

World's highest wooden building stands tall

Brock Commons, the world's tallest wooden building, has been completed four months ahead of schedule. Expecting to have 700 students in it by September 2017, the 18-storey building in British Columbia, is the highest mass wood, steel and concrete hybrid project till date.

It has two concrete cores and a concrete podium but the rest of the 17 stories is cross-laminated-timber floors supported on glue-laminated wood columns. The entire experiment behind this sustainable building is expected to cost approximately \$51.5 million. According to the University of British Columbia it

will exceed required fire ratings and standard seismic safety requirements.

Wood is a wonder material as far as global warming is concerned as it stores, rather than emits, carbon dioxide. Using wood in this project is akin to taking 500 cars off the road a year. That is a reduction of 2,432 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The developers hope that the building would act as an example that would lead to British Columbia's building codes being revised and would help make mass wood construction more common.

