

The CLT House

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Emergence of building technologies that shaped new experiences of space, light and materiality was a hallmark of early modernism. With the appearance of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) in central Europe in the 1990's, the opportunity arose again to reconceive spatial and tectonic experiences. Much like the kern-form and kunst-form dialectic that Botticher and Frampton conceptualized, the crude 8'x40'x4" pine panel can be transformed into highly evocative experiences of space and light. Additionally, CLT arose as an alternative to more carbon intensive materials of concrete and steel. Its use promotes timber as a building material that if harvested responsibly, can elevate the region of Cascadia as an innovative culture of highly sustainable strategies. Presented here are two CLT projects, currently under construction, by atelierjones.

The CLT House is a modest 1,500 sf single-family house situated on a compact triangular lot across from an alley and parking lot. The house negotiates between the established neighborhood and a commercial strip. The CLT House is built to PassivHaus standards, and will be revealed to the interior domestic spaces. Left almost raw, the CLT is experienced as a beach cabin - evoking a visceral experience of nature.

Bellevue First Congregational Church is an adaptive reuse of an existing 1970's steel frame building that will be cut open to insert a new sanctuary with 40' high CLT folded plates. Washing indirect light downwards from skylights and full height sidelights, the undulating CLT becomes the backdrop for subtle daylight experiences so common under the grey Northwest sky.