

Multi-Unit Residential Wood Design

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Monad, Vancouver, BC



The jury noted that this concept is very European – so efficient and appealing. The idea of urban infill is interesting, and the prefab and modular aspects mean minimal impact on neighbourhoods during construction. Flexible, innovative and aesthetically-striking were words the jury used to summarize Monad.

High resolution images available. Please e-mail mmclaughlin@wood-works.ca

A prototype for the sustainable METROPOLIS OF CHANGE, the Monad project has been designed and developed to serve as an urban infill prototype. It addresses the inherent contradiction of our time: The need for broad sustainability, or to endure and evolve in an ecological and meaningful way, in a world of rapid change and tremendous urban growth and transformation.

The M33_Monad project is part of the M-model family that result from a highly-systematic and integrated research > idea > design > development > fabrication > construction process that develops synergies and potentials beyond the traditional limitations and contradictions in architecture by linking art and business, standardization and customization, sustainability and feasibility, choice/flexibility and affordability, quality and resourcefulness, and the short- and long-term perspectives of our ever changing urban landscape.

The built project is in many ways a first of its kind and demonstrates innovative spatial logics and construction systems that create highly sustainable and adaptable urban infill solutions in order to make city living a more desirable alternative to commuting and unsustainably

large single family homes. The project presents innovation by creating multi-storey, prefabricated, engineered wood-frame modules and building systems for parallel construction and resource management for mixed-use residential buildings. A first in Vancouver.

The modules have been designed to be most flexible and adaptable and to allow for living outside or beyond the box. The modules can be combined, used and adapted to respond to a multiplicity of site conditions, demographics and lifestyles. The wood-frame module design also addresses engineering issues such as moisture/shrinkage control and stackability to allow for up to 10-storey construction (an eight-storey Monad 2 is currently in process).

The true innovation is in the C-shape design to work on hundreds of available lots along the commercial arteries, C districts and centres throughout the Metro Vancouver area and Pacific Northwest, with the intention to unlock valuable hidden density along already existing infrastructure for lots that have typically been disregarded by the industry.