

Cross Laminated Timber: A Primer

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Summary

Recent preliminary studies by FPIinnovations confirmed that Cross-laminated timber (CLT) could offer a significant opportunity for the wood industry. Laboratory evaluations have investigated CLT performance in terms of its mechanical, seismic, fire, acoustic, thermal, and environmental credentials; and the Market and Economics Group has completed a deeper and more extensive cost analysis, assessing its competitiveness. FPIinnovations has concluded that CLT is a suitable substitute for mid-rise concrete/steel buildings, both residential and non-residential.

Despite what seems to be an attractive value proposition however, no new product is without its challenges. These include: acceptance by the specifier and building community, code limitations to building with wood, lack of local manufacturing facilities, development of generic or proprietary standards, and a learning curve for manufacturers and builders. Nonetheless, these building types and applications represent an important demand in the United States and Canada. This demand, combined with the high wood usage of CLT may translate into a great outlet for Canadian lumber.

This Primer summarizes in a friendly fashion research done at FPIinnovations. It provides an overview of its development in Europe and assesses the value proposition for North America. FPIinnovations' CLT Handbook represents a deeper and more technical document.

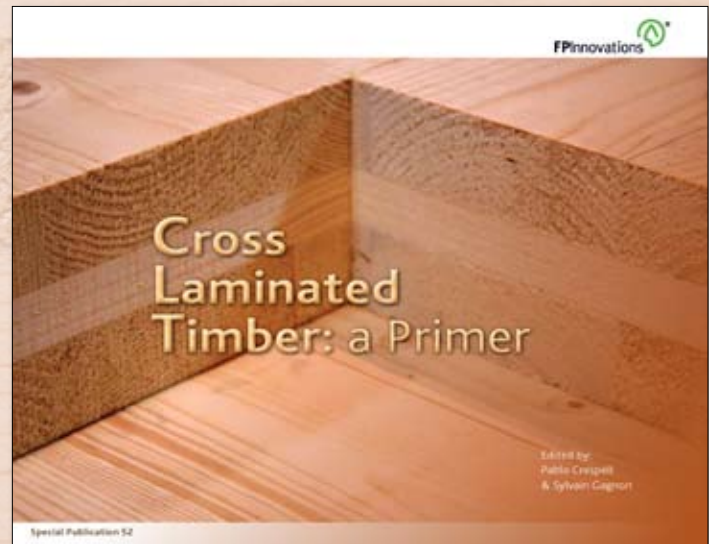
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