2025 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Thomas Robinson
Organization LEVER Architecture
Location Portland, Oregon
Chapter AIA Oregon; AIA Portland

Category of Nomination
Object 1 (Design, Urban Design, Preservation) > Design

Summary Statement
LEVER founder Thomas Robinson's research-based design practice has changed the trajectory of mass timber architecture with ground-breaking buildings that demonstrate innovation and engagement can be transformational tools for design excellence.

Education
Harvard University Graduate School of Design, September 1997-December 1999, Masters of Architecture
University of California, Berkeley, September 1987-May 1991, Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

Licensed in:
California
Oregon
Washington
Idaho
Michigan
New Jersey

Employment
LEVER Architecture, 2009-Present
Allied Works, 2003-2009
Herzog & de Meuron, 2000-2003
Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis, 1991-1996

MSRDesign

510 Marquette Avenue South | Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55402

1221 SW 10th Avenue | Unit 1305
Portland, OR 97205

October 7, 2024

Carl d'Silva, FAIA, Chair, Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5292

Re: Thomas Fitz Robinson, AIA, Candidate for Fellowship

Dear Mr. d'Silva and Members of the Jury:

It is an honor to sponsor the exceptional person and architect, Thomas Robinson, for elevation to our profession's highest honor. Our profession is at a critical inflection point in history. We are being called upon to contribute to harnessing climate change, increasing inclusivity and equity, and contributing to the ever-increasing critical knowledge base of best practices. Thomas and his firm LEVER are sharply focused on doing all of these and more—where design (and beauty) are honored pursuits linked directly to sustainability, function and equity. Thomas and his collaborators strive to balance design and materiality to achieve the maximum societal benefit—leading to experience of a space and architecture that has regenerative potential for the planet. Thomas cares deeply about the inhabitants on this earth-and makes sure his practice is focused on equity, empathy and honesty. Beginning with their own office—the first U.S. building utilizing domestically-sourced Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)—and continuing to their winning entry in the 2015 US Tall Wood Building Prize, Thomas has been at the forefront of the mass timber revolution in architecture over the last decade.

This lineage of innovative material use, sustainable sourcing, and place-centric design continues in his current work. For example, Thomas has recently completed 843 N Spring Street, a creative mixed-use development which is one the first major uses of CLT in Los Angeles. Thomas' work has received over 50 design awards including a COTE Top Ten AIA award for the Meyer Memorial Trust. His work with the Oregon Conservation Center and the Meyer Memorial Trust HQ in Portland provided new national models for sustainable sourcing of timber and a focus on equity. His ground-breaking research has continued with the recent NSF funded seismic test of a 10-story, self-centering mass timber structure at UC San Diego which demonstrated that a high-rise design can endure the equivalent of 11,000 years of simulated earthquakes with no damage.

In summary, for architecture to be worthy, it must balance technique, design and utility. Beyond this timeless triad, Thomas believes it must also respect its place, promote an equitable world and be capable of advancing the profession by sharing knowledge gained through focused research—and demonstrated real-world design quality. Thomas has dedicated his professional life to design leadership by advancing all of these aspects of our profession. His very nature is to give back. I truly believe that acknowledging his generosity, inquisitiveness and design talents through advancement to the College of Fellows would signal that our profession is ready for new generation of thoughtful leaders who share their gifts—all the while creating equitable and award winning design work.

Jeffrey A Scherer, FAIA | Architect | Founding Principal Emeritus
Past President, AIA Minnesota

1.0 Summary Statement + Summary of Achievement

↑ L'Angolo Estate Winery

1.1 Summary Statement

LEVER founder Thomas Robinson's research-based design practice has changed the trajectory of mass timber architecture with ground-breaking buildings that demonstrate innovation and engagement can be transformational tools for design excellence.

1.2 Summary of Achievement

Regenerative Architecture

Robinson believes in the potential of architecture as an intelligent tool that can profoundly impact the environment in ways that extend beyond any specific site to be a regenerative force in the world. The decisions architects make each day regarding the materials they use matter. Where materials come from, how they are produced, and who puts them together is directly connected to the major issues facing us regionally and globally—housing, economic equity and climate change. The seemingly small choice to use one material or another ripples across our society, especially at the scale of cities and buildings, and we should take great care in considering them. Thomas is not just interested in sustainable design, but in considering how LEVER's work can evolve the extractive model that underpins contemporary building to a place where material choices can be catalysts for restoring the landscapes, communities, and ecologies that—while not on the site the building occupies—are still very much connected to it.

Stewardship

The ethic of stewardship at all levels guides how Thomas operates LEVER as a firm leader, how he thinks about design, and how he engages with clients. A 35 person firm, based in Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles, California, LEVER collaborates with communities, institutions, and creative companies to design buildings that foreground innovation, equity, and climate justice. Robinson and his collaborators always begin the design process by defining a clear set of principles that are connected to an organization's aspirational goals. The design of the experience and material ethic of LEVER's buildings is a reflection of these principles.

Thomas sees design as a tool for clients to realize projects that embody their aspirations on multiple levels. Research and innovation have been a driver for the practice, especially LEVER's innovative work in mass timber, but shaping and supporting new types of engagement at the community level has also been a major focus. This work includes projects that radically expand the role of BIPOC/EWMSB consultants and subcontractors in innovative frameworks with clients and contractors.

Design Innovation thru Research

Thomas sees innovation as a core component of the design process and an opportunity for architects to demonstrate their value to society. LEVER designed the first high rise timber structure that was fully permitted for construction utilizing domestically-sourced Cross Laminated Timber. In 2015, LEVER's design for "Framework" was awarded the $1.5 million United States Tall Wood Building Prize to fund the fire, structural, and acoustic testing necessary to demonstrate the viability and safety of timber high-rise structures.

LEVER's work, under Thomas's leadership, encompasses multiple scales and typologies, ranging from a major expansion of adidas' North American campus to headquarters for a non-profit committed to social justice, affordable housing, and major cultural projects such as the Portland Museum of Art in Maine. In parallel to project work, the firm develops and tests next generation building assemblies and sustainable tools—a research effort supported by $3 million in public and private research grant funding over the past ten years.

For this commitment to groundbreaking design, LEVER was recognized in 2020 by Fast Company as one of the world's most innovative companies; and in 2017, was named to Architectural Record's Design Vanguard and the Architectural League of New York's Emerging Voices. Thomas Robinson's leadership has resulted in architecture that demonstrates innovation and engagement can be drivers of exceptional design that is bold and respectful; innovative and pedagogical; inspirational and appropriate; and experiential and gentle.

"Give me a lever large enough and a place to stand and I can move the world."

—Archimedes, c 200 BCE

2.0 Curriculum Vitae

"The Oregon Conservation Center truly embodies the mission of sustainability, stewardship, and inspiration that we serve at The Nature Conservancy"

—Jim Desmond,
Director, The Nature Conservancy Oregon

Thomas Robinson, AIA

Education

1991	Bachelor of Arts in Architecture with Honors, University of California, Berkeley
2000	Master of Architecture with Distinction, Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Professional Experience

1991–1996	Esherick, Homsey, Dodge, and Davis, San Francisco, California
2000–2003	Herzog & de Meuron, Basel, Switzerland (Senior Architect)
2003–2009	Allied Works Architecture, Portland, Oregon (Principal)
2009–	LEVER Architecture, Portland Oregon (Founder)

Architectural Registrations

1999	California
2011	Oregon
2018	Washington
2021	Idaho
2022	Michigan
2023	New Jersey

Academic Honors

2000	James Templeton Kelley Prize at Harvard GSD (top thesis project)
1991	Eisner Award at UC Berkeley (top ranked student)
1990	Presidential Undergraduate Fellowship at UC Berkeley (undergraduate research funding)

Academic Affiliations

2018 + 2020	Visiting Professor, University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design
2021	Visiting Professor of Practice, University of Oregon School of Architecture & Environment

Professional Affiliations

2011	National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
2008	American Institute of Architect

Framework: United State Tall Wood Building Competition

Forest To Frame: High Rise Mass Timber

2015-2017 Portland, Oregon

Thomas led the architectural design of LEVER's winning submission to the US Tall Wood Building Competion. “Framework” was the first wood high-rise design in the US to receive a permit for construction via a peer reviewed performance based design process. The project was an important catalyst in the evolution of the mass timber movement in the United States that connected sustainable urban development to regional timber sourcing.

The research and testing for Framework was supported by a $1,500,000 grant from the USDA, Softwood Lumber Board, and Binational Softwood Lumber Board to pay for the costs of testing and peer review necessary to pursue a performance-based project beyond what was permitted in current building codes. The project became the model for a new construction type (Type IV-B) that was first introduced in 2021 International Building Code (IBC)

The mixed-use design combined retail and public exhibition on the ground floor, with five levels of office, and 60 units of affordable housing.

Framework: Performance Based Design Component Testing

Fire, Structural, and Acoustic Component Testing

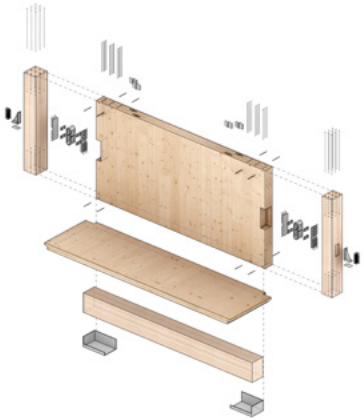
2015-2017 Various Locations Nationally

Thomas initiated and oversaw the team that designed, fabricated, and tested wood assemblies that underwent more than 40 tests in laboratories across the United States. Colloborating closely with structural, fire and acoustic engineers, Thomas and the LEVER team developed and tested designs that demonstrated the performance equivalencies of timber to steel or concrete structures in high rise construction. Test results were made public to spur wider acceptance of mass timber in U.S. building codes and have been used as the basis of other high-rise timber projects across the United States.

The mass timber components designed for Framework were the first in the world to pass a ASTM 3119 two-hour fire test demonstrating their safety for high-rise construction.

LABS / PARTNERS

Intertek Labs, Oregon State University, Portland State Uninveristy, San Antonio Fire Lab, Arup, KPFF Consulting Engineers, StructureCraft, Walsh Construction



CLT post tensioned rocking wall components

Above: Two story initial full scale test in 2017
Left: Ten story final test in 2024

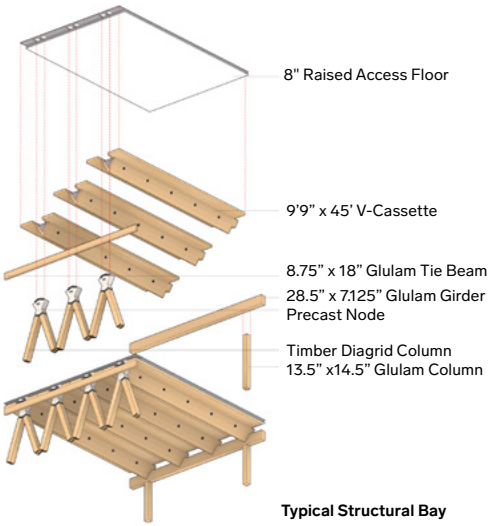
NHERI Tallwood Project

2017-2024 UC San Diego, California

Building on the research of the Framework project, Thomas led the LEVER team that worked in collaboration with a consortium of researchers and Universities over a seven year period to design the world's largest full scale timber building to be tested for seismic performance. The project was funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) and included the Colorado School of Mines, University of Washington, University of Nevada, Lehigh University, and Washington State University The goal of this multi-disciplinary research project was to validate a resilient post-tensioned methodology for tall wood buildings. LEVER designed the 10 story wood prototype that underwent full-scale seismic testing on an outdoor shake table facility at the University of California, San Diego in 2024. The building was subjected to the equivalent of 11,000 years of earthquakes with no damage over a two week period.

STRUCTURAL PARTNERS

KPFF, Holmes Engineering



Typical Structural Bay

V-cassette testing at Oregon State University

Timber Diagrid and V-Cassette Performance Based Testing

2022–2024 Kirkland, Washington

As part of a new building for a major technology company, Thomas led the design and performance based testing process of a distinctive timber “diagrid”—a structural exoskeleton that eliminated the need for interior structural cores and a concrete topping slab. Located in a high seismic zone, the diagonal mass timber columns form a repeating v-pattern that takes the lateral and seismic forces of the structure to create a column free work space zone for maximum flexibility. The diagrid connects to a series of prefabricated “V” cassettes that span 45'. The interior of the V cassette serve as a timber air distribution system that can be utilized as supply or return depending on the final office layout.

Six full scale V-Cassettes were tested until failure at the structural lab at Oregon State University to demonstrate the strength and viability of the system.

LABS / PARTNERS

Holmes Engineering, Oregon State University

Creative Studio + Campus
Glendale, California
2011

This early project transforms a windowless Cold War-era aerospace factory building and the surrounding parking into a state-of-the-art Digital Animation Studio and Campus. The campus design is organized around re-envisioning the parking lot between two existing buildings as a tree-lined promenade. The promenade links a series of outdoor rooms and patios to a large wooden deck that is the central campus common space and location of the new main entries into each building.

SIZE
85,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal *

SELECT AWARDS
AIA Los Angeles, Citation Award
AIA Portland, Honor Award

*Wolcott served as AOR

Union Way
Portland, Oregon
2013

This project was the first time LEVER directly sourced timber from a forest owner—a FSC certified hybrid poplar forest 20 miles from the site. The project is a daylit urban connector lined with retail and restaurants that joins two major Portland thoroughfares. Inspired by the small shop-lined alleys and passageways of cities like Paris and Tokyo, it exemplifies the “Forest to Frame” ethic that informs LEVER's subsequent work connecting regional sourcing to architectural experience and stewardship.

SIZE
10,500 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SELECT AWARDS
AIA Portland, Mayor's Award for Design Excellence

ArtHouse Student Housing
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Portland, Oregon 2013*

ArtHouse is the first purpose-built student residence for the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA). The building connects the artistic life of art student community to the Portland Park Blocks with a facade and spaces that play with light on every level. The building includes a café, retail, and a gallery space for students that link the entry on the park to an interior courtyard focused around an expansive rain garden. The garden both serves as a place to congregate and sketch while mitigating all storm water runoff from the project.

SIZE
50,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal*

SELECT AWARDS
AIA Portland, Citation Award

*LRS Architects served as AOR

TreeHouse
Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon 2015*

This 69 unit apartment housing bridges the urban and topographical qualities of the campus by placing the building as an “in the round” object in the forest. Instead of cutting into the hill, the building form is carved to follow the landscape. From the interior entry lobby, the experience of the forested landscape is framed. From the exterior, the building connects the upper level bridge entry to the lower level retail connected directly to a performative rain garden landscape.

SIZE
45,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal*

SELECT AWARDS
World Architects, Building of the Year, Finalist for Design Excellence

*LRS Architects served as AOR

Range
Bend, Oregon
2017

This 132 unit complex of multi-family residential buildings arranged around a community center integrates with the natural landscape by providing outdoor space for every unit. The building's mountain-like forms and high desert inspired material palette create a strong connection to Bend's distinctive natural setting. The horizontality of the ground floor level creates a relationship to the landscape, while the generous volumes of the upper levels establish a connection to views. All timber for the project was regionally sourced

SIZE
105,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

CERTIFICATES:
Earth Advantage Platinum Excellence

Footwear innovation Center
Portland, Oregon
2017

This new campus is a renovation of a 1970s timber YMCA with an elevated track for Under Armour, a global athletic apparel brand. It serves as the company's new hub for design innovation and brings footwear design and development together under one roof. Workspaces have direct proximity to design labs and athlete testing facilities via the reused elevated track. These specialized facilities provide rapid prototyping capabilities and the real-time performance analysis that informs product development.

SIZE
70,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

World Forestry Center
Portland, Oregon
2022 (on hold)

Located in Washington Park, a heavily forested 450 acre public park in the hills of Portland the project is for an educational non-profit whose mission is to create and inspire champions of sustainable forestry. The campus includes three iconic, octagonal buildings designed by renowned Northwest architect John Storrs. LEVER's mass timber expansion connects all three buildings with a new linear building and outdoor porch that extends the campus to the transit and pedestrian routes it shares with the neighboring Oregon Zoo.

SIZE
22,000 GSF

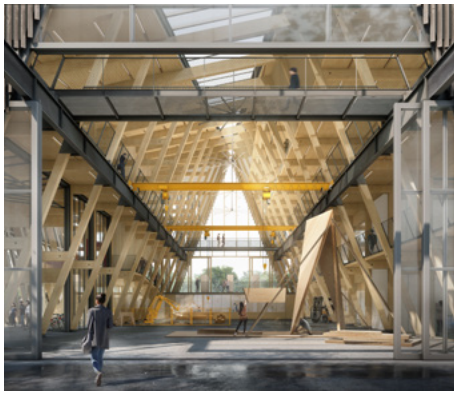
ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal /AOR

“Quest for Beauty: Architecture, Landscapes, and Collections of John Yeon,” Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon 2017

This exhibit design reflects seminal Northwest designer John Yeon’s integration of innovative architecture, landscape preservation, and art in his private and civic life. A procession of galleries organized around distinct themes, from his origins as a young architect, to inventive explorations with plywood homes, to his late designs which anticipated Postmodernism traces his life, career, and enduring legacy of one of Oregon’s most influential and innovative architects.

SIZE
6,500 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal



Anthony Timberlands Design and Innovation Center
Fayetteville, Arkansas 2019

This proposal envisioned a new applied research facility focused on the Architecture School’s wood innovation initiatives as a regional sourced series of timber frames that create a central fabrication hall. All labs and classrooms have visual or physical access to this central space. and the volume serves as a mixed mode ventilation space achieving net zero operation with geoexchange. The scheme was the runner up in an international design competition won by Grafton Architects.

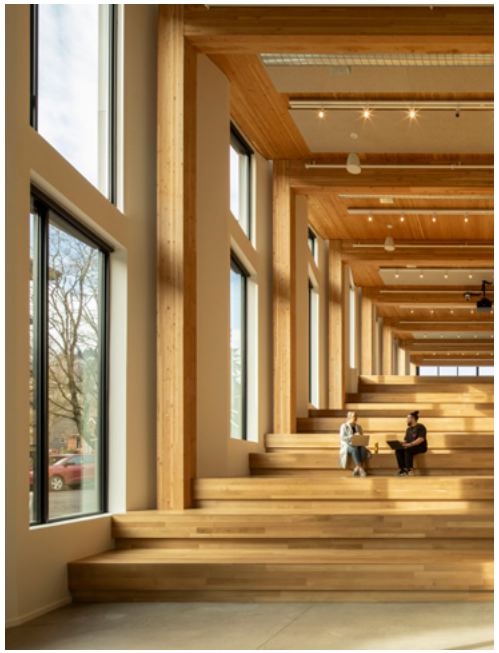
SIZE
50,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal

COMPETITION TEAM
DLANDstudio, Transolar

Thesis Headquarters
Portland, Oregon
2024

Designed for a digital creative agency that values collaboration, the team was challenged to rethink office design during COVID and prioritize "mid-door" spaces that bring nature indoors. The design centers the new campus as a place for community—a hub for hosting events, team building, and collaboration. Timberlab, the mass timber integrator and installer noted that the design was the most efficient they had ever worked on, and this allowed the project to be completed in eleven months.



SIZE
50,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

CERTIFICATIONS
Path to Net Zero— EUI 26 / LEED Gold

One Universal
Los Angeles, California
2016–2024

Following a national competition, this project is a dramatic transformation of NBCUniversal's historic working studio. Collaborating with James Corner Field Operations for landscape, One Universal is organized around a new "paseo" that runs the full length of the lot, connecting a central green space flanked by a new office building and zoetrope inspired Commons. The Commons contains a new commissary, three state of the art cinemas, and a rooftop conference center wrapped with a lenticular circular veil that provides shaded outdoor rooms. The office building features the first timber curtain wall in a Type 1 building in Los Angeles

SIZE
Office 380,000 GSF, Commons 85,000 GSF, Parking 540,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal *
*House & Robertson served as AOR

Mass Plywood Pavilion
Portland, Oregon
2016–2019

Plywood has ancient origins—but the production of the modern industrial material we know today began in 1905 at a plywood plant in Portland, Oregon. Since that time plywood has become a ubiquitous part of wood construction throughout the world. In 2017, Freres Lumber began manufacturing a new product called "Mass Plywood," which is similar to plywood but can be manufacturered at a larger scale to form structural panels up to 12' W x 50' L x 24" thick. This pavilion is the first structure in the US built from this new material with timber sourced from forests within 100 miles of the Freres' manufacturing plant in Lyons, Oregon.

SIZE
40,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

Alta House
Alta, Wyoming
2023

With direct views of the Teton Range, the design is an interconnected series of simple volumes that frame the mountain landscape from every room. Wyoming's climate called for materials and sustainable solutions focused on durability and energy conservation. The custom corten steel and timber facade stands up to harsh weather without extensive maintenance. To enhance energy efficiency and thermal comfort in an extreme climate, the home is super-insulated with an innovative wood fiber insulation, triple pane doors and windows, and a sophisticated heat recovery ventilation system.

SIZE
3,980 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal /AOR

Schnitzer School of Art + Art History + Design, Portland State University, Oregon
2026 (in construction)

This project unifies the School of Arts into a major mass timber structure by housing all three practice areas under one roof to form a vibrant center for art and design that fosters collaboration and inclusion. This interdisciplinary facility engages the city with art and design galleries on Broadway, welcomes the community into a west facing “work yard” facing the Portland Park Blocks, and steps down to the Native American Student Center building to the north.

50 percent of the wood used to create the glulam columns and beams will be sourced from regional Tribal enterprises.

SIZE
103,600 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal /AOR

Highland Hall
University of Oregon School of Architecture, Portland, Oregon
2024

This project transforms an old gymnasium into a new home for the Department of Architecture in Portland. The project embodies the values of regenerative design by reclaiming and re-machining 7" thick Mass Plywood Panels (MPP) utilized for a major seismic test into partitions and conference rooms that organize the space.

Mechanically controlled roof vents and high-volume fans assist with natural ventilation in the summer, and in the winter, they de-stratify hot and cold air to significantly reduce energy usage.

SIZE
9,200 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal /AOR

Portland Museum of Art
Portland, Maine
2027 (in design)

LEVER’s winning proposal was selected from four finalists that included MVRDV, Adjaye Associates, and Toshiko Mori, in an international open competition with 200+ entries. LEVER's proposal “Flip the Narrative” focused on connecting the campus with ground floor community spaces that reflect the PMA’s vision to embrace a new generation of visitors.

The gently arched roof is inspired by the Wabanaki tradition of greeting the sun as it rises over the northern continent each day, and frames the summer solstice sunrise each year. Regionally sourced mass timber building will serve as a catalyst for regenerative forestry in Maine and New England.

SIZE
60,000 GSF

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal
*Simons Architects will serve as AOR

Civic / Volunteer

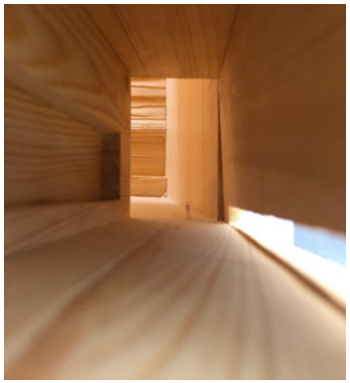
Community Engagement: Your Street Your Voice / TeamUP
2015—Present

After working internationally and nationally on projects that were often disconnected from where he lived, Thomas founded LEVER with the intention of creating a practice that prioritizes connection to the local community. Over the last decade LEVER has evolved into a platform for engagement within the traditionally Black community of North Portland community where the firm is located. This work starts with the 10+ projects that LEVER has designed within a 2-3 mile radius of our office with diverse design partners and consultants, but it is also about building a pipeline for a more diverse design profession.

Under Thomas's leadership the firm has collaborated with schools and organizations like Your Street, Your Voice to design, fund, and run programming for BIPOC youth. The Firm supports paying teenage youth for their participation in the program to remove barriers to entry. The firm also has its own initiative called TeamUP that pairs staff with students of color who are interested in built environment careers.

Portland Children's Museum Board Member
2012—14

In addition to practice, Thomas served as a Board Member of the Portland Children's Museum during a critical period where a major outdoor exhibit was implemented, and advised on the landscape architect selections and budgeting.



Teaching

University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture
USDA Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant Visiting Professor
Spring 2018 / Fall 2020

As LEVER's innovative work in Mass Timber became more nationally known, Thomas was invited to serve as a visiting professor for two semesters over a two year period at the Fay Jones School of Architecture. Funded by a significant USDA Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant, Thomas explored LEVER's "Forest to Frame" approach within a regional pedagogical context. The intent was to connect the experiential to the prosaic, and the urban to the rural by leveraging regional resources to inform the next generation of designers.

The first studio explored this ethic through a cooperative housing housing project for Architecture students to be constructed with mass timber sourced from Arkansas forests. Starting with an studio wide analysis of the regional forest industry in Arkansas, including site visits to regional forests and example projects in Portland, Oregon, students utilized forest management, supply chains and regional fabrication as generators of the final design proposals.

The second studio—Co-taught with Dean Peter MacKeith- proposed a new timber pavilion for World Expo 2020 in Dubai. The studio explored the history and iconography of World Fair Pavilions. It also included extensive readings and discussions with leading historians and thought leaders focused on documenting the environmental history of the United States through the lens of the exploitation of its forest landscape- and the potential for reframing this history within the design of a regenerative and renewable mass timber pavilion.

Design Award Juries / AIA

09.2024	Juror, AIA Western States Design Awards, Denver Colorado
04.2023	Juror, AIA Texas Jury, Austin, Texas
08.2022	Juror, AIA Springfield Design Awards
09.2021	Juror AIA Idaho Design Awards, Sun Valley, Idaho
07.2021	Juror, AIA California Design Awards
09.2020	Juror, AIA Los Angeles Design Awards, Los Angeles, CA
08.2019	Juror, AIA New England Design Awards
03.2017	Juror, AIA San Francisco Design Awards
03.2016	Juror, AIA Georgia Design Awards
08.2015	Juror, AIA Colorado Design Awards

Other Juries

12.2024	Juror, Architects Newspaper Awards
04.2024	Juror, Architizer A+ Awards
04.2023	Juror, Architizer A+ Awards
04.2022	Juror, Architizer A+ Awards
09.2018	Juror, Maine Mass Timber Design Competition
03.2015	Juror, USDA Green Building Awards

Invited Design Critic

2024	Harvard Graduate School of Design
2024	Virginia Tech / Cal Poly Joint Program, Washington D.C.
2024	University of Oregon School of Architecture
2022	UCLA School of Architecture
2020	Columbia University School of Architecture
2000	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Architecture
2019	Yale University School of Architecture
2016	USC School of Architecture

AIA National

2022 AIA National COTE Top Ten Award, Meyer Memorial Trust

AIA Oregon

2023 AIA Oregon Honor Award, Adidas North American Headquarters
2023 AIA Oregon 2030 Merit Award, Adidas North American Headquarters
2021 AIA Oregon Architecture Awards 2030 Award, Meyer Memorial Trust
2021 AIA Oregon Architecture Awards Honor Award, Meyer Memorial Trust

AIA Northwest and Pacific Region

2020 AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Citation Award, The Oregon Conservation Center
2018 AIA Northwest and Pacific Design Awards, Merit Award, Flex
2018 AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Merit Award, Albina Yard
2014 AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Citation Award, Arthouse

AIA Portland

2019 AIA Portland, Citation Award, The Oregon Conservation Center
2019 AIA Portland, Honor Award, Redfox Commons
2018 AIA Portland, Citation Award, Flex
2016 AIA Portland, Citation Award, Albina Yard
2017 AIA Portland, Merit Award, L'Angolo Estate Winery
2015 AIA Portland, Merit Award. Treehouse
2013 AIA Portland, Citation Award, Arthouse
2013 AIA Portland, Mayor's Award for Design Excellence, Union Way
2013 AIA Portland, People's Choice Award, Union Way
2011 AIA Portland, Honor Award Creative Studio and Campus

LEVER Firm Awards

2024 Architizer, Top 100 Firms in North America
2024 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Practice Awards, Architect Medium Firm—West
2022 Fast Company, World's Most Innovative Companies
2020 Fast Company, Innovation By Design Awards, Best Design Companies
2021 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Practice Awards, Architect Large Firm—West
2017 Architectural League of New York, Emerging Voices
2017 Architectural Record, Design Vanguard
2017 Engineering News Record, Top 25 Newsmaker Firm Award
2017 Oregon Daily Journal of Commerce, Newsmakers Firm Award

AIA Los Angeles

2012 AIA Los Angeles, Citation Award, Creative Studio and Campus

Research Grants / Prizes

2023 $300,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, Portland Museum of Art,
2023 $150,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, Killingsworth Office
2023 $300,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, Mass Timber Facility,
2023 $275,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, Design Parameters for Codification of Mass Timber Rocking Walls,
2022 $250,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, World Forestry Center, Mass Timber Experience Center,
2022 $277,000 USDA and Softwood Lumber Board's Net-Zero Timber Design Competition, Killingsworth Office
2021 $100,000 USDA Wood Innovation Grant, Forest to Frame: An Architecture of Resilient Forestry,
2017 $25,000 LaFarge Holcim Foundation Prize, Framework
2016 $30,000 National Science Foundation grant, NHERI TallWood project
2015 $1,500,000 US Tall Wood Building Prize, Framework
2018 $43,000 Livable Communities Act Grant, Framework,

Meyer Memorial Trust
2022 Portland Business Journal, Transformer Award
2022 Wood Design & Building Awards, Citation Award
2021 GRAY Magazine, Design For Good Award
2021 Fast Company, Innovation By Design Awards, Most Innovative Architecture Spaces and Places Category

Adidas North American Headquarters
2022 Portland Business Journal, Transformer Award
2022 WoodWorks, Wood Design Awards, Jury's Choice
2022 Wood Design & Building Awards, Merit Award
2022 ARCHITECT Magazine, Architecture & Interiors Award
2021 Building Magazine, International Project of the Year

The Oregon Conservation Center
2021 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award - Institutional
2020 Architizer, A+ Awards Special Mention, Architecture+Renovation
2020 WoodWorks, Wood Design Awards, Institutional Category
2020 Portland Business Journal, Transformer Award
2020 Chicago Athenaeum, Green Good Design Award
2019 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design Awards, Editor's Pick, Building Renovation-Civic
2019 GRAY Magazine, Design for Good Award

Redfox Commons
2020 Restore Oregon, DeMuro Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation
2020 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award
2020 WoodWorks Wood Design Awards, Commercial-Low Rise Category
2019 Wood Design & Building Awards, Citation Award
2019 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design Awards Honorable Mention, Adaptive Reuse category
2019 Portland Business Journal, CRE Transformer Awards—Transformer Award

Louisa Flowers
2021 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award, Affordable Housing
2021 Architizer, A+ Awards, Popular Choice Winner, Public Housing
2021 Architizer, A+ Awards, Popular Choice Winner, Public Housing
2020 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design, Multi-Unit Residential
2020 DJC Oregon, Top Projects Awards, First Place, Affordable Housing
2020 Earth Advantage, Green Builder of the Year Awards - LEED for Homes

Flex
2018 Gray Magazine, Editors Pick
2018 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design in Commercial-Retail

Albina Yard
2018 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Awards
2017 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design
2017 Woodworks, Best Commercial Design

L'Angolo Estate
2018 Architizer, A+ Awards, Special Mention
2018 WoodWorks, Wood Design Award, Regional Excellence

Framework
2018 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Awards
2017 LafargeHolcim Foundation Awards, North America
2017 Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design, Framework (R&D)
2017 Portland Design Commission, Design Excellence Award
2015 US Tall Wood, Building Prize Competition

Treehouse
2017 Excellence in Concrete Design
2016 Architizer, A+ Awards, Finalist

Arthouse
2014 Portland Business Journal, Better Bricks Award
2013 DJC Oregon, Top Projects

Creative Studio and Campus
2013 IIDA Southern California, Calibre Award
2011 LA Business Journal, Best Renovation Creative Studio and Campus

Architectural Record, 2024

Architectural Record, 2021

All publications listed are about the work of Thomas Robinson and LEVER with the exception of the article annotated with a *, which is an editorial written by the applicant. The list is not intended to be compreshensive and focuses on publications with national or international reach.

Architectural Record, "Lever Architecture's 843 N. Spring Street Portends a Greener Future for Los Angeles," August 12, 2024 [↗]

Fast Company, "Wooden building proves it can withstand major earthquakes," May 22, 2023 [↗]

Architectural Record, "Shaken Not Stirred: Tallest Mass-Timber Shake-Table Test," May 16, 2023 [↗]

Archinect, "LEVER and Atelier Ten seek to 'debunk four mass timber myths," April 6, 2023 [↗]

New York Times, "At Museums and Galleries, a Spirit of Togetherness," October 18, 2023 [↗]

LA Times, "A home, an office and a park demonstrate that design can be environmentally conscious — and look good," August 23, 2023 [↗]

Oregonian, "Portland housing complex aims to turn gentrification to Black 're-entrification," August 22, 2023 [↗]

Urbanize LA, "Checking in on NBCUniversal's new backlot office campus," May 31, 2023 [↗]

Architect's Newspaper, "LEVER, FPBA, and James Corner Field Operations design first phase of SDSU innovation district for LPC West." March 20, 2023 [↗]

Boston Globe, "Portland Museum of Art announces architects for $100 million expansion," January 8, 2023 [↗]

Detail, "Meyer Memorial Trust in Portland, Oregon," August 31, 2022 [↗]

The Plan Italy Issue 139, "Adidas East Village Extension | Team Work" June 2022 [↗]

Metropolis, "Five Workplace Projects Putting Sustainable Design into Action," May 30, 2022 [↗]

Fast Company, "Adidas's jaw-dropping new office sets an audacious standard for the future of work," May 18, 2022 [↗]

Fast Company, "Look inside the best green buildings of 2022," April 25, 2022 [↗]

Architect's Newspaper, "The 2022 AIA COTE Top Ten winners elevate the standards for superlatively sustainable building," April 25, 2022 [↗]

Metropolis, "In Portland, the Adidas Village Connects Creativity, Community, and Sport," October 13, 2021 [↗]

Sunset Magazine, "Introducing CLT, the New (but Familiar) Building Material That's Disrupting the Construction Industry," July 22, 2021 [↗]

Dwell, "A Portland Family Updates an Unusual Prairie-Style Home," September 15, 2020 [↗]

Dwell, "Architects and Designers weigh in on the Future of Work," April 29, 2020 [↗]

Metropolis, "LEVER Architecture's Meyer Memorial Trust HQ Balances Equity and Sustainability," May 20, 2021 [↗]

Architectural Record, "Meyer Memorial Trust by LEVER,"March 2, 2021 [↗]

Dwell, "Architects and Designers weigh in on the Future of Work," April 29, 2020 [↗]

*Architects Newspaper, "LEVER Architecture's Thomas Robinson discusses the impact California could have on the timber industry," February 12, 2020 [↗]

SURFACE Magazine, 2018

The Atlantic, 2017

The New York Times, "The Trees and the Forest of New Towers," November 21, 2019 [↗]

Architect's Newspaper, "The Nature Conservancy turns to protected habitats and LEVER for its Portland headquarters" August 16, 2019 [↗]

Architectural Record, "New Code Changes Will Streamline Mass Timber Permitting" January 24, 2019 [↗]

Architect's Newspaper, "Washington State is embracing mass timber construction," March 19, 2018 [↗]

Monocle, "Wooden Wonders," March 2018 [↗]

Architect, "Welcome to Albina Yard" January 2018 [↗]

SURFACE Magazine,"Lever Architects Elevates Lumber Construction to an Art Form," January 17, 2018 [↗]

Architect, "LEVER Architecture's Framework Building Awarded $6 Million for Affordable Housing Units," November 13, 2017 [↗]

The Atlantic, "The Weird, Wooden Future of Skyscrapers," December 2017 [↗]

Dwell, "You Wouldn't Expect the Rooftop Addition on This American Foursquare in Portland," December 1, 2017 [↗]

Architect's Newspaper, "Fir & Above: LEVER Architecture crafts an office building out of timber in North Portland," November 1, 2017 [↗]

The Wall Street Journal, "The Big, New Thing in Building? Wood," October 17, 2017 [↗]

Dwell, "Five Modern Wineries on the West Coast with Beautiful Architecture," Oct. 2, 2017 [↗]

Los Angeles Times, "A new look at the architecture of John Yeon, unsung master of Pacific Northwest modernism," August 31, 2017 [↗]

Wall Street Journal, "Quest for Beauty: The Architecture, Landscapes, and Collections of John Yeon' Review: The Architectural Prince of Portland," July 4, 2017 [↗]

Architect, "Green Light for the Tallest Mass Timber Building in the U.S." June 14, 2017 [↗]

Architectural Record, Tallest Mass-Timber Building in U.S. Receives Approval for Construction" June 6, 2017 [↗]

Associated Press, "Oregon city approves permit for US' 1st all wood high-rise," June 6, 2017 [↗]

Dwell, "Albina Yard- Pioneering the Future of Sustainable Mass Timber Construction" May 8, 2017 [↗]

Architects Newspaper, "Arch League of New York: AN profiles all of this year's Emerging Voices firms," March 24, 2017 [↗]

AIA National Conference June 12, 2018

LEVER: Regenerative Architecture, Monterey Design Conference Monterey, CA, October 2024 (upcoming)

Design Experience Keynote: LEVER, Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Wellington, New Zealand, September 2024

Framework / Hybrids Skyscraper Museum Tall Timber New York, NY, April 2024

Setting an Embodied Carbon North Star through the Lens of Planetary Boundaries, International Living Futures Conference Los Angeles, CA, May 2023

Equity as Design Excellence: A Panel with the Portland Museum of Art Design Team, Architalx, Portland, ME, May 2023

New Timber Architecture, General Services Administration, Virtual, November 2022

Hybrid Timber, CTBUH Steel-Timber Hybrids Conference, May 2022

LEVER Architecture, USGBC Los Angeles—Thought Leadership Series, February 2022

LEVER Recent Work, International Mass Timber Conference, Portland, OR March 2021

LEVER Recent Work, Oulu University, Oslo November 2020

LEVER: New Timber Architecture, AIA Philadelphia, Forum on Architecture and Design, Philadelphia, PA, October 2020

LEVER: New Timber Architecture, Architect's Newspaper Future of Mass Timber Conference, September 2020

LEVER: Materials Matter, UCLA School of Architecture + Urban Design
Los Angeles, CA, March 2020

Framework - High Rise Timber, AIA National Conference, New York City, NY, June 12, 2018

LEVER: New Timber Typologies, University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture, Fayetteville, AR, March 2018

LEVER: New High Rise Timber, International Wood Construction Forum Garmisch, Germany, December 2017

LEVER: Forest to Frame, Society of American Foresters, Hagenstein Lecture, Washington, D.C., October 2017

LEVER: Forest to Frame, Norsk Treteknisk Institut Oslo, Norway, June 2017

LEVER: Forest to Frame, Architectural League of New York, New York, NY, March 2017

LEVER: New Timber Architecture, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, November 2016

LEVER: Timber City, National Building Museum, Washington, D.C., October 2016

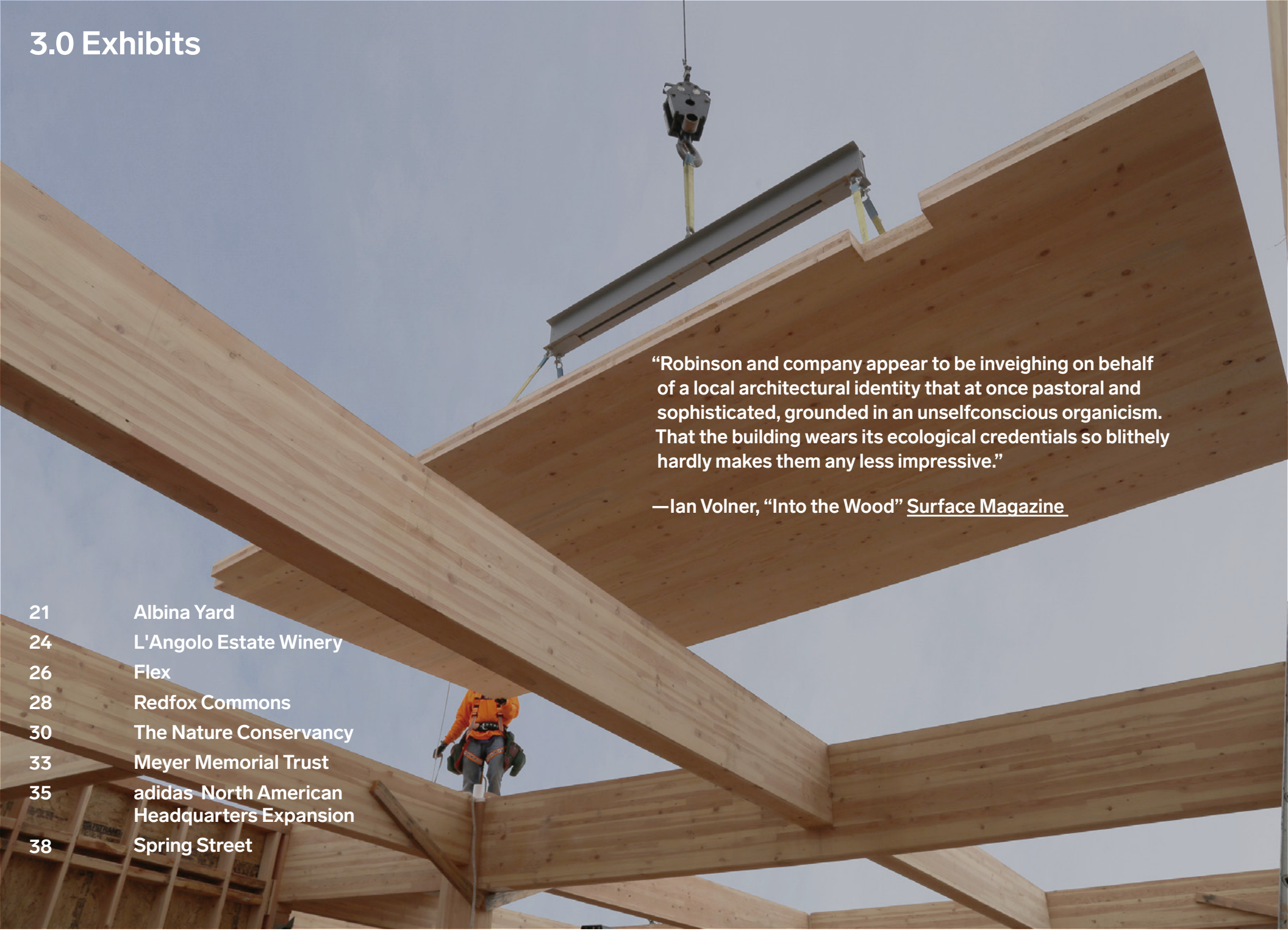
LEVER: Timber City, AIA Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C., September 2016

LEVER: New work, Architectural Record Innovation Conference, San Francisco, CA, June 2016

LEVER: Recent Work, AIA Colorado, Practice + Design Conference, Denver, CO, October 2015

LEVER: Forest to Frame, University of Oregon, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Eugene, OR, October 2015

3.0 Exhibits



"Robinson and company appear to be inveighing on behalf of a local architectural identity that at once pastoral and sophisticated, grounded in an unselfconscious organicism. That the building wears its ecological credentials so blithely hardly makes them any less impressive."

—Ian Volner, "Into the Wood" Surface Magazine

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26 Flex
28 Redfox Commons
30 The Nature Conservancy
33 Meyer Memorial Trust
35 adidas North American Headquarters Expansion
38 Spring Street

Albina Yard

Portland, Oregon
2016

Set in a mixed residential North Portland neighborhood, Albina Yard is the first building in the United States made from domestically fabricated Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT). Clad in black metal panel with an extensive floor-to-ceiling window system supported by Douglas fir mullions with a Port Orford Cedar cap, the 16,000-square-foot speculative office building has become a model for the wider adoption of mass timber across the country.

While both office and residential structures have been built using CLT imported from Europe or Canada, no other building of any size had been constructed using domestically fabricated CLT. Aaron Blake, owner of Reworks, (Developer and General Contractor for Albina Yard) had seen CLT buildings on visits to Europe and wanted to pursue the material for a market-rate office building in Portland. After visiting Union Way, a modern shopping arcade that LEVER designed in downtown Portland, he reached out to us. Albina Yard was not only our first built project in CLT that utilized domestic CLT for its construction, but it has become proof-of-concept for utilizing this new material for the structure and lateral system in an urban context.

The project has also served as the catalyst for the development of a domestic mass timber supply chain, establishing a demand that rural communities and landscapes can benefit from. It has served as LEVER's office since its completion in 2016.

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—Aaron Blake, Developer & Contractor, ReWorks

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
16,500 GSF

SELECT AWARDS
AIA Portland, Mayor's Award for Design Excellence

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Principal / AOR

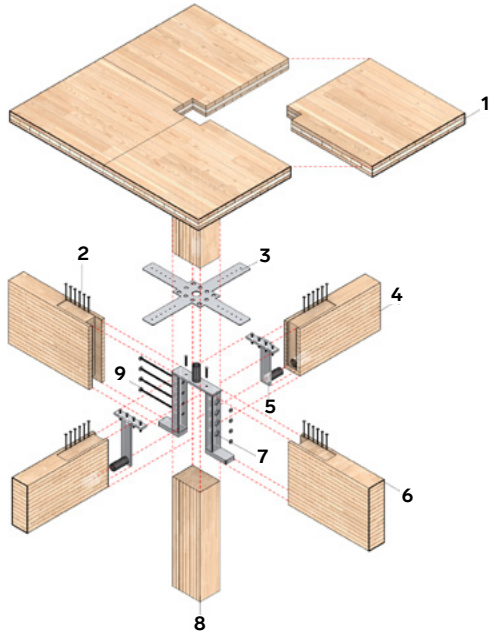
AIA AWARD
AIA Portland, Citation Award

ADDITIONAL AWARDS + CERTIFICATIONS
Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design Award for Office and Retail

PUBLICATIONS
Architect, "Welcome to Albina Yard," January 2018 [↗]

Dwell, "Albina Yard: Pioneering the Future of Sustainable Mass Timber Construction," May 8, 2017 [↗]

The primary circulation stair is constructed of CLT panels and daylit through a back couryard that serves as a secondary entry on the "L" shaped site.



Custom CLT / Glulam Seismic Detail

1 3-ply CLT
2 Engineered self-tapping screw
3 Custom lasercut steel strap
4 6-3/4 x 24 custom CNC-cut glulam girder
5 Custom steel seismic beam hanger
6 6-3/4 x 18 custom CNC-cut glulam beam
7 Custom steel seismic girder hanger
8 8-3/4 x 12 custom CNC-cut glulam column
9 Engineered bolts

L' Angolo Estate Winery

Newberg, Oregon
2016

This family-owned winery is located on 23 acres outside of Newberg, Oregon in Yamhill County. The client's goal was to create a tasting room experience that reflects the family's approach to wine making—a direct expression of the Oregon soils and climate, without embellishment or irrigation. The intent was to reflect this wine making philosophy with a design that connects directly to the vineyard experience while also responding to the views and climate of the site, and to Oregon's emerging identity as a producer of great wine.

Inspired by the broad canopied native Oregon oak trees that populate the valley, two cantilevered roof structures interlock at the point of arrival to the tasting room. The public space opens to the vineyard and valley to the north, south, and east with a structural wood glazing system. Two large sliding doors centered on the tasting room bar bring the vineyard into the space but also serve as a passive cooling system in the summer when used with the upper clerestory windows.

The glulam doug fir beams were sourced regionally from Oregon and are hung from two tube steel beams that are cambered at each end to accommodate a 12' roof cantilever. Utilizing a stock glulam beam size typically utilized for multifamily housing allowed us to leverage the existing supply chain to limit the cost of timber roof material to $16,000.

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
2,200 sf

AIA AWARD
AIA Portland, Merit Award

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
Architizer A+ Awards, Special Mention

Gray Awards, Finalist

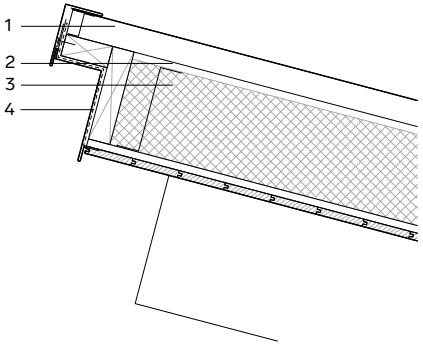
PUBLICATIONS
Arch Daily, "L'Angolo Estate / LEVER Architecture," February 2018 [↗]

dezeen, "Oregon wine tasting room by Lever Architecture embraces fertile landscape," March 2017 [↗]

Portland Monthly, "A New Tasting Room in Newberg Jumps on the Timber Train," May 2017 [↗]

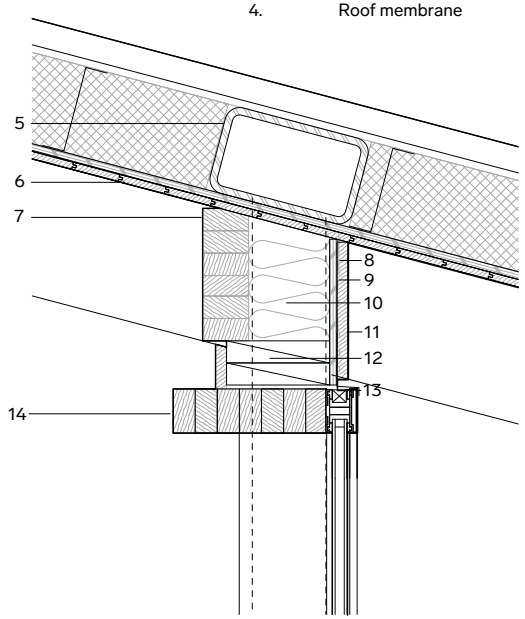
Wine Enthusiast, "Tasting Room Design That Is Redefining the Winery Experience," September 2024 [↗]

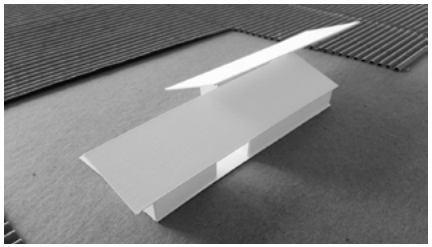
I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—Hollings Renton, Owner, L'Angolo Estate



Roof Edge Detail

1. Standing seam roofing
2. Rigid insulation
3. Overlay board
4. Roof membrane





Initial sketch concept model by Thomas Robinson

Roof Hybrid Structure Detail

5 HSS 12 x6-1/2 w/ 5/8" camber
6. Wood ceiling
7. 3 1/8" x 9" glulam blocking
8. SS flashing kerf cut into wood above
9. WRB
10. R-21 batt insulation
11. 1x painted cedar siding
12. HSS column beyond
13. Painted head flashing
14. Timber curtain wall

Flex

Portland, Oregon
2017

Flex is a 19,000 sf commercial building designed to accommodate a range of creative tenants from a yoga studio to small maker spaces. The design echoes industrial "flex" structures, elevating a humble typology to iconic status using warm timber structural elements and a distinctive angular building form. The large 200' x 95' open floor plate is divisible into eight, 24' structural bays, allowing the building to be partitioned for diverse tenants. Inside, the open, loft-like interior blends industrial character with architectural quality. The 80' triangular clerestory, skylights, and glass garage-style doors bring daylight into the deep floor plates.

Being a speculative development with a highly economical budget, the team was challenged to find design, materials, and building technology solutions that would bring architectural presence to an everyday structure. By bringing an innovative eye to simple, local materials and working with trade partners to customize off-the-shelf products, Flex creates a striking and highly flexible design for a modest cost.

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—Lisa Wyatt, Original Owner/Developer FLEX

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
19,000 sf

AIA AWARDS
AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Merit Award, 2018

AIA Portland, Citation Award, 2018

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
Gray Magazine, Editors Pick, 2018

Architect's Newspaper, Best of Design in Commercial—Retail, 2018

PUBLICATIONS
ArchDaily, "Flex Commercial Building / LEVER Architecture," May 3, 2019 [↗]

ARCH20, "Flex Commercial Building | LEVER Architecture," November 18, 2019 [↗]

Red Fox Commons

Portland, Oregon
2019

This adaptive re-use project transforms two former industrial structures into a light-filled campus for creative office tenants. The project is a catalyst for thinking about how development can leverage underutilized structures and materials to add sustainable value to our cities.

Located in Northwest Portland, the site has a notable past as a gateway to the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition and was later part of the Guild's Lake District, a significant industrial sanctuary. The original heavy timber structures were built in the 1940s for J.A. Freeman & Sons, a manufacturer of hay baling equipment. Recognizing the historic and environmental significance of these industrial timber structures, the renovation transforms old growth timber salvaged from the existing buildings into a new bridge structure that connects the campus with a hybrid of new and old beams that were fabricated and screw laminated together on site.

The existing trusses were walnut blasted and remain exposed, and two new 80' wide clerestory windows were added to each building to bring north light into the large open floor plates which are distinguished by column-free spans of up to 100 feet. To uphold the project's heritage, both buildings were completely rebuilt using an industrial vernacular of ribbon windows and weathering steel cladding.

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
Anna Langley, Langley Development / Owner Red Fox

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
60,000 sf

AIA AWARDS
AIA Portland Awards, Honor Award, 2019

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
2020 Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award

2020 WoodWorks Wood Design Awards, Commercial-Low Rise Category

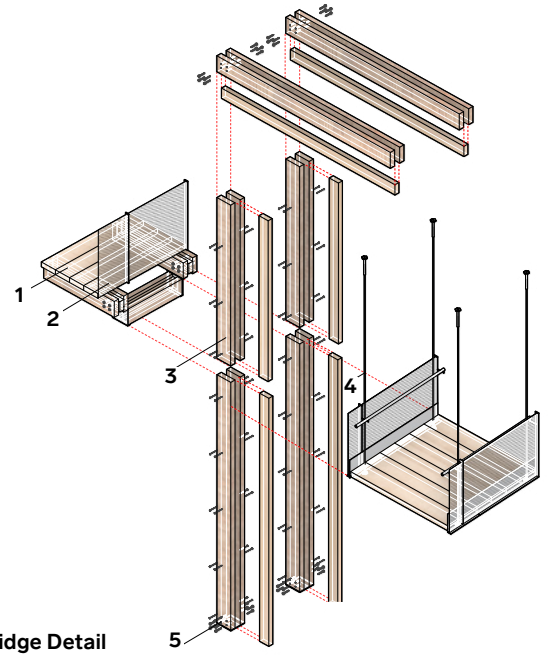
2019 Portland Business Journal, CRE TransformerAwards

PUBLICATIONS
ArchDaily, "Red Fox Commons Renovation / LEVER Architecture," April 26, 2020 [↗]

DJC Oregon, **"**From old comes new: Red Fox Commons,**"** April, 2018 [↗]

Original Building

The timber bridge structure spans a deck area with flow thru planter that mitigates all storm water run off from each building roof.



Reclaimed Timber Bridge Detail

1 3 x 12 reclaimed deck
2 Metal mesh railing
3 Reclaimed wood joined to new 4 x 8
4 Suspended metal rod
5 Concealed metal connection

The Nature Conservancy

Portland, Oregon
2019

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a science-based land trust working to preserve and restore landscapes globally. Their Portland, Oregon headquarters had been located in a nondescript mid-century office building, and the goal of the renovation was to translate the organization's mission—to conserve the lands and waters on which life depends—into a design that would embody and directly connect with their conservation focus. The design approach entailed looking at the building as a landscape in need of restoration, and as an expression of the natural landscapes across the state of Oregon that TNC is actively working to preserve and protect.

A partnership with Sustainable Northwest enabled the regional procurement of wood for the structure, interiors, and exterior cladding. The CLT addition is one of the first structures in the United States to use domestically produced FSC-certified CLT panels and glulam columns and beams. Materials were sustainably harvested from TNC's conservation sites, such as the juniper siding sourced from the Juniper Hills Preserve in Eastern Oregon, and cedar decking procured from the Ellsworth Creek Preserve in Southwest Washington. The occupiable green roof of the convening space is a living laboratory of TNC's ongoing work in the Rowena Plateau. The design is representative of TNC's broader connection to Oregon's landscapes, but it is also a new landscape that connects with and revitalizes the urban Portland neighborhood that surrounds it.

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
15,300 sf

AIA AWARDS
AIA Northwest and Pacific Region, Citation Award, 2020

AIA Portland Awards, Citation Award, 2019

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
GRAY Magazine, Design for Good Award, 2019

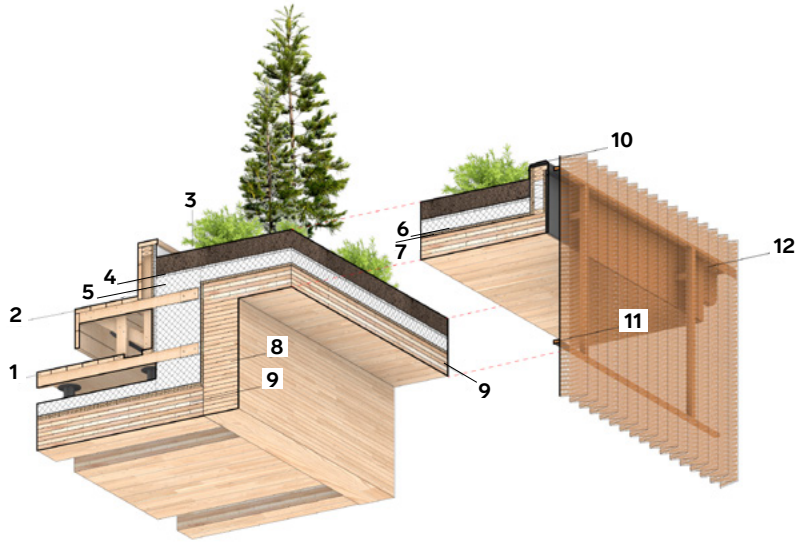
Chicago Athenaeum American Architecture Award Institutional, 2021

PUBLICATIONS
Architect's Newspaper, "The Nature Conservancy turns to protected habitats and LEVER for its Portland headquarters," August 16, 2019 [↗]

Dezeen, "LEVER Architecture designs CLT extension for The Nature Conservancy's Portland office," April 1, 2020 [↗]

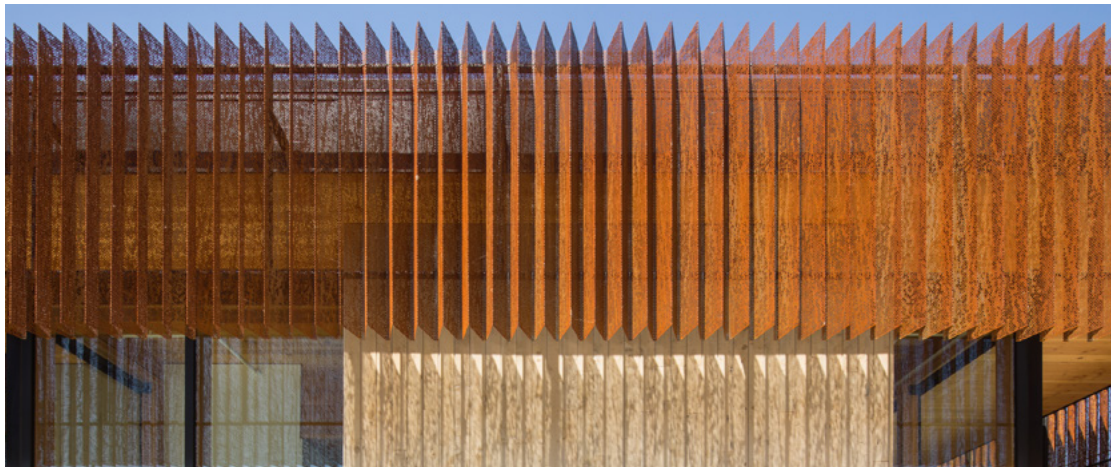
I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design. -Anyeley Hallova, Lead partner of the The Nature Conservancy while at "project^" development

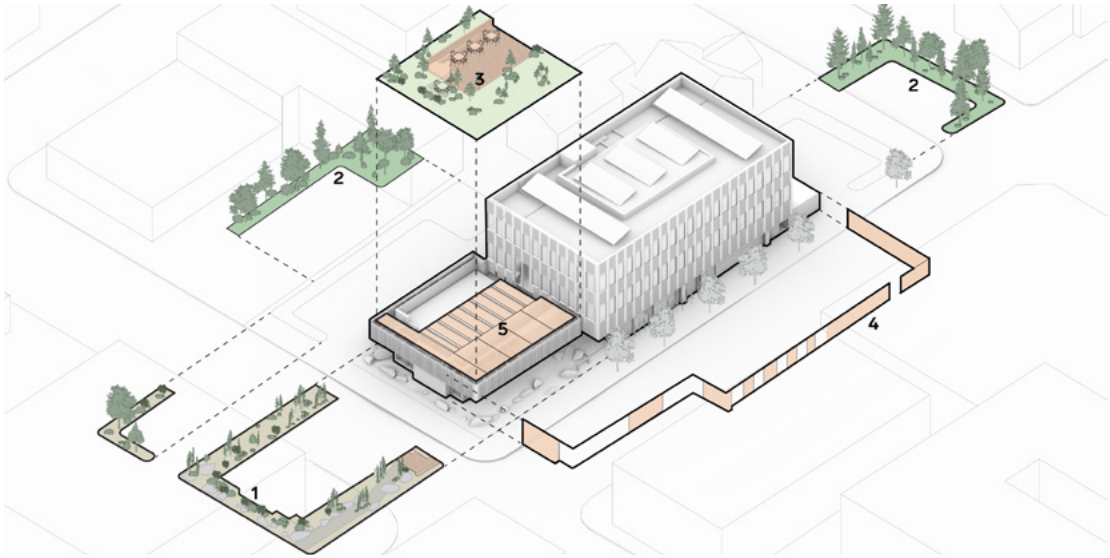
The exterior of the building was transformed with a custom metal facade designed to weather over time, a reference to Oregon's agricultural vernacular. The folded and custom perforated panels form a shaded crown that frames the new CLT pavilion addition.



Roof Deck to Metal Screen Detail

1	Cedar decking	7	1% sloped plywood
2	Cedar bench	8	Glulam beam
3	Soil and plants	9	CLT panels
4	Drainage mat	10	Standing seam parapet cap
5	Insulation	11	Steel support
6	Waterproofing membrane	12	Perforated and folded metal screen





Material landscapes

The landscape design and planting evokes three regional habitats that reflect TNC's key projects by exposure: the green roof connects with the Rowena Plateau, the Cascade-Siskiyou high desert is represented on the southern exposure, and shaded western hemlock and cedar forests on the southwest and northeast of the site.

1.
Cascade-Siskiyou

2.
Western Hemlock and Cedar Forest

3.
Rowena Plateau

4.
Juniper Hills

5.
Willapa Bay

Meyer Memorial Trust

Portland, Oregon
2015

Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) is one of the largest private foundations in Oregon, with a mission dedicated to advancing equity in the state they wanted every design choice to reflect their values and mission.

The design for the building was conceived around the concept of a front porch for the community, setting a welcoming tone and creating a sense of entry that echoes the forms of the homes that had been erased during urban redevelopment in Portland in the 1960s . A central convening space constructed from regionally sourced Mass Plywood provides a free space for public and private events.

Inclusive decision making foregrounded the participation of the majority of Meyer staff at every stage of development, and an equity lens was applied to all aspects of the project—80 percent of the subcontractors on the site were women and/or BIPOC-owned businesses, and 20 percent of the contracts were awarded to small businesses. We partnered with the nonprofit Sustainable Northwest to develop a new timber sourcing matrix that, in addition to traditional sustainability requirements, looked at procurement and land ownership through an equity lens.

The building, one of the first mass plywood structures in the country, was certified as the first LEED platinum version four (PV4 Platinum) in Oregon. MMT is a case study how community, equity, and conservation goals can be expressed in architecture.

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
19,800 sf

AIA AWARDS
AIA National COTE Top Ten Award, 2022

AIA Oregon Architecture Awards 2030 Award, 2021

AIA Oregon Architecture Awards Honor Award, 2021

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
GRAY Magazine, Design For Good Award 2021

Fast Company, Innovation By Design Awards, Most Innovative Architecture Spaces and Places Category, 2021

PUBLICATIONS
Detail, “Meyer Memorial Trust in Portland, Oregon,” August 31, 2022 [↗]

Metropolis, “LEVER Architecture’s Meyer Memorial Trust HQ Balances Equity and Sustainability,” May 20, 2021 [↗]

Architectural Record, “Meyer Memorial Trust by LEVER,” March 2, 2021 [↗]

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—Anyeley Hallova, Lead Developer while at "project^" development

adidas North American Headquarters Expansion

Portand, Oregon

2021

Following a national design competition, Adidas selected the team of LEVER Architecture, o+a studios (interiors), and GGN (landscape) to realize a major expansion of their North American Headquarters. The LEED Gold project enhances adidas' Portland, Oregon campus with a new arrival sequence and two signature mass timber buildings. The placement of the two buildings around a new central sports plaza transforms the existing plaza into a more cohesive campus landscape, strengthens connectivity internally between the existing buildings, and improves the landscape connections to the adjoining residential neighborhood. The project is inspired by the dynamism of small stadium environments where spectators and players engage in an active dialogue. The architecture of the two buildings connects creative work, community, and sport.

The new campus expansion is one of the largest mass timber projects in the United States to date—serving as a catalyst for wider adoption of mass timber construction in the U.S. and beyond. Leveraging the firm's expertise with timber innovation, the Gold Building deploys a unique hybrid structural system made from pre-cast concrete columns and girders with glulam beams and Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) panels.

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DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
460,000 sf
(campus improvements)
182,000 sf (Gold building)
31,000 sf (Performance Zone)

AIA AWARDS
AIA Oregon Honor Award, 2023

AIA Oregon 2030 Merit Award, 2023

ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS
FRAME Awards, Large Office of the Year, 2023

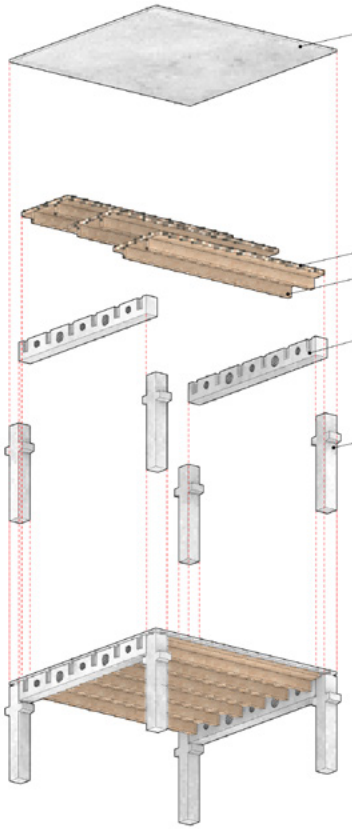
Chicago Athenaeum Green Good Design Awards, Green Architecture Category, 2023

PUBLICATIONS
Fast Company, "Adidas's jaw-dropping new office sets an audacious standard for the future of work," May 18, 2022 [↗]

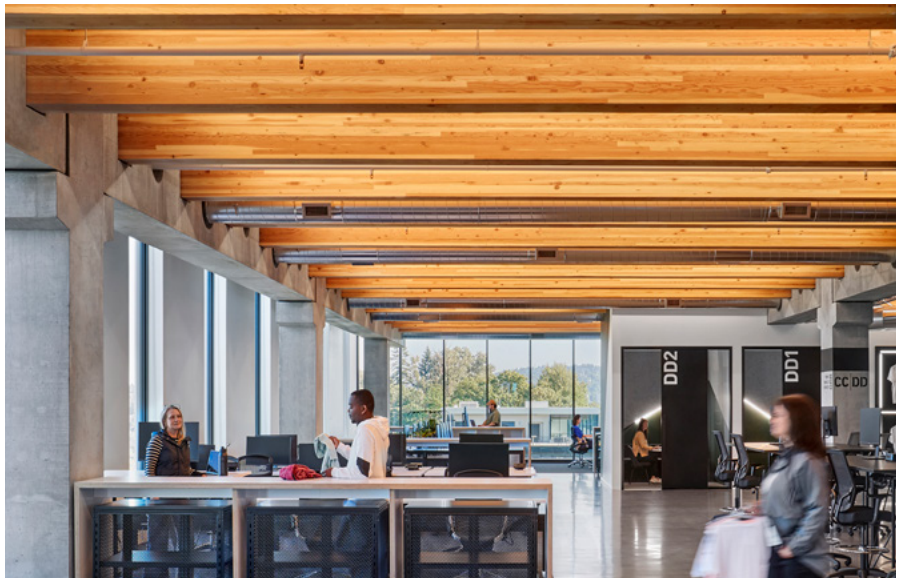
Metropolis, "In Portland, the Adidas Village Connects Creativity, Community, and Sport," October 13, 2021 [↗]

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—David Remos, former Director of Corporate Real Estate, adidas

Gold Building Typical Structural Assembly



The prefabricated precast columns and perforated girder and CLT / Glulam cassette structure allowed the team to build 172,000 sf of core and shell structure in eight weeks.



Spring Street

Los Angeles, California
2024

Set on a busy urban corner in Chinatown, Spring Street leverages the climate and landscape that the city is known for. Technically a renovation, the project takes a windowless, 1980s-era retail warehouse with a parking garage underneath and grafts a new structure on top of it, creating one of the first and largest hybrid CLT buildings in the City. The design is a hybrid of LA's high-rise towers and low-rise bow truss warehouse culture—with a material palette of mass timber, steel, and concrete and a floor plan that integrates both indoor and outdoor workspace at every level.

Working with James Corner Field Operations, the landscape design maximizes the outdoor space in and around the building. A prominent main staircase connects Spring Street up to New High Street with an alley passageway activated with landscape and retail. A tiered vertical garden courtyard with open-air circulation, private balconies, and a shared rooftop garden rise between the two office wings to provide layers of outdoor connections to users throughout the building.

Spring Street's hybrid structural system including 3- and 5-ply CLT panels that sequester 930 metric tons of CO^2. The design includes natural ventilation for all spaces, a rooftop solar PV array, EV charging stations, and 100% of rainwater is recycled in below grade cisterns for re-use on site as landscape irrigation.

I have personal knowledge of the nominees responsibility for this project in which he was responsible for the design.
—Laura Doerges, former Development DIrector, Redcar Ltd

DESIGN FIRM
LEVER Architecture

ROLE OF NOMINEE
Design Principal / AOR

SIZE
145,000 sf

PUBLICATIONS
Architectural Record, "Lever Architecture's 843 N. Spring Street Portends a Greener Future for Los Angeles" August, 2024 [↗]

LA Times, "A home, an office and a park demonstrate that design can be environmentally conscious — and look good", August 23, 2023 [↗]

Original Building

Section through existing parking garage and vertical green canyon landscape


RIGHT LANE
MUST
TURN RIGHT