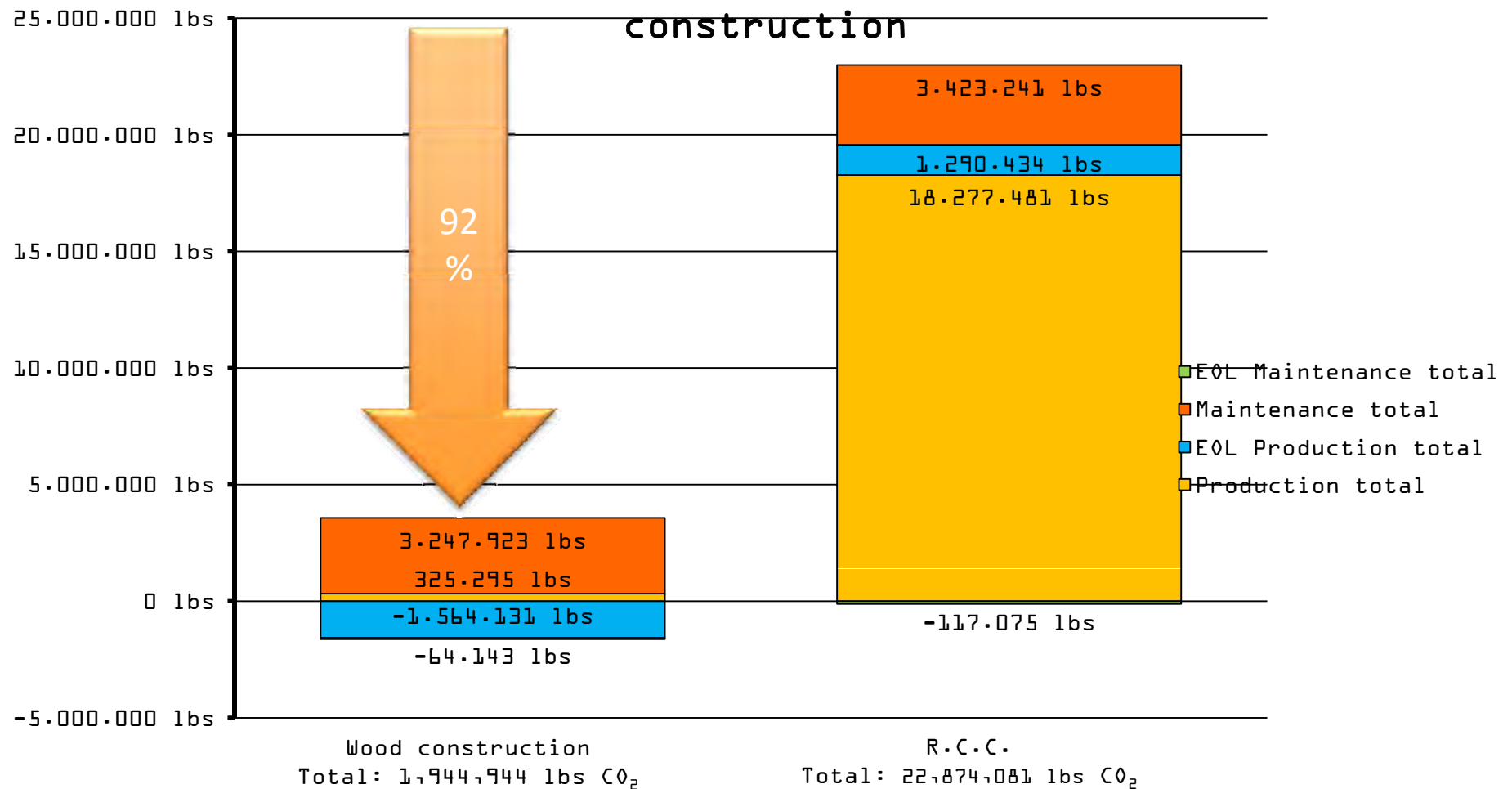
# COST COMPARISON





# CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS

LifeCycle Tower: CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents  
Wood construction / Reinforced Concrete  
construction



# CURRENT TRENDS IN THE WOOD INDUSTRY



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 All B.C. Government  Housing and Construction Standards

B.C. Home

Ministry Home

Home

**Building and Safety Standards**

[Building and Fire Codes](#)

[Modern Building](#)

## Ministry of Energy and Mines Office of Housing and Construction Standards



### Residential Mid-Rise Wood-Frame Code Change

In May of 2008, Minister Rich Coleman announced government's intention to increase the maximum height for wood-frame residential construction from four to six storeys. These new BC Building Code requirements were approved in January 2009 and become effective April 6, 2009 giving the residential construction sector time to prepare for implementation.

#### New Provision # 1 – Building Height Clause 3.2.2.45.(1)(B) & (C)

##### Summary

This code change for building height requires that buildings built under 3.2.2.45 are less than 18 metres to the uppermost floor level of the top storey, which precludes the use of top floor mezzanines to achieve additional height without triggering high building requirements.

##### **3.2.2.45. Group C, up to 6 Storeys, Sprinklered**

**1)** A building classified as Group C is permitted to conform to Sentence (2) provided

**b)** it is not more than 6 storeys in building height, and

**c)** has a maximum height of less than 18 m measured between grade and the uppermost floor level of the top storey, and

**USDA** **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release No. 0143.11

Contact:  
Office of Communications (202)720-4623

**USDA Leads the Way on Green Buildings, Use of Wood Products**

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2011 -- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today USDA's strategy to promote the use of wood as a green building material. At an event this evening to launch the International Year of the Forest, Secretary Vilsack will lay out a three-part plan addressing the Forest Service's and USDA's current green building practices.

Strategies:

- U. S. Forest Service will preferentially select wood in new building construction.
- U.S. Forest Service will ...demonstrate the innovative use of wood as a green building material for all new structures of 10,000 square feet or more...
- “Our country has the resources, the work force and the innovative spirit to reintroduce wood products into all aspects of the next generation of buildings”, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell
- A recent Forest Service lifecycle analysis found that harvesting, transporting, manufacturing and using wood in lumber and panel products in building yields fewer air emissions – including greenhouse gases – than resource extraction, manufacturing and using other commonly-used building materials. In fact, wood based wall systems can require significantly less total energy for manufacturing than thermally comparable buildings using other common material systems.



## Timber facades – Cross Laminated timber



## Forte Building – 10 stories in Melbourne, Australia

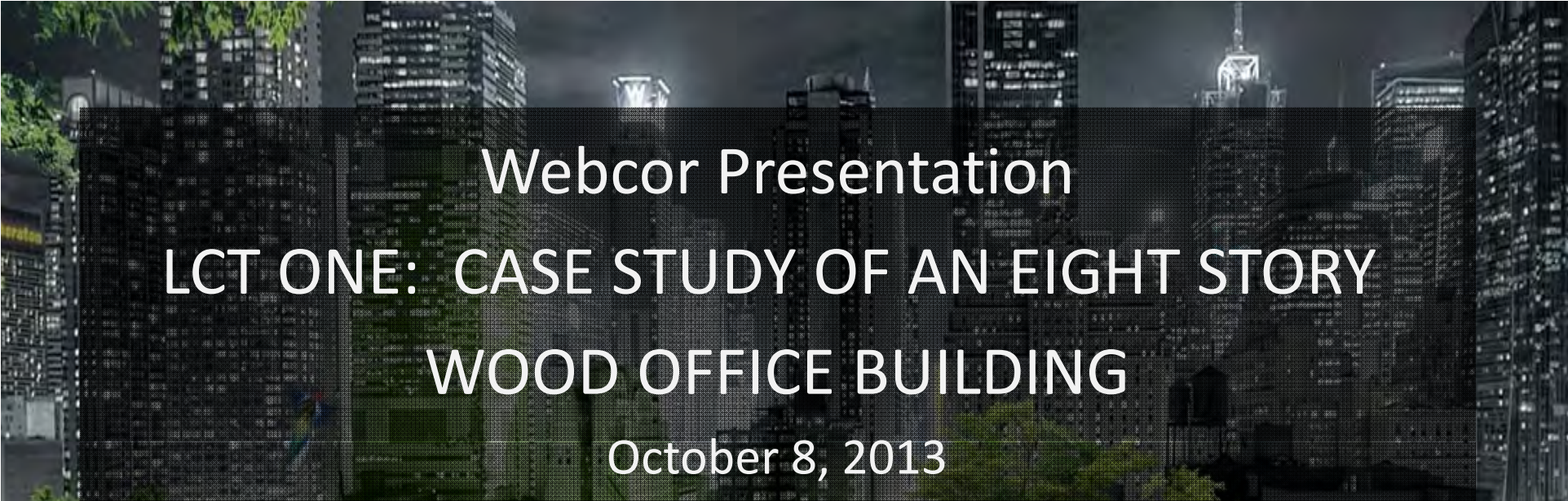


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# CREE IS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS

- DEVELOP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
- START UP PRODUCTION FACILITY
- ADAPT TECHNICAL SOLUTION TO LOCAL BUILDING REGULATIONS
- DEVELOP A RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM
- OPTIMIZE COSTS





# Webcor Presentation

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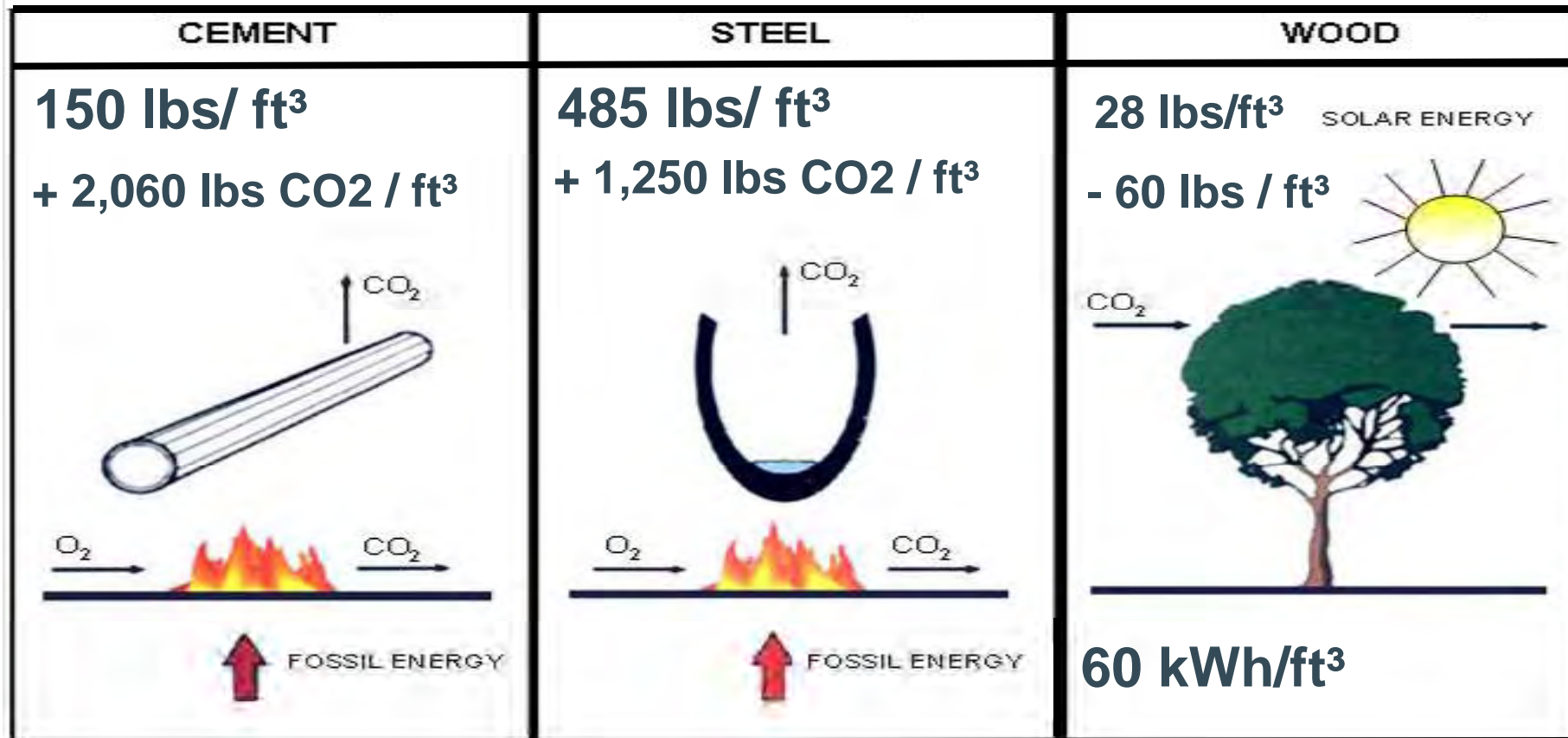
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The Natural Change in Urban Architecture

# Embodied Energy

Compare Concrete – Steel - Wood



**142 kWh/ft<sup>3</sup>**

**250 kWh/ft<sup>3</sup>**

**5 kWh/ft<sup>3</sup>**