



Loewen

PERSPECTIVES

TSESHAHT FIRST NATION TRIBAL MULTIPLEX VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC

In 1975, Lubor Trubka founded a firm that would quickly establish itself as a Canadian leader in wood design and architecture. The firm's passion for using environmentally responsible timber is evident within their expansive award-winning portfolio.

Lubor Trubka's use of sustainable and environmentally responsible wood, engineered wood and value-added wood products makes them a standout in an increasingly concrete and steel-driven marketplace. The firm's love of natural building

"THE STRUCTURE ITSELF IS BUILT ON TOP OF A LARGE GRANIT BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE SALMON-SPAWNING SOMASS RIVER"

materials can be witnessed through the development of their hotels, resorts, universities and museums.

However, it's Trubka's relationship with the First Nations of British Columbia and their connection with the earth that has yielded some of the firm's most rewarding projects.

Located at the northern tip of the Alberni Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island, the Tseshaht First Nations Tribal Multiplex melds the best of nature and innovative building technology. The cooperative community venture is a mixed-use health center, assembly and administration building. Employing a combination of natural lumber products, most of the building is made of timber, including mixed hemlock,

fir and spruce laminate, vertical grain Douglas Fir Loewen windows and custom millwork, featuring red and yellow cedar and maple.

From day one, Lubor partnered with the Tseshaht to design and build the Multiplex. The entire community was involved in the project, with close to 50 band members joining the construction crew. In fact, at least half of the wood used in the project was harvested and milled by the Tseshaht from their own forest reserves. The tribe was so involved in the process that they actually selected the trees for the project by hand.



The structure itself is built on top of a large granite bluff overlooking the salmon-spawning Somass River. Rather than disturbing the rock with blasting, the project evolved naturally, following the contours of the granite.

The result is a beautiful structure that rises from the earth while

maintaining a natural feel. One of the most interesting aspects of the site is a cave under the building. For years it was used as a home for hibernating bears. The final building incorporated so many natural elements that a year after construction was completed, the bears came back and have been returning every winter since.

Completed in 2007, the site is wonderfully maintained and has been awarded several times for its use of timber components, including a 2008 Canadian Wood Council Award of Excellence. The building is a testament to sustainable building and natural architecture, and from our perspective, a testament to the firm's vision from within. ■



4 9/16" [116mm]
3 3/8" [86mm]
2 3/4" [69mm]
1 15/16" [50mm]
1 5/16" [38mm]
HEAD

3 1/8" [79mm]
2 7/16" [62mm]
1 1/16" [27mm]
1 1/16" [27mm]
SILL

LOEWEN PRODUCTS USED

Loewen Picture and Direct Set windows are the perfect complement to the Tseshaht First Nations Multiplex. They are designed to maximize views through minimal wood framework and can be used in combination with Casement and Awning windows to provide ventilation and egress. Loewen Picture and Direct Set windows are available in wide variety of exterior finish options, including Douglas Fir, Mahogany, aluminum clad and Cyprium (copper and bronze cladding).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Clean architectural look
- Designed with a 4 9/16" (116 mm) jamb
- Capable of carrying both dual glazed and TrueTriple™ sealed units to maximize energy efficiency

ABOUT LOEWEN PERSPECTIVES

Loewen Perspectives showcases the dedication and craft of the passionate design professionals who use Loewen products. Our goal is to provide a snapshot of the process and materials that go into creating great buildings and the people who make these projects come to life. If you're a passionate firm looking to share your vision, we'd love to hear from you. Email perspectives@loewen.com to begin the experience.



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