

BUILDING WITH WOOD

CANADIAN WOOD SHOWCASE LIGHT WOOD FRAME (LWF HOUSE) CONSTRUCTION

Light Wood Frame construction, is the assembly of dimensional lumber or engineered wood that is regularly spaced and fastened together with nails to create floor, wall and roof assemblies. In residential construction, mainly light structural lumber is used, it is milled from Conifers (softwood trees) such as spruce, pine and fir (SPF) that are sawn and machine-planed to standard dimensions (2x4", 2x6", 2x8", etc.). LWF construction is light, as the name suggests and allows quick construction with no heavy tools or equipment. It is able to adapt itself to any geometric shape, and can be clad with a variety of materials. There are a huge variety of products and systems tailored to this type of construction.

FII India (Canadian Wood), a crown agency of the Govt. of B.C. Canada with a mandate to promote B.C. Forest Products in offshore markets, first displayed the North American style home, constructed using the light wood-frame (LWF) method at the DelhiWood show in 2017. The exhibit was a walkthrough installation with unfinished walls and ceilings, topped by an exposed roof structure. The partial-finish theme allowed visitors to closely inspect and thereby understand the unique construction and weatherproofing on display, the discreet inclusion of services and insulation, the prefabricated style, as well as the interface of structural materials with interior fit-out and exterior claddings.

This exhibit garnered not just awareness, but also interest, resulting in numerous enquiries to FII about LWF design. FII was aware that wooden houses were gaining popularity in India for resorts at beach locations and hill



stations, and for farm houses and countryside homes with infrastructure and access challenges, because these wooden houses were either demountable or portable, and constructed in a different style. The predominant method was prefabricated tongue and groove-interlocking boards, hence it was encouraging to see the same manufacturers who preferred this method expressing interest in LWF construction.

In response to the overwhelming interest from Southern India manufacturers FII thus roped in a professional builder and instructor from Canada, to conduct training at FII's inaugural LWF training course in India at Mysore. It helped that a similar exercise had previously been conducted at Shanghai, China for Canada Wood, so the experience as well as the course structure was

already in place, including a detailed-but-edited version of "Guide to Good Practice" that could be used as a training resource for India.

The response to its first Wood College (LWF training program) at Mysore has encouraged FII India to plan its second training program from 18th to 28th February 2019 in Delhi/NCR. This has already generated great interest amongst manufacturers who missed the first program at Mysore. The course requires all participants to learn through action how to build a light timber-frame house constructed from start to finish over the duration of the course.

The second Wood College being organised by FII India in February 2019 at Delhi/NCR will be identical in format to the inaugural course at Mysore in August 2018 and FII expects it to be oversubscribed too as was the case with the inaugural training program.

