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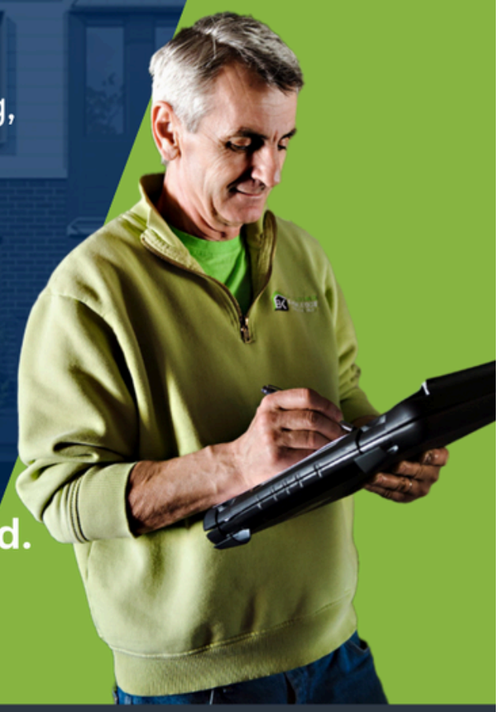

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Editor's Note

PAUL JONES



Pivoine
The delicacy of a flower, captured in light

In this issue we feature The Pivoine Collection. French for Peony, captures the delicate elegance and organic movement of blooming flowers. Each luminaire reflects the soft curves and layered textures of petals, bringing natural beauty and timeless grace to any space.

On the building front, we bring the second instalment of a two-part series detailing how Graham Construction built The Lawson Centre for Sustainability at the University of Toronto with our interview with Sustainability Manager Radek Pilarski.

On the architectural scope, we spotlight Intervalle - a project that embodies a contemporary vision of Quebec's lakeside living — where architecture and nature meet in a moment of balance and stillness. For those stories and more, keeping scrolling on, as we continue to Build Canada.



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Net Zero Builder

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: In this course, participants learn the latest developments on approaches to Net Zero/Ready Homes focused on optimizing performance and costs. Attendees will gain insight into Net Zero/Ready design principles, equipment options, emerging technologies, and construction practices.

WHO IT'S FOR: Builders and site supervisors aiming to deliver Net Zero Homes.

Net Zero Renovator

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: In this course, participants learn the latest developments on approaches to Net Zero/Ready renovations focused on ensuring customer comfort and satisfaction. Attendees will review the Net Zero/Ready design principles, equipment options, emerging technologies, and construction practices and learn to identify effective strategies to renovate existing homes to Net Zero performance levels.

WHO IT'S FOR: Renovators committed to energy-efficient retrofits.

Net Zero For Building Officials

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: You'll explore technical aspects such as wall assemblies, building envelopes and ventilation systems that underlie the Net Zero Home Labelling Program (and that meet and can exceed the National Building Code 2020 9.36 Tier 4 compliance).

WHO IT'S FOR: Municipal building officials and inspectors preparing for tiered codes.

Net Zero Market Advantage

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Participants will explore the evolution of high-performance housing in Canada, understand the drivers behind energy-efficient homebuilding, and learn how to communicate the benefits of Net Zero Homes to diverse buyer segments.

WHO IT'S FOR: Builders, renovators, and sales professionals looking to stand out and attract energy-conscious clients.

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Pivoine Collection

The delicacy of a flower, captured in light.

The Pivoine Collection, French for Peony, captures the delicate elegance and organic movement of blooming flowers. Each luminaire reflects the soft curves and layered textures of petals, bringing natural beauty and timeless grace to any space.

Pivoine evokes a sense of calm and quiet poetry. Designed to suit both residential and commercial settings, it offers a warm, softened glow. PAGE 70



ON THE COVER

Pivoine is designed to enhance both residential and commercial interiors, creating a warm, refined atmosphere.. Story, page 70.

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Nestled on a steep site overlooking Lake Fournelle in Saint-Hippolyte. PAGE 40

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A place where education, and creativity, come together under one roof. PAGE 62

THE PIVOINE COLLECTION
Capturing the delicate elegance and organic movement of blooming flowers. PAGE 70

JCB Construction Canada Appoints Jean-Christophe Caron as Vice President, Preconstruction

JCB Construction Canada is proud to announce the appointment of Jean-Christophe Caron as Vice President, Preconstruction, a strategic leadership role at the core of the company's future growth and market positioning.



Having joined JCB in 2018 as an Estimator, Jean-Christophe quickly distinguished himself through his in-depth knowledge of the construction industry, strong analytical skills, and ability to develop highperformance estimating strategies. Throughout his career at JCB, he has estimated billions of square feet and generated millions of dollars in savings for our clients through rigorous value engineering analyses. He was subsequently appointed Chief Estimator in 2022, then Director of Estimation in 2023, and was integrated into the company's shareholding plan in 2023, recognizing his outstanding contribution to JCB's growth.

A graduate in Civil Engineering Technology, Jean-Christophe is a seasoned manager with over 18 years of experience in the construction industry. Jean-Christophe will oversee and optimize all activities related to the preconstruction phase, including business development, strategic marketing, and project estimating.

When office design principles inspire a restaurant interior in the heart of Longueuil

blanchette archi.design unveils the Siège Social bistro and Café Social, an interior design project located on the ground floor of 1111 Saint-Charles Street West in Longueuil. Commissioned by Groupe Mercille, and carried out by PR



Desjardins, this new hybrid space extends and transforms the experience of the office tower's existing lobby, toughtfully reinterpreting the architectural and aesthetic codes of corporate environments from the 1960s and 1970s.
Conceived as a natural extension of the postmodern lobby, the project revisits the formal strictness and rationality characteristic of that era, translating them into a contemporary, warm, and welcoming experience. A cross between a café, a bistro, and a social space, the venue is anchored in its tertiary context, while offering a new culture of uses within the workplace.

DEERE ACQUIRES EQUIPMENT TRACKING PLATFORM TENNA

John Deere announced Dec. 22 it plans to wholly acquire New Hope, Pa.-based Tenna, a construction technology provider that offers fleet management and asset tracking software, from the Conti Group for an undisclosed amount. Tenna's platform is designed to automate and optimize construction operation workflows through better management of equipment and other assets. The company's software products allow equipment owners to monitor their machines in near real-time and track telematics data for repair and maintenance planning across multiple manufacturers.

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Committee endorses next steps for new paramedic facility

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee today approved advancing a public-private partnership (P3) procurement process to build a new Ottawa Paramedic Service West Deployment Facility(link is external) that will support growth and evolving service demands. A second major facility in the west end would address these pressures by adding space for staff, vehicles and equipment, improving response times in the west and south of Ottawa, and providing infrastructure to support uninterrupted emergency services. It would also strengthen the service's deployment model, helping paramedics reach residents more quickly and efficiently across the city. Following a detailed analysis, the Design, Build, Finance, Maintain (DBFM) procurement model was identified as the preferred delivery approach, allowing project costs to be spread over 30 years and enabling the City to access additional provincial funding through the Land Ambulance Services Grant Agreement.

The Triple Bottom Line of Structural Materials

WSP, mcCallumSather and ArcelorMittal unveiled the results of a theoretical case study at The Buildings Show in December, which showed the costs and sustainability of using steel, concrete or timber are similar for a typical 12-storey, 287,000-sf, L-shaped residential condominium tower in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
A conference session titled 'The Triple Bottom Line of Structural Materials: Cost, Speed and Life Cycle Assessment' featured Brant Oldershaw, P.Eng., WSP's director of structural, mechanical and electrical engineering for Southwestern Ontario. WSP and mcCallumSather joined steel producer ArcelorMittal's Steligence program to model and compare the performance of different building materials for the same theoretical project. Consulting engineering firms RJC and MTE also contributed to the project's structural details.

Arcadis Karen Cvornyek first female CEO

Arcadis has announced the appointment of Karen Cvornyek, a globally distinguished commercial and institutional architect, as Canada East Business Unit Director within its Architecture and Urbanism practice.



Karen Cvornyek, B.E.S, B.Arch, OAA, FRAIC

Arcadis has announced the appointment of Karen Cvornyek, a globally distinguished commercial and institutional architect, as Canada East Business Unit Director within its Architecture and Urbanism practice.

In her new role, Cvornyek will work closely with Canada West Business Unit Director Lauren Macaulay and the broader management team, forming Arcadis' first women-led Architecture & Urbanism leadership team in Canada.

Cvornyek's portfolio spans mixed-use, hospitality, retail, residential, education, and healthcare projects for both public and private clients. Prior to joining Arcadis, she worked at KPMB, Global Affairs Canada, and KiiA Architecture, where she led projects in Canada and across the globe. In 2002, Cvornyek joined B+H Architects as the firm's first female Partner, before being promoted to lead the firm's Shanghai studio in 2003.

From there, she became the President for the firm's growing Asia practice in 2008, overseeing B+H's professional staff of over 300 architects and expanding the firm's presence in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam.

Cvornyek's additional experience in strategic planning and business development strategy, coupled with her focus on innovating architectural practices and developing alternative housing solutions to address urban challenges, positions her to play a critical role in advancing the firm's growth and design leadership across Canada.



Canada's construction industry poised for growth amid policy shifts and cost pressures

Latest economic data highlights positive growth indicators for Canada's construction industry, outpacing other Canadian industries, despite an ongoing rise in construction costs and supply chain disruptions.

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) released its winter edition of its Construction Quarterly Economic Insights (CQEI) report, showing a growth in construction GDP output of 1.3 per cent in Q3 2025, successfully outpacing the all-industry average and setting the stage for continued advancement.

"The opportunities ahead for our industry are significant, but so are the risks," said Rodrigue Gilbert, CCA's President. "Investments from the federal government will drive growth, but rising costs and workforce constraints will continue to limit the industry's ability to unlock its full potential and deliver on Canada's ambitious construction agenda."

Facing the end of 2025, the Building Construction Price Index (BCPI) increased 4.2 per cent year-over-year in Q3, with increases particularly driven by metal fabrications, structural steel, and plumbing. Canadian jurisdictions most affected by cost increases were noted as London, (ON) and Quebec City (QC). Additionally, the cost of factory construction increased by 5.7 per cent, while the cost of office building increased by 3.2 per cent.

The 2025 federal budget, published in November 2025, presented $89.7 billion in net new measures over the next five years, with $32.5 billion being classified as capital investments. In total, CCA noted approximately $32 billion in new construction-related spending earmarked over the next five years.
"2025 was a very strong year for our industry and we're looking forward to building on that progress to build the Canada that Canadians deserve," said Gilbert. "Together, we'll keep building Canada."

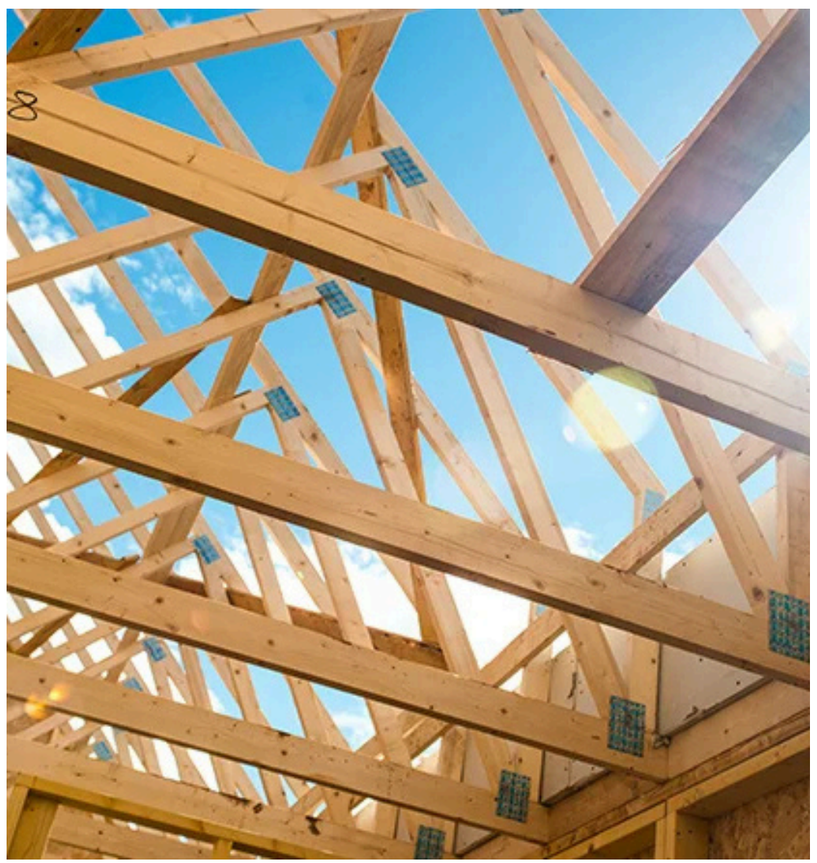
EXTECH's LIGHTWALL systems enhance the aesthetic, performance, and sustainability of commercial buildings

LIGHTWALL system helps construction teams facing condensed schedules, and facility managers seeking low-maintenance longevity.

Three polycarbonate glazing options are available for the LIGHTWALL 3440® interlocking translucent wall panel system from Exterior Technologies, Inc. (EXTECH): Anti-Reflective, Infrared-Blocking and Anti-Graffiti. *Anti-Reflective* – When high-efficient light transmission is paramount for a building's design, EXTECH offers anti-reflective polycarbonate glazing. Systems using this UV matte option facilitate a better distribution of light throughout a building's interior, while reducing reflections and glare. *Infrared (IR) blocking* – When high light levels and solar control are equally important, EXTECH provides polycarbonate glazing with an external surface that filters out unwanted IR and UV waves. EXTECH systems use this material to reduce solar heat gain, ensure comfortable interior temperatures, protect interior finishes from accelerated fading, reduce demand on the HVAC system and save on electric lighting costs. *Anti-Graffiti* – When a project is in a high-traffic area and is at risk of damage or vandalism, EXTECH can enhance daylighting systems with anti-graffiti glazing that resists vandalism and scratching. Anti-graffiti glazing is also more resistant to natural weathering and typical chemicals, and is easier to clean.









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NEWS



Construction outlook remains strong despite ongoing pressures

Canada's construction industry is entering 2026 with cautious optimism, buoyed by steady economic growth and significant public-sector investment, but tempered by persistent cost pressures and capacity constraints. According to the CCA's Winter 2026 Construction Quarterly Economic Insights (CQEI) report, construction GDP grew 1.3 per cent in Q3 2025, outperforming the all-industry average and reinforcing the sector's role as a key economic driver.

Critical Risks Guideline designed to prevent serious injuries and fatalities

The new guideline highlights 13 critical risks to worker safety and provides safe start checks (SSC) to mitigate these risks.

"Safety is a shared responsibility, not a tool for competitive advantage," says Ryan Tones, President, Peter Kiewit Sons ULC. "This guideline draws on the combined expertise of our member companies and reinforces our commitment to transparency and collaboration in making our industry safer for everyone."

for everyone." SSCs are designed to encourage workers to have empowering conversations about what performing a task involving critical risks really means and what they need to do to ensure work begins in a safe, controlled and hazard-aware manner. Anyone performing work is encouraged to adopt a go/no-go approach to ensure work doesn't begin until the proper controls and safeguards are in place.

Canadian Paint Forecast 2026: Green Pastures Ahead

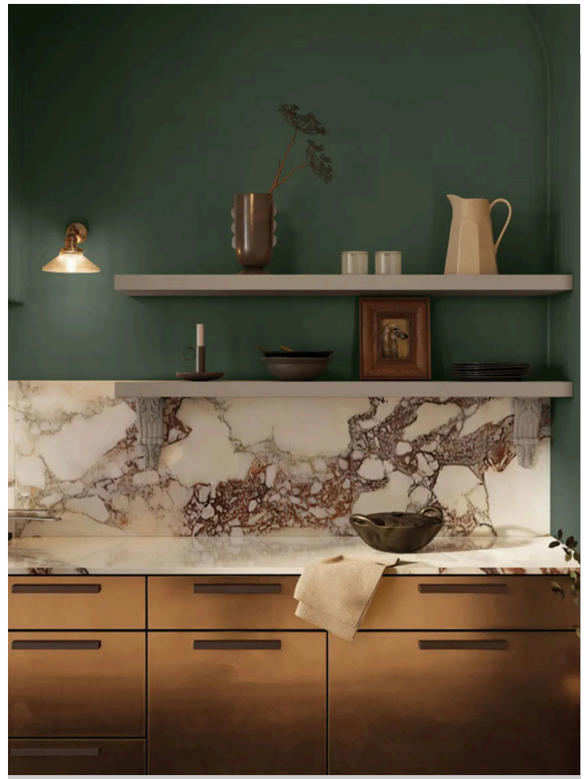
DULUX® PAINTS Names Pine Forest as 2026 Canadian Colour of the Year.

Canadians may have a patriotic fondness for the country's official colour red, but when it comes to indoor living spaces, green will be getting their love in 2026. Think of nature-infused deep green, reminiscent of our country's vast and lush forests.

That's the message of leading Canadian paint brand Dulux paints in unveiling Pine Forest (DLX1134-7) as its 2026 Canadian Colour of the Year. This marks the first time the brand has identified a distinct Canadian – rather than global – forecast for the year's most popular colour.

"Canadian patriotism is at an all-time high, so we thought it only fitting as a Proudly Canadian brand to identify a colour of the year that best reflects Canadian sentiments and directions," said Mitsu Dhawan, Marketing Director for Dulux.

To select the most popular trending colour, Dulux paints brought together Canadian design, decor and colour experts from across the country for a full-day workshop to represent Canadian perspectives from coast to coast to coast. The group built on international colour and design trend forecasts, identifying green as the most emerging shade reflective of Canadians' tastes, usage and affiliation with pride.



"Pine Forest is a grounding, serene evergreen tone, rooted in the resilient spirit of the forest, and emanating a sense of optimism, strength and renewal," Dhawan said. "With about 40% of Canada's geography covered in forests, green shades are truly representative of our country and are on the cusp of becoming a sustainable and enduring trend in home decor."
For more information about Dulux's 2026, visit www.dulux.ca.



Lifetime Developments and Diamondcorp break ground on landmark Q Tower

This milestone marks the start of a project with an estimated cost of construction of over $640 million dollars, with more than $295 million in city-building contributions, and is set to inject millions more into the economy and create hundreds of jobs across construction, trades, and related industries.

With construction set to finish by early 2030, Q Tower will be delivered at a pivotal moment, coinciding with a projected surge in demand for well-located, high-quality condominiums along with a considerable housing shortfall as already identified by the Ontario Housing Minister and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

"Ontario needs more housing, and homebuilders like Lifetime Developments and DiamondCorp are delivering," says Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Through the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act and most recently, Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, we are creating the conditions to get more shovels in the ground on much-needed projects like this that will open up opportunities for Ontario families." Designed by acclaimed firms Wallman Archiects and interiors by U31, Q Tower will feature 980 residential suites with sweeping views of the city skyline and Lake Ontario.

EllisDon Selected as Construction Contractor for the UHNBC Acute Care Tower Phase 1 Project

EllisDon will be the construction contractor for the Alliance Development Phase of the UHNBC Acute Care Tower Phase 1 project.

This initial phase of the budgeted $1.579B project will continue through to the end of 2026 and will include Alliance development, design and early works to ready the site for construction of the new facility in 2027 and opening for patients in 2031.

The much-needed care tower will feature 211 rooms, and will help to expand vital cardiac, surgical, and mental health programs. With state-of-the-art areas that feature specialized health services, 12 new operating suites, perioperative services, and landscaped outdoor spaces, the hospital will provide a uniquely innovative space where community-centric healthcare can be effectively administered.

“The Acute Care Tower project at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia is a landmark achievement under the Alliance Model that unites expertise and mutual accountability,” said Michael Kazda, Senior Vice President & Project Director, EllisDon. “This expansion is a lifeline for the community, a hub for specialized health services, and a cornerstone for teaching and innovation that will shape the future of care in Northern B.C. We look forward to working alongside our Alliance Partners; Northern Health, DIALOG Design, PML Professional Mechanical Ltd., and Houle Electric as part of this exceptional team delivering lasting impact.”

The project is being delivered through an innovative Alliance Model that is relatively new to the industry. This delivery method emphasizes cooperation and shared accountability between teams, allowing them to work together on a best for project basis to bring this new hospital to life.

EllisDon, together with its Alliance Partners, is excited to work with Northern Health and Infrastructure BC to advance the UHNBC Acute Care Tower project through the development phase and beyond. This milestone marks a step toward delivering a modern, patient-focused hospital that will transform care for Northern B.C. communities.

Canada and China Forge Mass Timber Agreement

The agreement involves collaboration and joint research focused on utilizing wood construction for high-rise buildings.

Canada and China reached a preliminary strategic partnership agreement that marks a significant thaw in relations, focusing on trade-offs between electric vehicles (EVs), agriculture, and specialized construction sectors.

Wood Construction and Green Building MOU

- Key Deal: The B.C. Forests Ministry, alongside federal partners, signed a five-year, non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China to promote modern wood construction for green buildings.

- Goal: To integrate mass timber and wood-frame technology into Chinese urban/rural developments and build a supply chain for wood construction.

- Context: This is aimed at bolstering B.C.'s lumber sector and exploring carbon-neutral building techniques.

Energy Infrastructure Cooperation

- The deal includes cooperation on clean and conventional energy, with potential for Chinese investment in Canadian energy projects, including offshore wind and modernization of power grids.
- Discussions also cover potential collaboration on CANDU nuclear reactors.

Steel and Aluminum Remissions (Construction Materials)

- Canada is extending its tariff-remission program for specific Chinese steel and aluminum products through to the end of 2026.
- Impact: This covers 66 product lines in short supply domestically, ensuring duty relief for materials needed by Canadian constructors where local alternatives are unavailable.

Key Context of the 2026 Deal

The Trade-Off: Canada agreed to let 49,000 Chinese EVs annually enter at a reduced 6.1% tariff (down from 100%), in exchange for China lowering duties on Canadian canola and other agricultural products.

Strategic Shift: The deal signals a move to diversify trade and reduce reliance on the US, driven by Prime Minister Mark Carney's efforts to build new international partnerships.

VOLVO ECR355 EXCAVATOR

New generation upgrades to the 35-ton Volvo ECR355 short swing excavator bring faster cycle times and smoother precision for trenching and backfilling, with increased fuel savings over the previous model.



Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE) is launching the latest evolution in its short swing radius excavator range. Addressing key productivity challenges such as tight-space operation and demanding lifting needs, the new ECR355 delivers greater fuel efficiency, increased lifting performance, and enhanced operator comfort. Purpose-built for the building and utilities sectors, it helps customers achieve more with less.

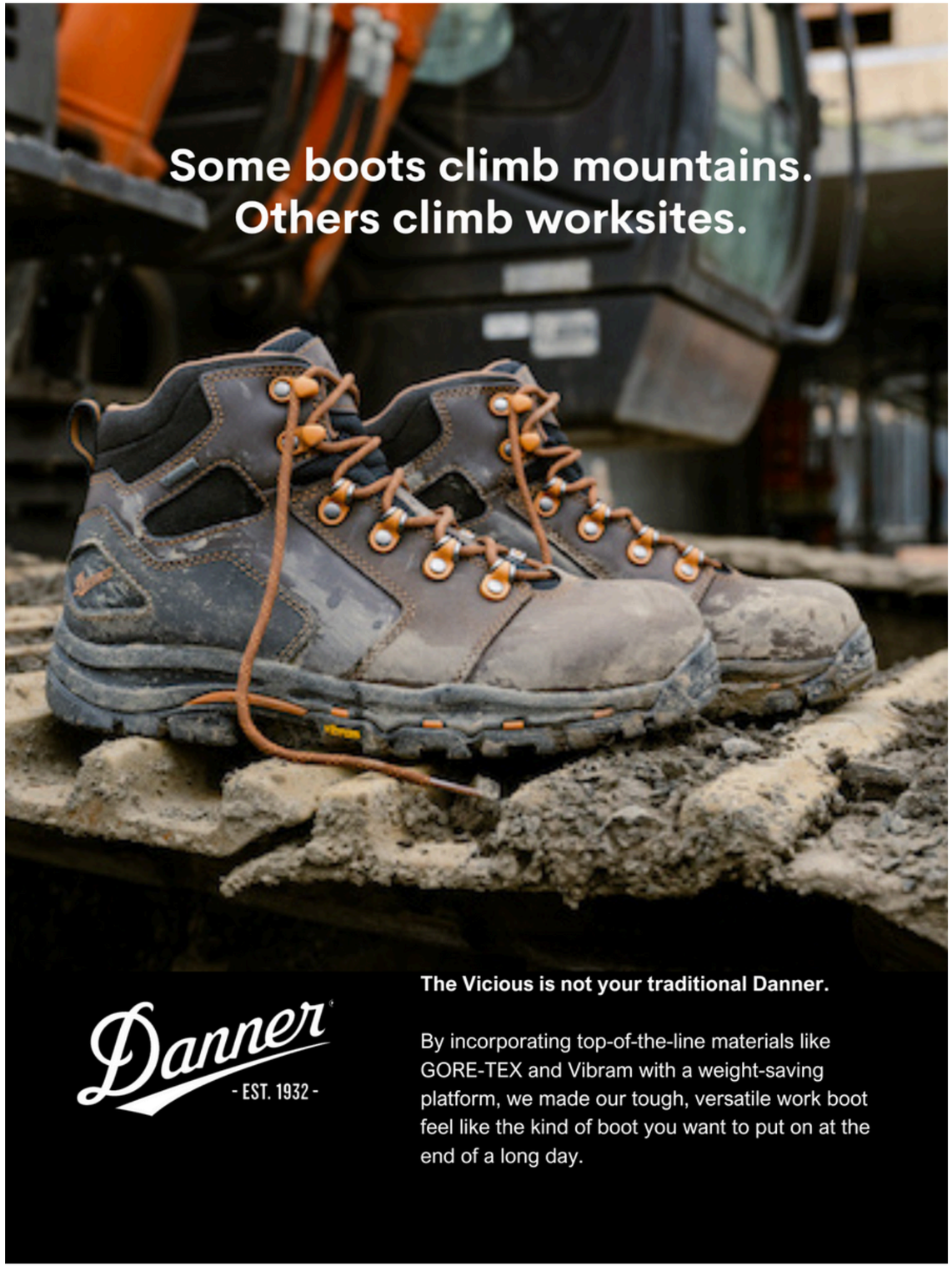
Efficiency at its core

The ECR355 delivers up to 7% greater fuel efficiency than the previous generation, thanks to a new electro-hydraulic control system and redesigned main control valve. The system uses electronic sensors and the machine's onboard computer to optimize flow and pressure, ensuring smooth and precise control of the boom, arm and bucket movements.

Electric cooling fans operate only when needed, minimizing engine load, noise, and fuel consumption. Operators also benefit from a host of additional efficiency-enhancing technologies, including new engine work modes, Comfort Driving Control (CDC), hydraulic priority setting and automatic engine shutdown, which all contribute to lower running costs and higher uptime.

Higher performance in tight spaces

Built for versatility, the ECR355 offers a 7% increase in lifting capacity and 4% more tractive force, unlocking new possibilities for heavy lifting, grading, and loading in confined environments. Volvo's Active Control system automates boom and bucket movements for up to 45% faster grading with less rework and fatigue. Integrated boundary limits and Dig Assist apps support 2D/3D machine control and in-field design, helping operators work faster, safer, and more accurately.





Economic & Market Trends 2026: Entering with a mix of resilient growth

GDP Growth: The sector outperformed the broader economy in late 2025, with construction GDP growing 1.3% in Q3.

Residential Downturn: High-interest rates and economic uncertainty have hit the condo market hard. New condo sales in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) plunged to their lowest level since 1991.

Infrastructure Lead: Public sector investment remains the primary driver. Projects in power, transportation, and water systems are expected to grow by over 5%

Cost Pressures: The Building Construction Price Index increased 4.2% year-over-year due to high prices for structural steel and plumbing.

Major Policy Updates

Build Canada Homes Act: Introduced in February 2026, this act established a new federal agency to scale up affordable housing through modern methods like factory-built homes.

"Buy Canadian" Policy: A new federal requirement prioritizes domestic materials (steel, lumber, aluminum) for public projects to strengthen local supply chains.

Key Project & Industry Highlights

Major Investments: Honda announced an $11 billion expansion for its EV complex in Ontario, and Dow is moving forward with a $6.5 billion net-zero petrochem project in Alberta.



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Partnership Introduces Sustainable Concrete Bricks for Carbon Neutrality

An architecture firm, builder, and product manufacturer collaborate to create innovative products aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

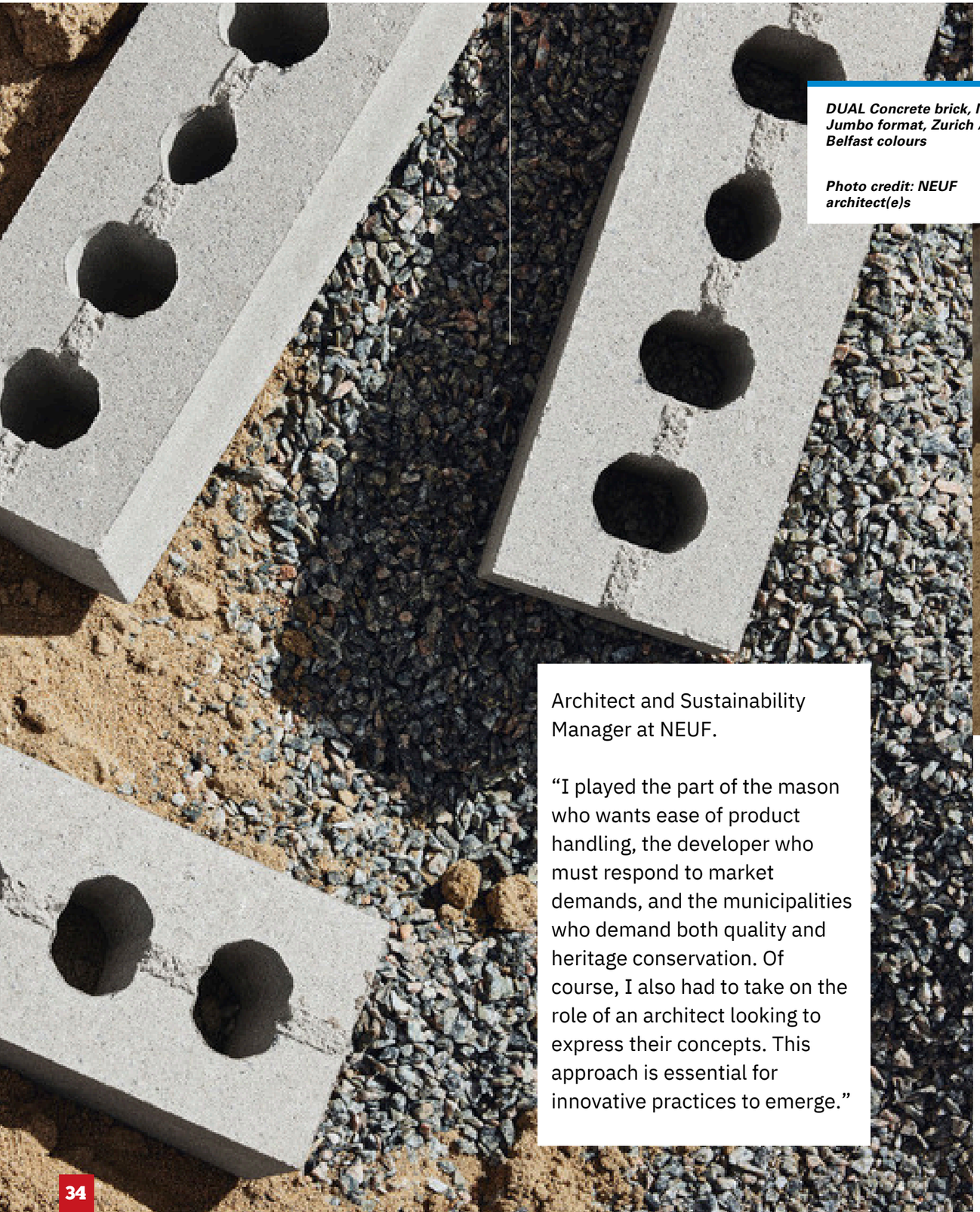
Source- v2com

THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR GENERATES ALMOST 40% OF CARBON EMISSIONS WORLDWIDE.

Working toward solving this enormous challenge of lowering greenhouse gases in our buildings requires cooperation across disciplines, where it is rare for architects to work directly with product manufacturers who can develop a sustainable product requiring less energy to create, and which can then be tested by builders to ensure its easy adoption.

NEUF architect(e)s represents one of the few firms taking a significant step in bringing the construction industry toward carbon neutrality by launching DUAL, an innovative, ecologically responsible concrete brick marking the firm's first research-action partnership to emerge from its Sustainable Strategies department. This product brings together two of Eastern Canada's most prominent companies in construction: Webster — which specializes in masonry distribution, and Permacon — the country's largest manufacturer of concrete products. Available now, DUAL represents a significant advancement in sustainable construction.

"In this partnership, our role was to ensure that a product responds to all end-use needs, while aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 20%," explains Hugo Gagnon, Partner



DUAL Concrete brick, Metric Jumbo format, Zurich / Petra / Belfast colours

Photo credit: NEUF architect(e)s

Architect and Sustainability Manager at NEUF.

“I played the part of the mason who wants ease of product handling, the developer who must respond to market demands, and the municipalities who demand both quality and heritage conservation. Of course, I also had to take on the role of an architect looking to express their concepts. This approach is essential for innovative practices to emerge.”

The partnership was created in 2022 to quickly solve the problem of reducing their individual environmental footprints within the construction sector.



Designing a new approach to bricks is a tangible outcome of their shared commitment to developing an environmentally and socially sensitive product that is economically competitive with a universal design for everyone — architects, developers, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers. After two years of research in Permacon’s newest plant in Anjou, the DUAL concrete brick product range is market-ready. Product experts have optimized its composition and physical properties to maximize performance and sustainability. Studies are already underway to further reduce the carbon footprint of the next generation of concrete products, reinforcing the three partners’ commitment to a sustainable future. “Webster supports the architecture community with concrete solutions that offer more design possibilities and provide future-focused environmental responsibility,” notes William Webster, President of Webster & Sons. “With more than a hundred years of collaborating with masonry companies, we understand the importance of designing materials that facilitate use and productivity. Through its unique aesthetic and innovative approach to sustainability, the new DUAL concrete brick completely reflects the mission and vision of Webster & Sons.”

AWARD WINNING

JELD-WEN of Canada Honoured with 2025 ENERGY STAR® Canada Special Recognition Award

The prestigious national honour acknowledges the company’s long-standing commitment to advancing energy efficiency and sustainability in Canadian homes and buildings.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JELDWEN CANADA

JELD-WEN of Canada, a leading manufacturer of high-performance windows and doors, a nominee and award winner of the 2025 ENERGY STAR® Canada Special Recognition Award by Natural Resources Canada. This prestigious national honour cknowledges the company’s long-standing commitment to advancing energy efficiency and sustainability in Canadian homes and buildings.

The ENERGY STAR Special Recognition Award celebrates organizations that demonstrate outstanding dedication to environmental stewardship through innovative product design, consumer education, and industry leadership.

JELD-WEN of Canada was recognized for its continuous investment in energy-efficient technologies, collaborative industry initiatives, and consistent promotion of ENERGY STAR certified products.



“We are incredibly honoured to receive this recognition from ENERGY STAR Canada,” said Robert Conway, President of JELD-WEN of Canada. “For us, energy efficiency is more than a product feature—it’s a responsibility we carry to our customers, our communities, and the planet. This award reflects the hard work and passion of our entire team in driving innovation that reduces environmental impact without compromising performance or style.”

JWC8500 Series

AWARD WINNING

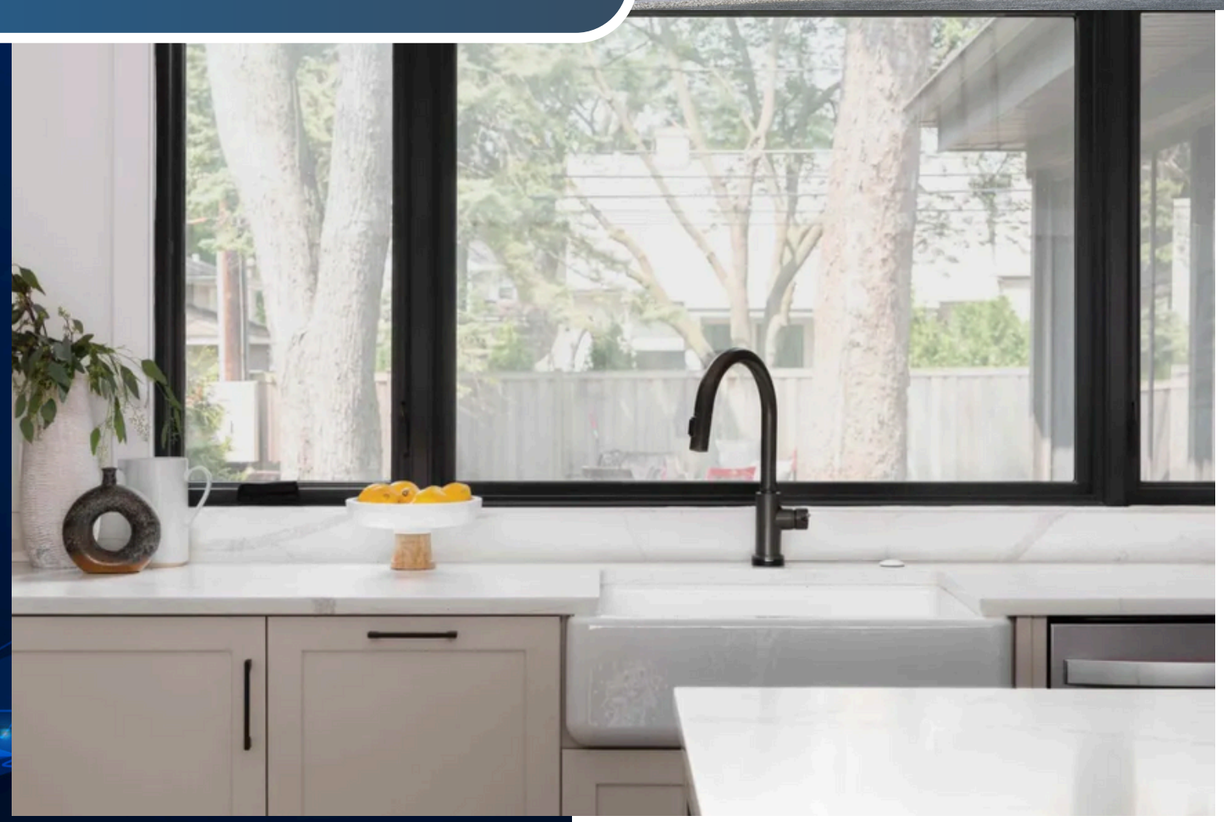
Over the past year, JELD-WEN of Canada has expanded its portfolio of ENERGY STAR certified products, introduced advanced glazing technologies to improve thermal performance, and launched educational campaigns to help homeowners make informed choices about energy efficiency. The company continues to partner with industry associations, builders, and retailers to raise awareness of the long-term benefits of sustainable building materials.

With another milestone in JELD-WEN of Canada's two-decade-long participation in the ENERGY STAR program, we start 2026 with a continued and stronger commitment in doing our part towards a sustainable future. JELD-WEN remains committed to innovation, quality, and environmental responsibility as part of its mission to provide products that enhance the comfort, efficiency, and beauty of Canadian homes. We look forward to a prosperous and innovative 2026.

"This award reflects the hard work and passion of our entire team in driving innovation that reduces environmental impact without compromising performance or style."

~Robert Conway





JELD-WEN

Key Awards & Recognition:

This is JELD-WEN of Canada's twelfth ENERGY STAR Canada award.
Here is a list of their ENERGY STAR Canada award accolades:

Manufacturer of the Year – Windows and Doors/Fenestration Products (2016, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)

Sustained Excellence (2010 and 2023)

Participant of the Year (2009)

Promotional Campaign of the Year—Specific Product (2006)

Special Recognition (2025)

Learn more at jeld-wen.ca

Intervalle transforms a challenging topography into the very essence of its architectural expression

Source: v2com

Nestled on a steep site overlooking Lake Fournelle in Saint-Hippolyte.

Intervalle transforms a challenging topography into the very essence of its architectural expression. Rather than resisting the slope, the residence embraces it — unfolding across two levels that frame ever-changing perspectives of the Laurentian landscape.



Two contrasting volumes define the project, their dialogue articulated through light and dark wood cladding. This interplay anchors the home within its forested setting, while offering a clear reading of its form and structure. The name ***Intervalle*** reflects this duality — a pause in time dedicated to retreat and contemplation, and the physical space between the volumes, where light, air, and movement flow freely.



Photo credit: Vincent Brillant, photographe



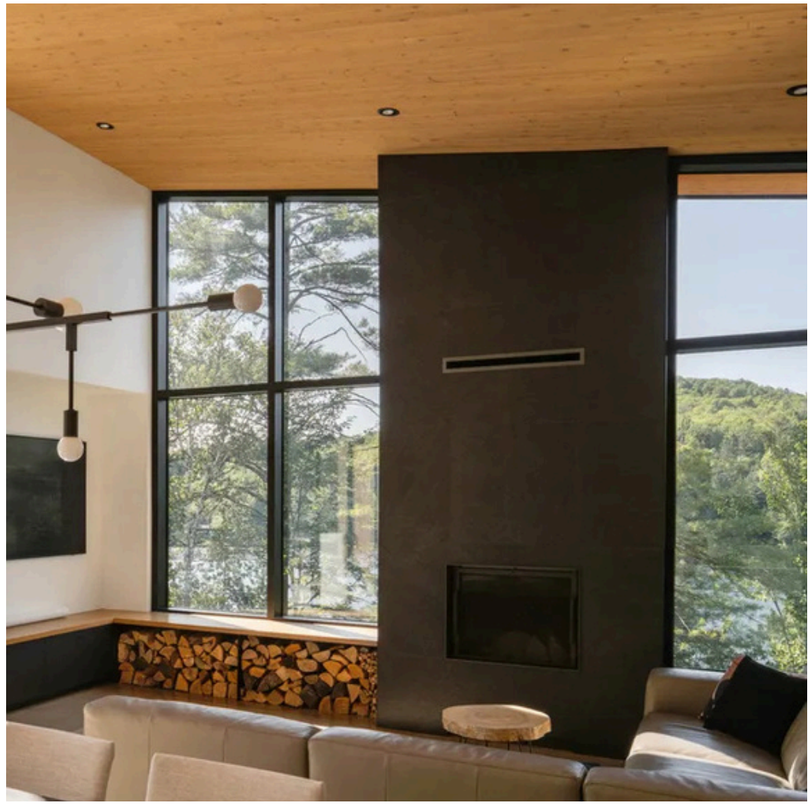




Photo credit: Vincent Brillant, photographe



Photo credit: Vincent Brillant, photographe

The upper level (950 sq. ft.) gathers the living spaces within an open layout of kitchen, dining, and lounge areas. Expansive glazing opens the interior to panoramic lake views, while a natural wood ceiling traces the roofline, enhancing the sense of height and warmth. A dark, central fireplace serves as the home's hearth, complemented by polished concrete floors that introduce a restrained modernity. The adjoining screened veranda and terrace extend daily life outdoors.

The lower level (1,580 sq. ft.) houses private areas — a primary suite with ensuite, two bedrooms, a second bathroom, and flexible work and leisure spaces — all opening directly to the surrounding landscape thanks to the site's slope.

Terraces step down the hillside, offering varied ways of engaging with the terrain: from elevated lake vistas to quiet immersion among the trees. Through its measured proportions, refined material palette, and sensitive integration, ***Intervalle*** embodies a contemporary vision of Quebec's lakeside living — where architecture and nature meet in a moment of balance and stillness.

About BOOM-TOWN

A Boomtown house has been associated with 1890–1920 'mushroom' towns created near industrial complexes and mines. It is easily recognized by its simple facade and square shape. Its roof is flat, or nearly flat, which was an innovation for the time.



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Unlocking the Value of Mass Timber:

Graham Construction and the Impact of Mass Timber at The Lawson Centre for Sustainability

Mass timber's importance in Canada lies in its role as a sustainable, low-carbon alternative to concrete and steel.

Produced By: Build Canada | Photos provided by Graham Construction

As a North American industry leader, Graham Construction's experience in state-of-the-art educational facilities is evident in their extensive portfolio of completed projects. In the pursuit of building better, the company's involvement in mass timber building further supports their commitment to staying at the forefront of the industry.

Currently pursuing LEED Platinum and Zero Carbon Building certification, The Lawson Centre for Sustainability at Trinity College emphasizes the integration of advanced ecological design principles and cutting-edge technologies to reduce the building's carbon footprint and optimize energy efficiency.

In the second in a two-part series, Sustainability Manager for Graham Construction Radek Pilarski discusses the significance of mass timber and technology in building The Lawson Centre for Sustainability.





“Mass timber uses less energy and emits less carbon than steel and concrete production. This results in a lower embodied carbon footprint for mass timber buildings.”

~Radek Pilarski

Build Canada: With Graham Construction expanding its portfolio in the mass timber construction market - how has the perception and application of mass timber construction evolved in Canada, and what factors are contributing to its increasing popularity?

Radek Pilarski: Mass timber is not a new product; it has already existed for a long time and has been used in various buildings for years and years. Some countries have used mass timber for a very long time; Canada has this natural resource of timber and it makes sense to use it. Mass timber is made of natural and renewable material, and its manufacturing process has lower CO_2 emissions than steel and concrete. Wood absorbs CO_2 from the atmosphere when it grows, representing a natural CO_2 sink. It is part of a natural CO_2 circulation. In addition to that, the manufacturing of mass timber uses less energy and emits less carbon than steel and concrete production. This results in a lower embodied carbon footprint for mass timber buildings.

I think there is a big shift on how we understand mass timber. In the past it was predominantly used as a feature element for long span structures, canopies, and additional elements to a building that would otherwise be built out of concrete or steel. We now have transferred to using it as a whole building structure, not just using parts of the building. There have been some advances in technology that have allowed for that and there has been growth in production capabilities. There are also cultural, political and regulatory drivers for us to use it more.

For example, not long-ago mass timber was only used in low-rise buildings, but recently the regulations opened up the possibility of using it for twelve and even eighteen story high buildings in certain jurisdictions. But obviously, there is still a lot of work to do, and there are still many regulations that need to catch up to help us use it more effectively. We also have a lot to learn about the best ways of producing and building it in an efficient and standardized way.

BC: During a time that is progressively focused on sustainability, the concepts of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) and ESG reporting have become essential. What were the environmental, academic and social targets for the Lawson Centre project as part of Graham Constructions' sustainability strategy?

RP: It's a rather complex question. The Lawson Centre isn't just a place for students to learn about sustainability. It offers a combination of hands-on learning about the natural environment, natural resources, particularly about food production, understanding the students and faculty's sense of place, with spaces for social activities and well-being that is a focal point of the campus. At the same time, they have now a good looking and pleasant place to come together and spend time with each other.

The rooftop farm is designed for local food production and research that is integrated with a teaching and community kitchen that provides students with a chance to support campus food programs and sustainable food practices.

From our perspective, even though Graham is a business, and we have commercial needs to think about, our sustainability strategy is aligned with the Lawson Centre. We understand that our focus includes all aspects of the ESG focus areas and our people are at the center of our success. Graham is owned by the employees. Not only are the employees stakeholders, but they are also investing in working for a sustainable business that focuses on integrity, reliability and commitment.

BC: How do you define high performance, and in what ways does the Lawson Centre build to higher energy and durability standards that help in future-proofing the property against changing regulations?

RP: It's typically about picking a reasonable target and making it work for the project. It is usually about trying to produce a building that uses as little energy, and as few nonrenewable resources as possible. After you have a target that makes sense for the owner and the project, we work together throughout the design and later the execution phase of the project to produce a reasonable balance between the various systems that make up the whole building. In green construction and high-performing buildings, the most important question is about how much energy is being added in to make the building run and how much energy we're losing through the envelope or through ventilation. You need to achieve a balance between those two and make

continued













The Lawson Centre for Sustainability

Trinity College, University of Toronto

The **Lawson Centre for Sustainability** will serve as the heart of Trinity College, connecting people and uniting existing buildings. This four-storey hybrid mass timber facility places sustainability at its core, featuring rooftop community gardens that support a sustainable food program along with numerous other environmentally conscious design and construction elements.

Lawson Centre

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sure you use and lose as little energy as possible to operate the building. By doing that and using environmentally friendly materials, we are limiting the amounts of CO2 that we are adding to the atmosphere. We are also reducing the operating costs for the client.

Sustainability is about thinking about the future. We don't have a crystal ball, but we can make some informed assumptions. We know how the industry operates and how it affects the world. We are figuring out how we need to change to achieve better outcomes, and both the public and the private hand play a role in this. An important assumption that I would make today, for example, is that the environmental regulations that we have achieved in Canada so far are not going to go backwards. It is unclear how fast they're going to develop further, but what we have now already presents challenges that the industry must find a way to deal with. So we have plenty of work to do as it is. However fast or slow, the drive towards improvement and environmentally friendly construction and technology is not going away, and it will profoundly affect the way we build.

BC: What are the environmental and business drivers with mass timber buildings and carbon-conscious design? Is mass timber the solution to the massive carbon footprint of buildings?

RP: I can give you my understanding from my perspective, which does not necessarily need

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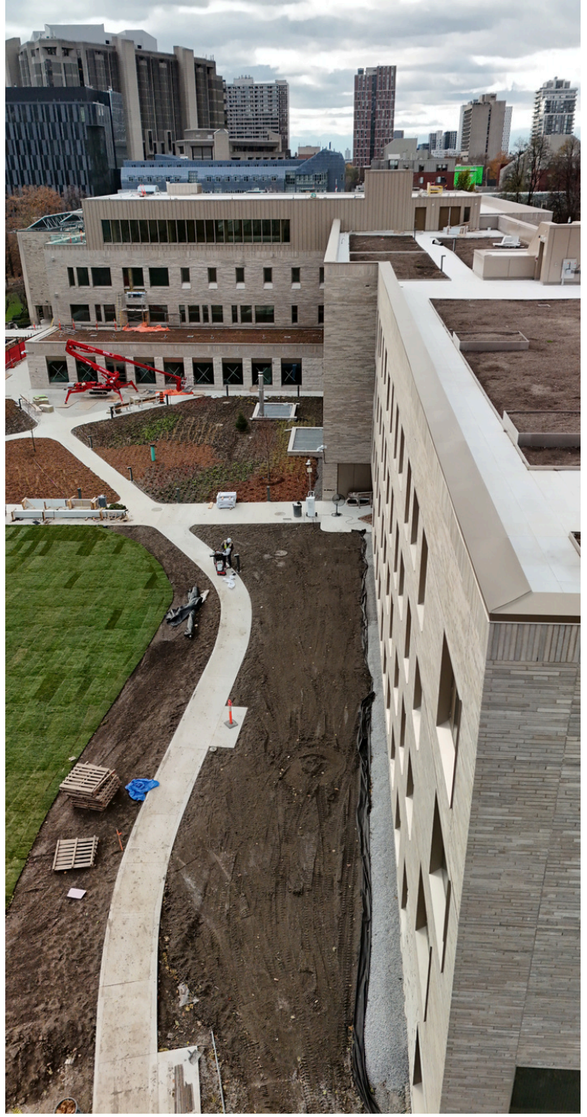
>
> *~Radek Pilarski*







to reflect everybody else's. I think in terms of mass timber — and building out of timber in general — this is an approach that is in line with Canada's construction culture and experience. We have a lot of valuable craft and knowledge here, and we have access to incredible natural resources. Mass timber allows for prefabrication of many building elements in a controlled environment and installing them quickly on site rather than having expensive workforce putting them together on site by hand. On top of that, you get the pleasant look of the wood in your finished building and the knowledge that you used less CO2 than on a conventional building. Canada has been known for the use of these renewable resources, and we need to continue using them wisely and effectively.

Having said that, there is still a long way to go. There are still challenges with sustainable forestry that need to be resolved — monocultures, forest fires and wood bug infestations are just some manifestations of these issues. We must continue learning how the materials are grown and extracted responsibly, how the mass timber is produced efficiently, and how to deliver it and put it together on site without damaging it or trapping moisture inside.

Also, what I think most don't understand is that this technology is not refined or standardized yet as much as people think it is. We have made great improvements in recent years, and we have learned a lot of lessons as

continued

as an industry. There is also a lot of will to use this material, but it still requires quite a lot of standardization of regulations and technical solutions across the board. As an example, we already discussed that we are now allowed to build much taller mass timber buildings, yet there are some codes like the fire code that still need to catch up. The fire code still treats mass timber like any normal lightweight timber structure despite the fact mass timber behaves very differently during fire. Instead of simply burning and collapsing like your normal lightweight timber frame, mass timber produces a layer of char on the outside that protects the core of the material from burning. Its heavy and massive, and nature helps it to perform surprisingly well — a mass timber structure will withstand fires for 1 or 2 hours, just like a concrete structure would. But because there is still a lot of testing and standardization to do, mass timber is often treated like any other timber building.



“Instead of simply burning and collapsing like your normal lightweight timber frame, mass timber produces a layer of char on the outside that protects the core of the material from burning.”

~Radek Pilarski

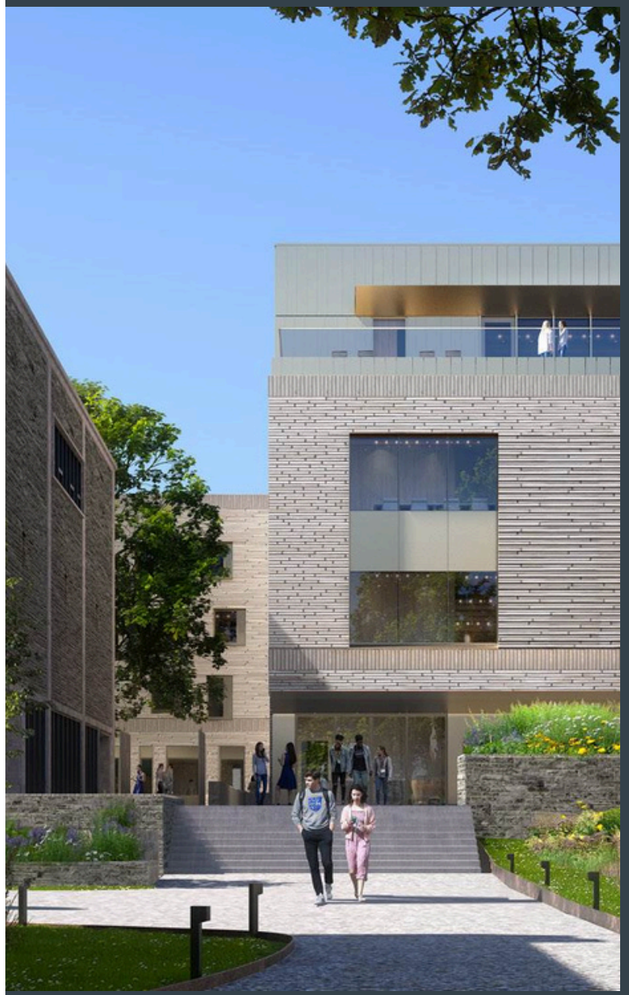


Photo Credit: Mecanoo in collaboration with local architects RDHA



Another important aspect is that the methods of producing and installing these buildings vary across Canada. For instance, the Lawson Centre was installed in Toronto. A similar building in Vancouver will face different challenges due to significantly higher moisture levels. Conversely, in Regina, the primary concern is dryness, presenting a completely different set of issues.

As far as technology, I would say, if handled correctly, mass timber lends itself well for modular and volumetric production. But technology and supply chains still must really evolve to produce the volume and the versatile output that you would like to have. The ability to reasonably control the

continued

the material supply from the tree in the forest to the finished mass timber building still needs to evolve much further, even in Canada. The thing about construction is that you can't really make it as modular and volumetric as you would like to because there is always an amount of individuality in every building and every product. You must allow for some versatility and potential shifts in the market which makes this business quite tricky and quite risky for the industry.

BC: Biophilic design and materials are becoming a groundbreaking solution by incorporating natural elements into building designs and material selections. What was your strategy for implementing biophilic design, and can you share some successful integrations of biophilic materials that were utilized in The Lawson Centre?



RP: For reasons of current fire safety regulations, which I explained above, a lot of the mass timber surfaces inside of the buildings are often covered up with drywall. To see and experience more of the natural wooden surfaces you must find and agree on alternative solutions with the local authorities. There are ways of exposing big parts of mass timber while keeping the building safe. The architects and the code consultants on the Lawson Centre project did an exceptional job in that regard. The Lawson Centre students will be able to experience almost half of the mass timber structure on the walls and ceilings. Since mass timber is not as standardized and well-regulated as other materials, it depends a lot on the municipality and their willingness to explore alternative options.

Our job at Graham is to make it work and look as beautifully as the designers envisioned it. Sometimes, we have to contribute solutions that the client teams haven't thought of because there isn't yet enough experience in the industry. In addition to the large components, we will also work on various details with the designers and the suppliers, like structural connections or electrical conduit integration, to round up that picture. On every project there will also be unexpected challenges that we will have to resolve to make sure that the building looks good by the time we are done. Many of the solutions to issues like site damage, staining or sun-tanning of the timber come from our trusted installers.

Finally, we must ensure that we deal correctly with moisture and with tolerances — this is a reoccurring theme on all mass timber projects that greatly affects the speed of installation. The building is not put together in a lab; we are building it outside in the rain, in the wind, in the dust, using heavy machines and with the hard hands-on work of real people. ■

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DESIGN

Nexus House: Cultural, Innovation, and Event Hub

Nexus House is envisioned as a cultural landmark and innovation hub — a place where education, creativity, and community come together under one roof.
SOURCE: v2com

Conceived as part convention centre, part performance art venue, and part cultural institution, it is designed to host a wide range of activities: conferences, exhibitions, lectures, workshops, product launches, and musical performances. By combining these diverse functions, the building positions itself as a true centre of exchange and cultural vitality in the city. At the heart of Nexus House is its dual role as both a learning resource and an event destination. A specialized library dedicated to art and music provides a foundation for study and exploration, while an exhibition hall traces the history of musical instruments, offering visitors an immersive cultural experience. Together, these elements support the building's identity as a cultural and musical art centre — a place where the arts are celebrated, preserved, and shared.

The design emphasizes sculptural clarity and civic presence. Its bold concrete form communicates permanence and importance, yet is tempered by expanses of glass and landscaped terraces that create transparency and welcome. The architecture avoids the stiffness of corporate buildings, instead projecting an image of inclusivity and openness. Inside, the program is organized around flexibility and adaptability. Double-height halls accommodate large conventions, lectures, or performances,



Photo credit: Alva Roy

Photo credit: Alva Roy

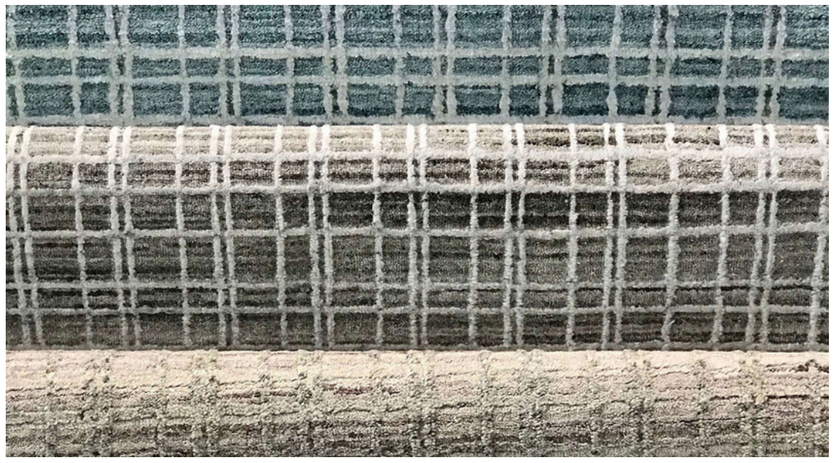
while smaller breakout spaces, alcoves, and terraces are suited for workshops, readings, and collaborative sessions. The interplay of raw concrete with warm wood and transparent glass establishes a spatial balance — at once monumental and approachable.

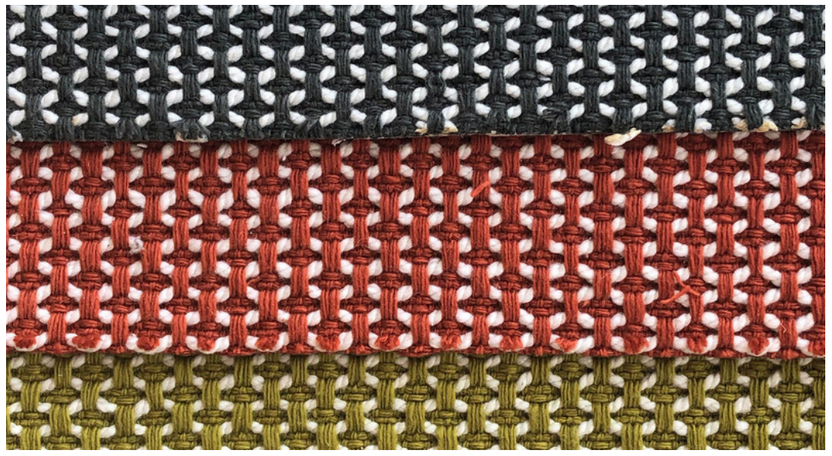
Integrated technology and advanced AV systems ensure that Nexus House can support both local creativity and global dialogue. Its adaptable seating arrangements, stepped terraces, and transformable interiors allow the building to shift seamlessly between roles: from a design forum to an art gallery, from a keynote stage to a cultural gala. This adaptability ensures the building remains relevant and resilient as community needs evolve.

Alva Roy Architects (aRA) is an award-winning Toronto-based architectural practice founded by Alva (John) Roy. Since its formation in 2003, the firm has consistently pushed the boundaries of architecture through the innovative use of honest materials, refined spatial strategies, and a deep commitment to meaningful design. aRA combines a rigorous design process with hands-on construction knowledge to deliver work that is both visionary and grounded.



Photo credit: Alva Roy





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