

Case Study

Project: Artisan handcrafted wooden furniture



**Canadian
Wood**

www.canadianwood.in



Japanese tea service table in yellow cedar
with a western red cedar shoji screen

Canadian Wood species:
The fine art of working with wood

Manufacturer profile

Based in Auroville, Puducherry, this project was completed by a furniture designer who specializes in Japanese style furniture – both traditional and contemporary. It follows two types of expression: one that is linear and straight, following the geometry of the essential line; and the other, flowing with the organic form of the tree, keeping to the free edge and the uneven movement.

His company caters to a selected few who have the fine sensibility to appreciate art in wood. Practically, the entire process of furniture creation at the designer's workshop is done by hand.

Challenge

Handcrafted wooden furniture and artifacts is akin to creating fine art. It requires one to explore the subtle aspects of the wood - its inherent aesthetic qualities, texture and inner grains. This Japanese furniture designer is a craftsman who believes in exploring the 'very spirit' of the wood and to bring it alive through his expressive art. He primarily uses Acacia as it is readily available. However, being an artist he yearned to work with wood which was similar to what's found in Japan.

Opportunity

The Japanese furniture designer greatly missed working with Hinoki, a wood species indigenous to Japan, that he had worked with and carved when he resided there. He decried the fact that he could no longer get this amazing wood and missed the "spirit" that came with the wood. As it turns out, yellow cedar is the Canadian equivalent of Japanese Hinoki. FII India* sent him yellow cedar and western red cedar for him to use in his shop.

**Market development agency for Canadian Wood from British Columbia.*



Product Trials

Using the cedars, he produced a beautiful Japanese lantern and tea service table with the yellow cedar. He then followed it up with a small shoji screen in western red cedar.

Quoting his experience on working with Canadian Wood, “To me, it (yellow cedar) resembles a silken canvas exposed to the rays of a mild sunset. It is also a matter of sensitivity on the side of the observer, but at times, you may catch a glimpse of the spirit of the tree gazing back at you. Yellow cedar contains a notable quantity of oil that has a special fragrance. There is something unique about coexisting with such an aroma, because it is directly linked to the tree’s core – its spirit, which goes beyond thought, judgment, or ego. I believe my experience with this wood will provide considerable incentive for craftsmen to choose “Canadian Hinoki” or yellow cedar as we call it, for fine quality furniture.”



Geometric linear design at the base of the yellow cedar

Key Takeouts

Improved manufacturing efficiency

Canadian wood species from British Columbia (B.C.) have attractive grain, colour and strength which are qualities prized in producing superior wood products.

Canadian Wood can be used to replace traditionally used hardwoods

They have straight grain which permits planning to a fine finish, and are free of grain tear out often found in wood species with spiral or interlocked grain generally seen in tropical hardwoods.



Why Use Canadian Wood?

Sustainable, Green Building Material

British Columbia, Canada is a world leader in sustainable forest management. The rigor of B.C.'s forest management laws is demonstrated by third-party forest certifications (PEFC/FSC).

Long-Term Performance

Wood's versatility, character and individuality are unmatched. When it is properly maintained, wood can be reused, repurposed, and reapplied to other projects. Canadian wood species produce stable lumber with consistently straight grain. The wood is easy to work, finish and glue.

Easy to Manufacture

With low to moderate density values, species like western hemlock, Douglas-fir, yellow cedar, western red cedar and spruce-pine-fir (S-P-F) are all easy to face-laminate, edge-glue, and/or finger-joint.

Quality Assurance

Canadian wood species from B.C. are separated into a wide variety of grades and each grade is intended for a specific end use. Factory grades are intended for ripping or cross cutting to recover the wood's clear fibre; the clear grades help produce knot-free products in a length range of 8-20 feet. This variety of grades allows buyers to choose a quality that suits both their needs and their price considerations.

Multipurpose Applications

Because of their low tangential to radial shrinkage (T/R) ratio, softwoods typically have better stability than hardwoods. Softwoods are well suited to many applications across outdoor, interior and structural uses.



If you're interested in incorporating Canadian wood species into your product line, the 'Try Canadian Wood' initiative is an ideal way to use, experiment and understand wood's numerous advantages.

For free technical/procurement assistance write to FII India at info@canadianwood.in or call +91 2249221600.

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Canada 

Western hemlock | Douglas-fir | Yellow cedar | Western red cedar | Spruce-Pine-Fir (S-P-F)

FII India has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided with input from each trial partner.

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