Midply Wall Construction System Chosen for Japan’s Largest Wooden Building

Midply mid-rise wood frame buildings show superior resilience in earthquake testing

Vancouver – November 13, 2014 – FPInnovations’ high performance Midply Wall System is featured in the winning design for the construction of a five-storey, 9,023m² elderly care facility in Tokyo’s Adachi Ward. Upon completion the building will be the largest wooden building ever built in Japan. The Midply Wall System, an innovative redesign of standard shear walls used in construction, was selected because of its outstanding resilience to severe earthquakes and extreme winds.

Midply Wall System shear walls sandwich wood-based structural panels between 2x4s that are positioned on their flattest side. Sandwiching the panel results in Midply shear walls having greater structural integrity and dissipating seismic energy. Each nail in Midply works about twice the nails in standard shear walls.

Quick Facts:

- Council of Forest Industries of BC and FPInnovations have long been involved in the implementation of wood-frame construction in Japan.
- According to a 2008 test conducted on the world’s largest shake table in Japan, a six-storey structure using Midply withstood a one-in-2,500 year seismic event with only minor damage.
- The Midply Wall System was developed by scientists from FPInnovations and the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of British Columbia under funding from Natural Resources Canada and Forest Innovations Investment.
- Canada Wood staff worked collaboratively with FPInnovations and 2x4 Association in Japan in the development of a guide for use of Midply in Japan.
- Japan’s 2x4 wood frame construction building code is expected to be revised to include Midply in fiscal year 2015. Construction of the elderly care facility will begin in February 2015.
- The Midply Wall System has recently been implemented in the Canadian Design Code for Wood.

Quotes

“Thanks to the research that has gone into verifying the resilience of FPInnovations’ Midply Wall System during earthquakes, there is a compelling case for mid-rise wood frame buildings abroad and in Canada. Japan’s decision to use Midply in the construction of the largest wooden building the country has ever
seen validates this technology’s high performance capabilities in areas where significant earthquakes are regular events.”

-Pierre Lapointe, President and CEO of FPInnovations

Associated Links

- Earthquake resistant wood tech used in Japan - [http://ow.ly/DDHH3](http://ow.ly/DDHH3)
- View the shake table test of a 6-storey Midply building: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5wjG3nv1c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5wjG3nv1c)

About FPInnovations
FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world-leading R&D institute that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector’s global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industry members and government partners. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate, and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector’s value chain, from forest operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations’ staff numbers more than 525. Its R&D laboratories are located in Québec City, Ottawa, Montréal, Thunder Bay, Hinton and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information about FPInnovations, visit: [www.fpinnovations.ca](http://www.fpinnovations.ca).

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