

Press release Wood Award, April, 2019

## Le Vaud's community building, winner 2019 of the International Award for Wood Architecture.

After selecting last year the 18-storey Brock Commons Tallwood House located in Vancouver, the international jury this year awarded the prize to a triangular geometry multipurpose hall made from locally-sourced timber. The Award was presented to the architect Laurent Saurer from Localarchitecture located in Lausanne, and to the wood engineer Marcel Rechsteiner from Ratio Bois, representing the whole team involved in this new symbol of Swiss wooden architecture.



This community hall is the only cultural facility of the eight nominees list of the Award's second edition (the shortlist contained five educational buildings and two office buildings). It is noteworthy that among the nominated projects presented by the Swiss review Lignum, Le Vaud Community hall prevailed over Suurstoffi building, the tallest wooden building in Switzerland.

About the winner, the jury said "contemporary wooden architecture is able to tackle outstanding challenges, in terms of structure, energy performance, fire resistance, acoustic or low emissivity. The building also arouse emotions thanks to a sensitive and poetic approach

from the interior and the outside of the building. Its shape blends into the environment evoking both the ridgelines of the Jura mountains and the structure of traditional farms of the area. The large glazed openings meet restrictive regulations covering sports facilities. Interior volumes are strongly characterised by the Silver Fir used for the structure, acoustic treatments and wall cladding. Bathed in natural light, there the monomaterial aspect is harmonious rather than insistent. The



building -whilst meeting very strict and standardized specifications of regulations covering sports facilities- can also host cultural events. The dissociation of the ceiling and of the roof geometry allows to dissimulate the secondary beams while the main beam with a reversed U-shaped supports the structure. The wooden brise-soleils of the triangular glazed openings are well-designed. A canopy protects the exterior wooden cladding framed by large openings facing North and South. The building was destroyed by fire at the end of construction and immediately rebuilt -including with some commendable improvements in detail.”



In accordance with the regulations of the International Award for Wood Architecture, the press outlets from the Jury (Lignum, Wood Design & Building Magazine, Séquences Bois, PUU, Mikado and Trä!) agree to publish this work in the course of the year contributing -by doing so- to its international influence. This is already underlined by the prizegiving made on the Forum’s Thursday night, during the plenary session, and by the travelling

exhibition which highlights the eight nominees of this second edition.

#### **Le Vaud’s Community building**

- Architect: LOCALARCHITECTURE, Lausanne (Giulia Altarelli, Elsa Jecic, Laurent Saurer, Manuel Bieler, Antoine Robert-Grandpierre)
- Wood engineer: Ratio Bois SARL, Ecublens
- Civil engineer: 2M ingénierie civile SA, Yverdon-les-bains
- CVS engineer: Weinmann-Energies SA, Echallens
- Lighting: Etienne Gillibert, Paris Aebischer & Bovigny, Lausanne
- Geometric engineer: Bovard & Nickl SA, Nyon
- Location: Grand’rue 4, CH-1261 Le Vaud, Switzerland
- Client: Commune de Le Vaud
- Conception and realization: 2014-2018
- Built area (footprint): 1,209 sqm

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