

# Increasing Urban Density with Steel and Timber: XRAD and SPIDER Systems

**Hannes Blaas**

*CEO Rotho Blaas USA Inc, Rothoblaas s.r.l.*



**CTBUH 2022  
Steel-Timber Conference**





rothoblaas

# **Increasing Urban Density with Steel and Timber: XRAD and SPIDER Systems**

**Hannes Blaas – US CEO**

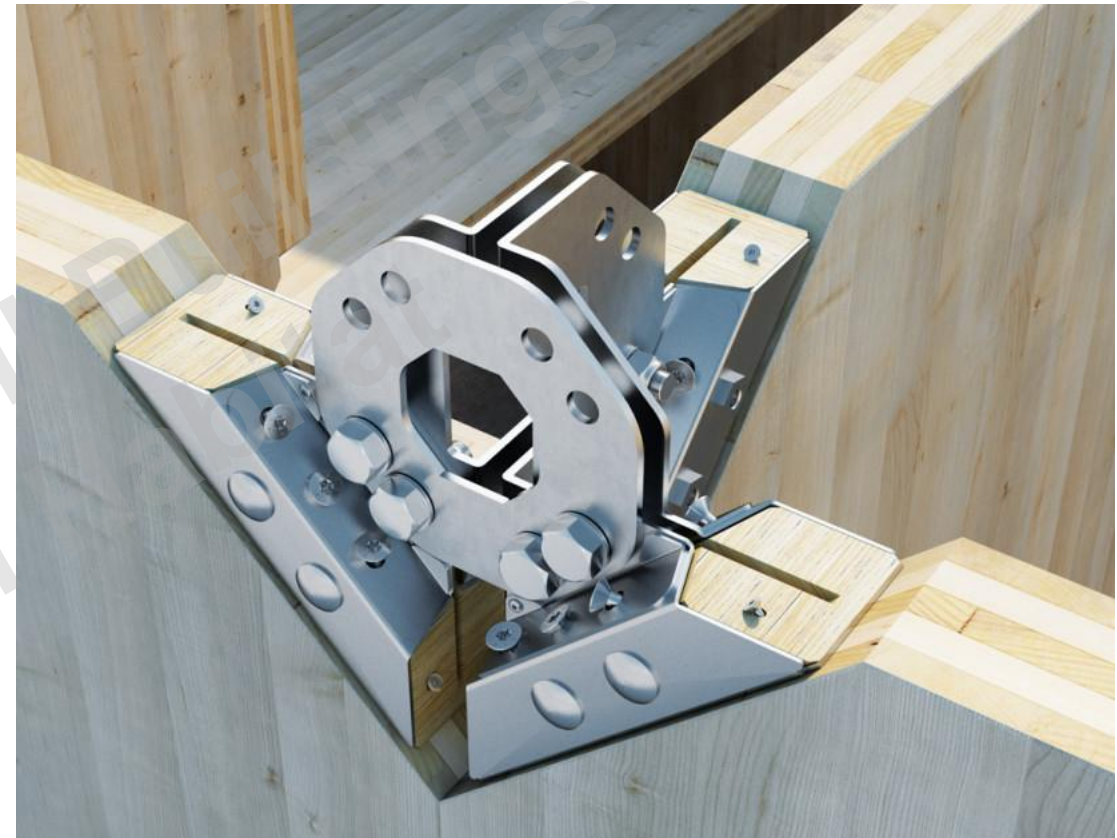
**Jason Cattelino – US/CA Technical Consultant**



## Case Studies



**SPIDER**  
Aggie Park - Texas



**X-RAD**  
Hotel Schwartz – Austria

# SPIDER – Structural System



The first post and plate connector for horizontal CLT slabs

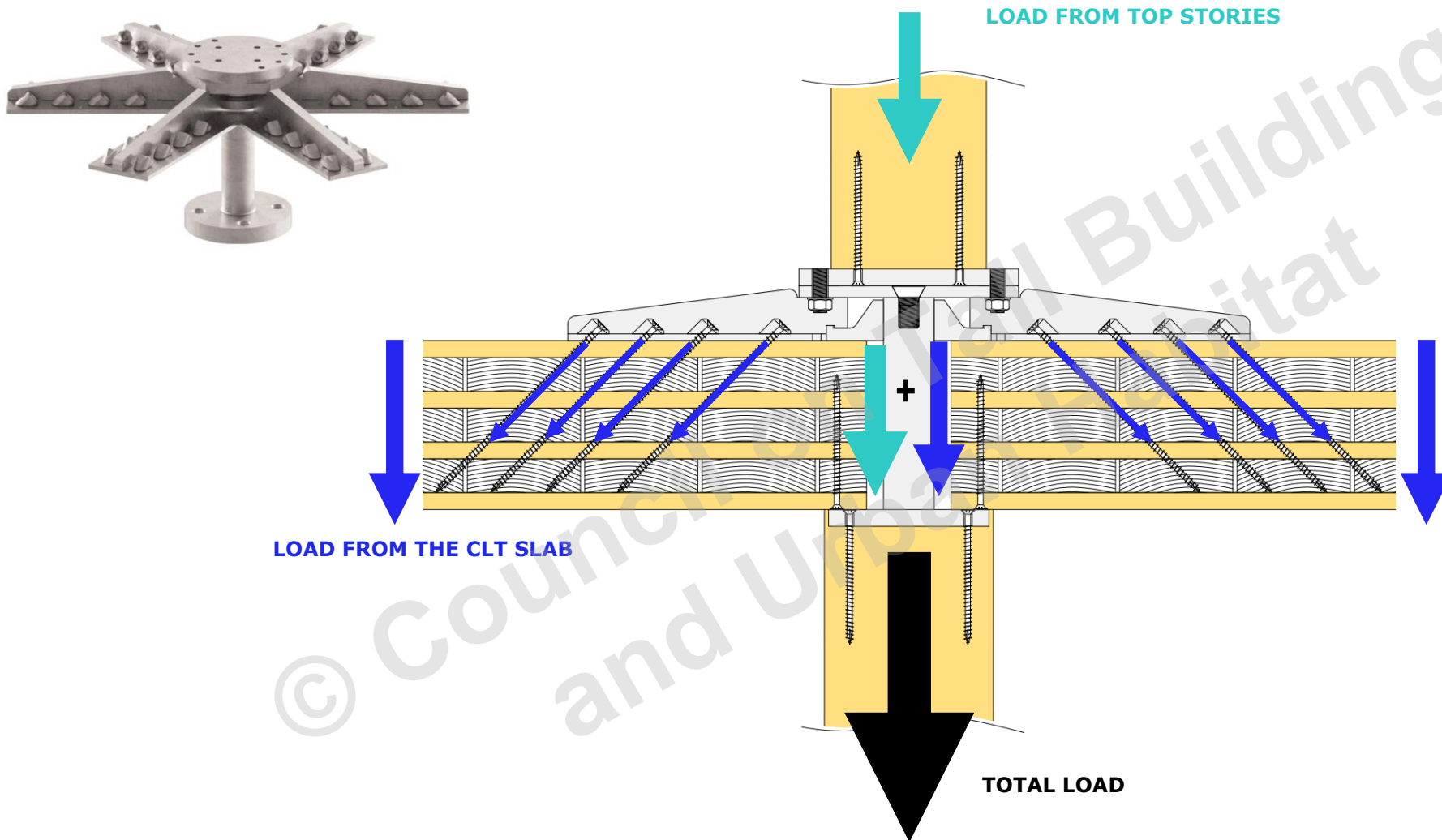
Provides a solution for large concentrated loads at columns

Resolves characteristic rolling shear failure of CLT – punching shear

Exploits the mechanical behavior of CLT for plate bending – increases utilization of wood throughout a building

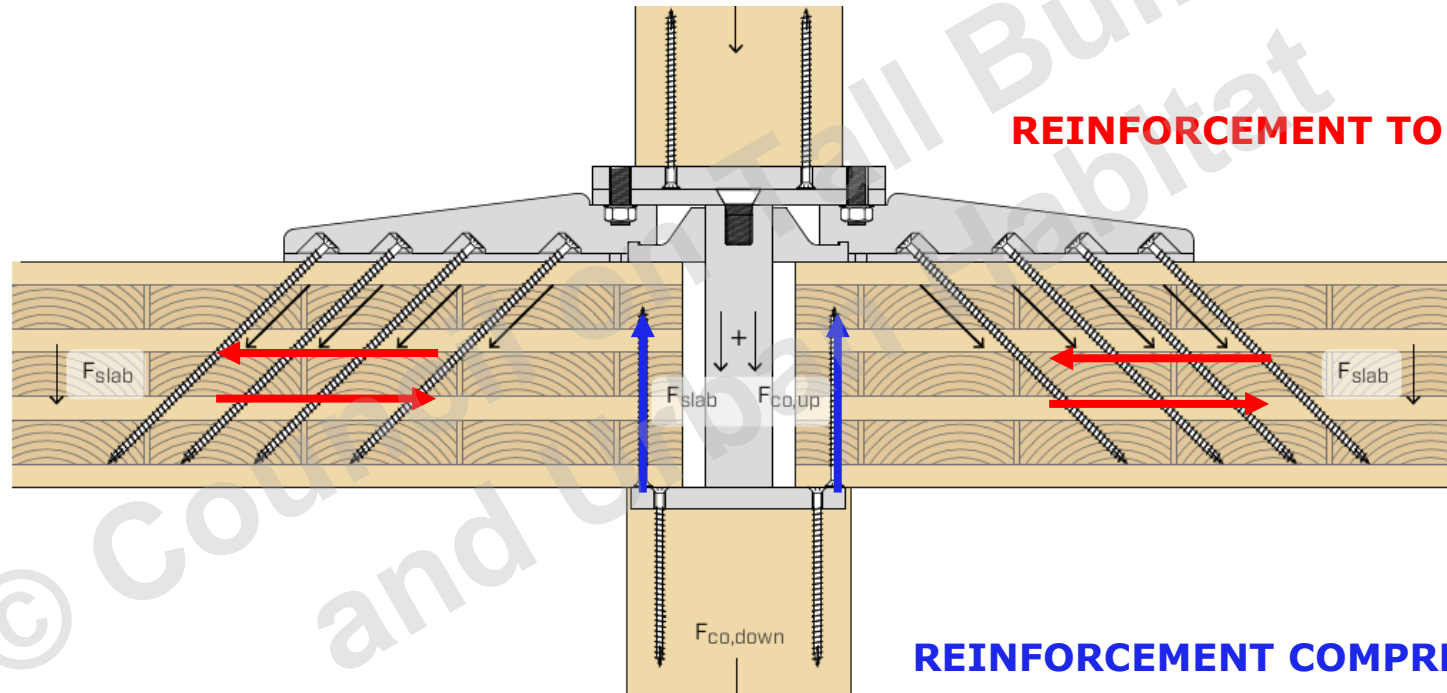


# SPIDER - Mechanics





# SPIDER - Mechanics

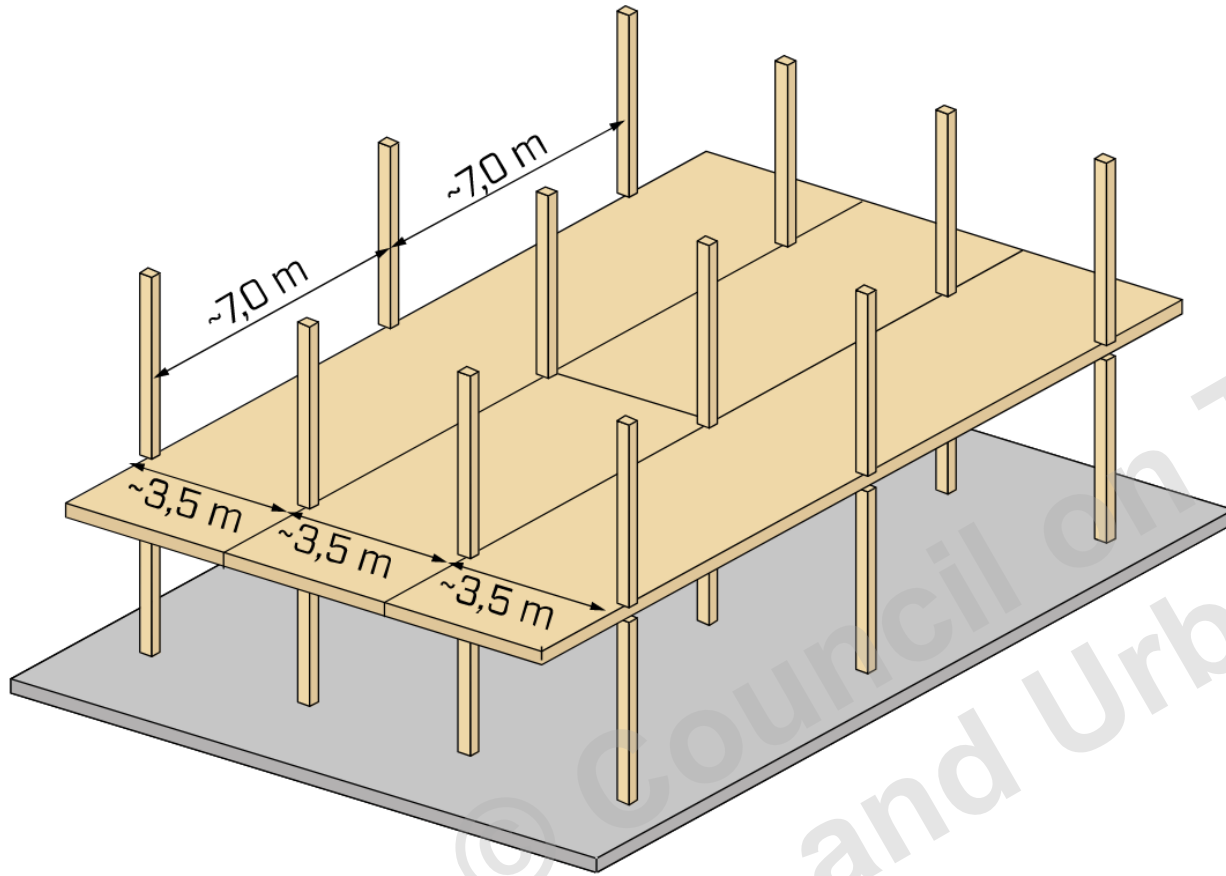


**REINFORCEMENT TO ROLLING SHEAR**

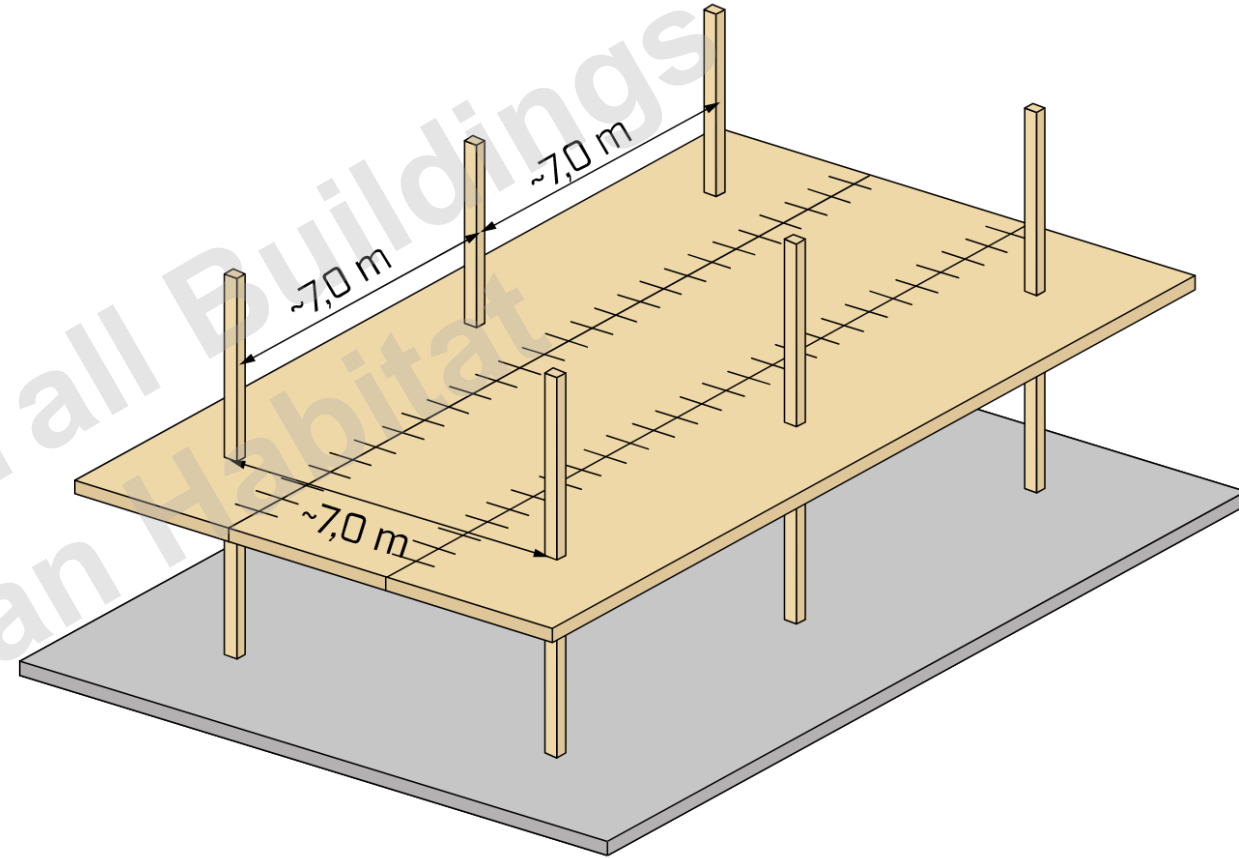
**REINFORCEMENT COMPRESSION  
PERPENDICULAR TO THE GRAIN**



# SPIDER – Traditional Framing



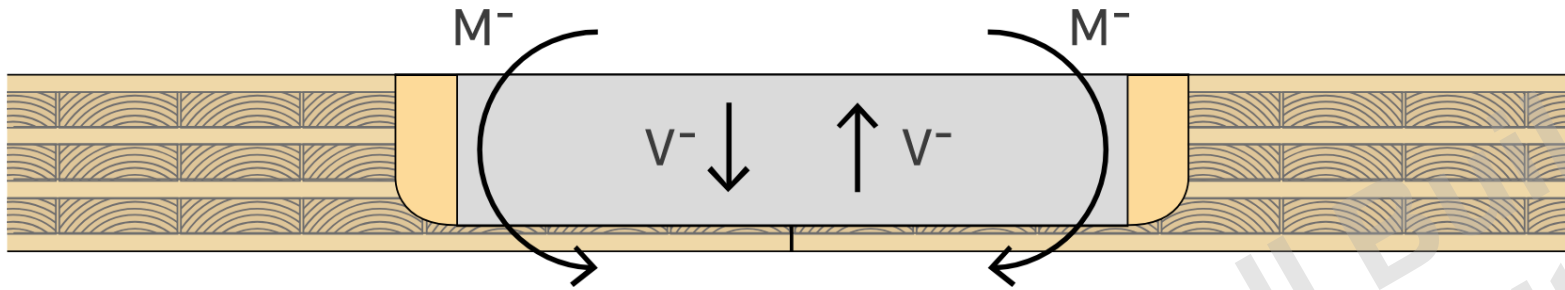
**Traditional Framing System**



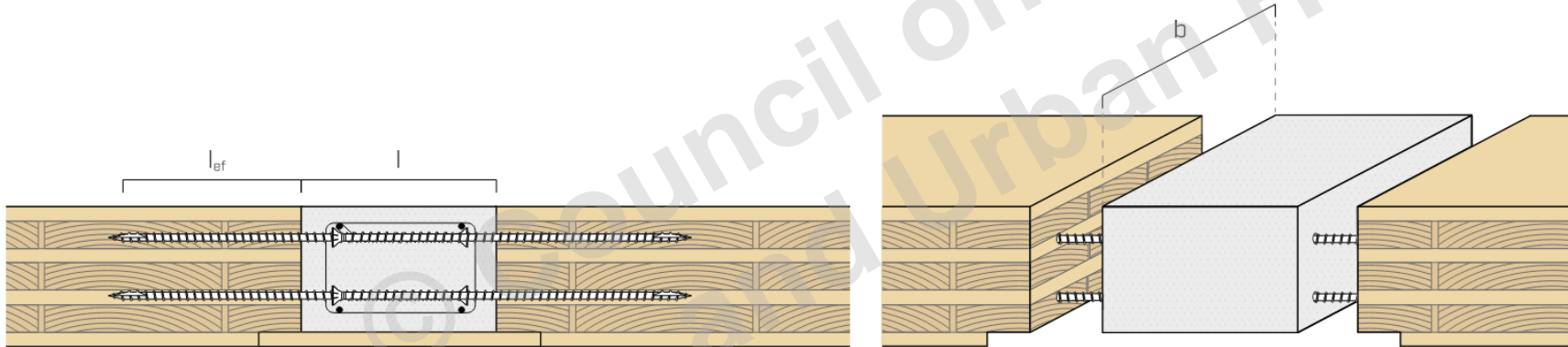
**Optimized Framing System**



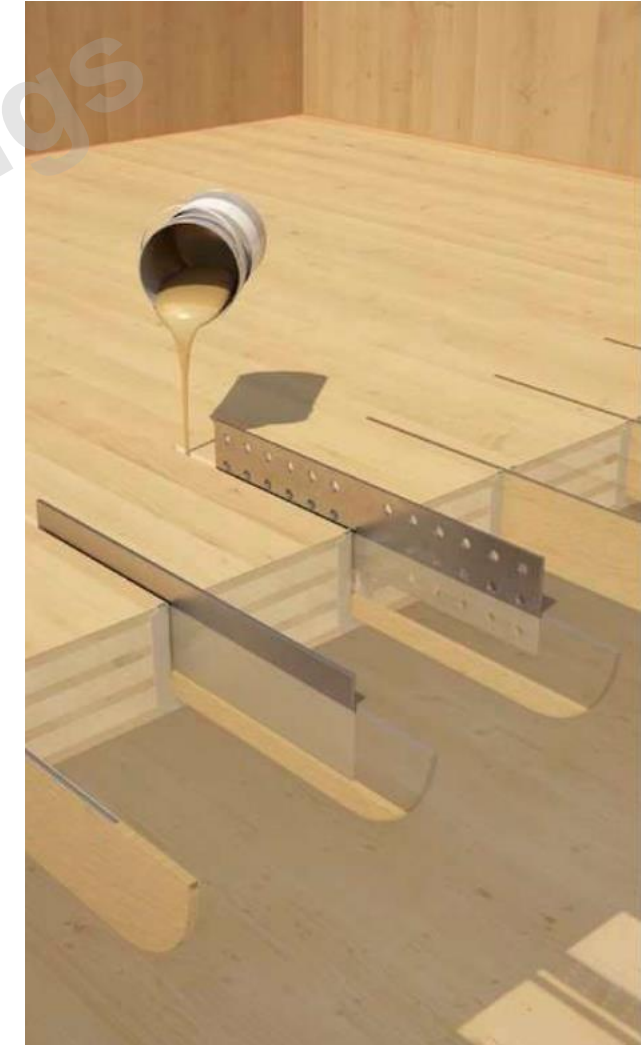
# SPIDER – Panel Connection Options



**XEPOX Epoxy + Steel Plate**



**VGS Fully Threaded Screws + Concrete**



# SPIDER – Benefits



Eliminates beam framing members =  
material cost savings & potential labor savings

Reduced number of connections at columns

Simplified MEP layout and runs

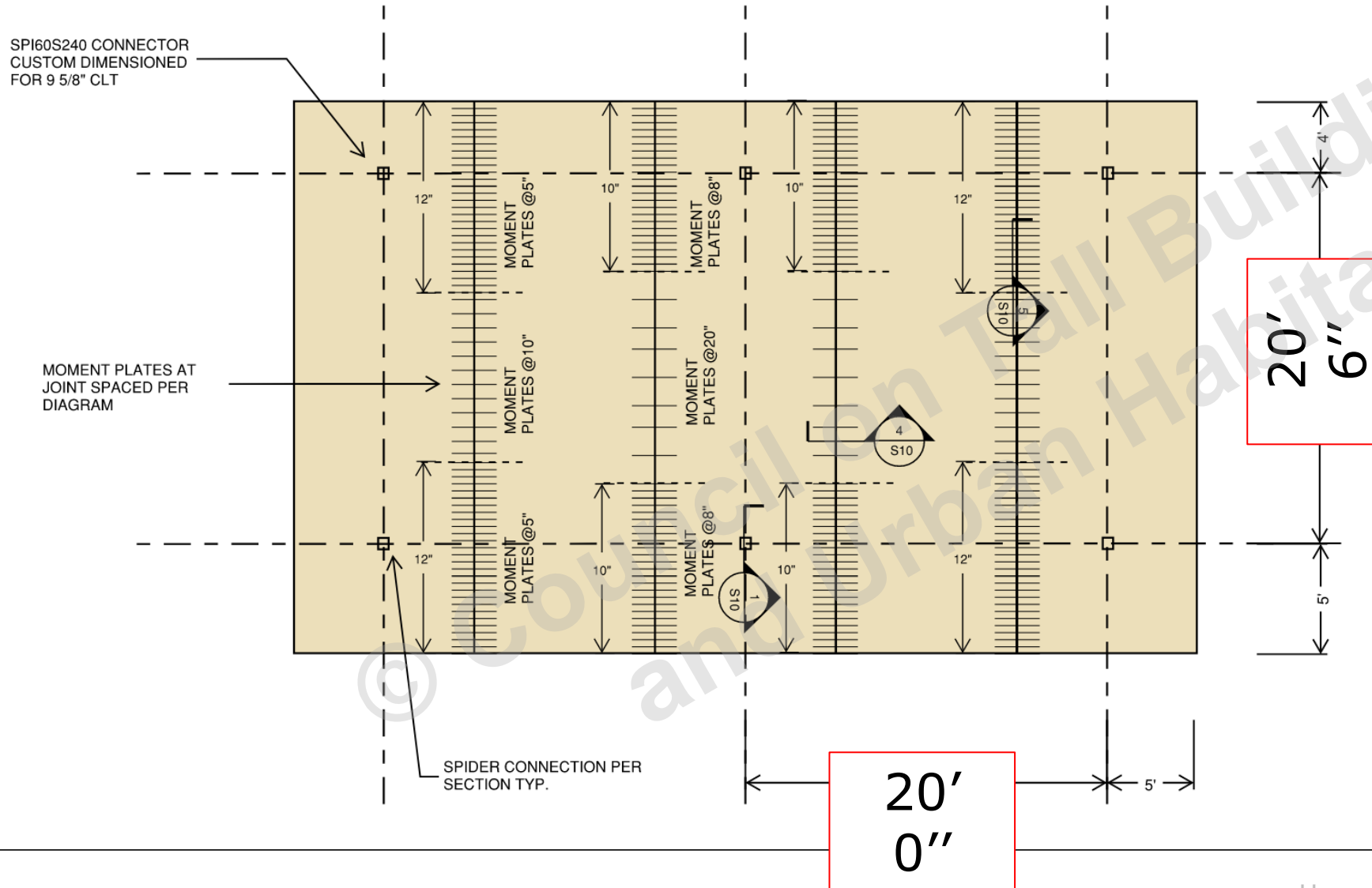
Decreases floor-to-floor height –  
allows for additional levels within height limitations

Maximizes column grid spacing for greater flexibility in floor  
layouts

Simplifies detailing and maximizes accessibility for curtain wall  
design and installation



# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Project Details



## Project

20 acre development of outdoor green space at Texas A&M.

## Location

College Station, TX

## Building Architect

Lake|Flato

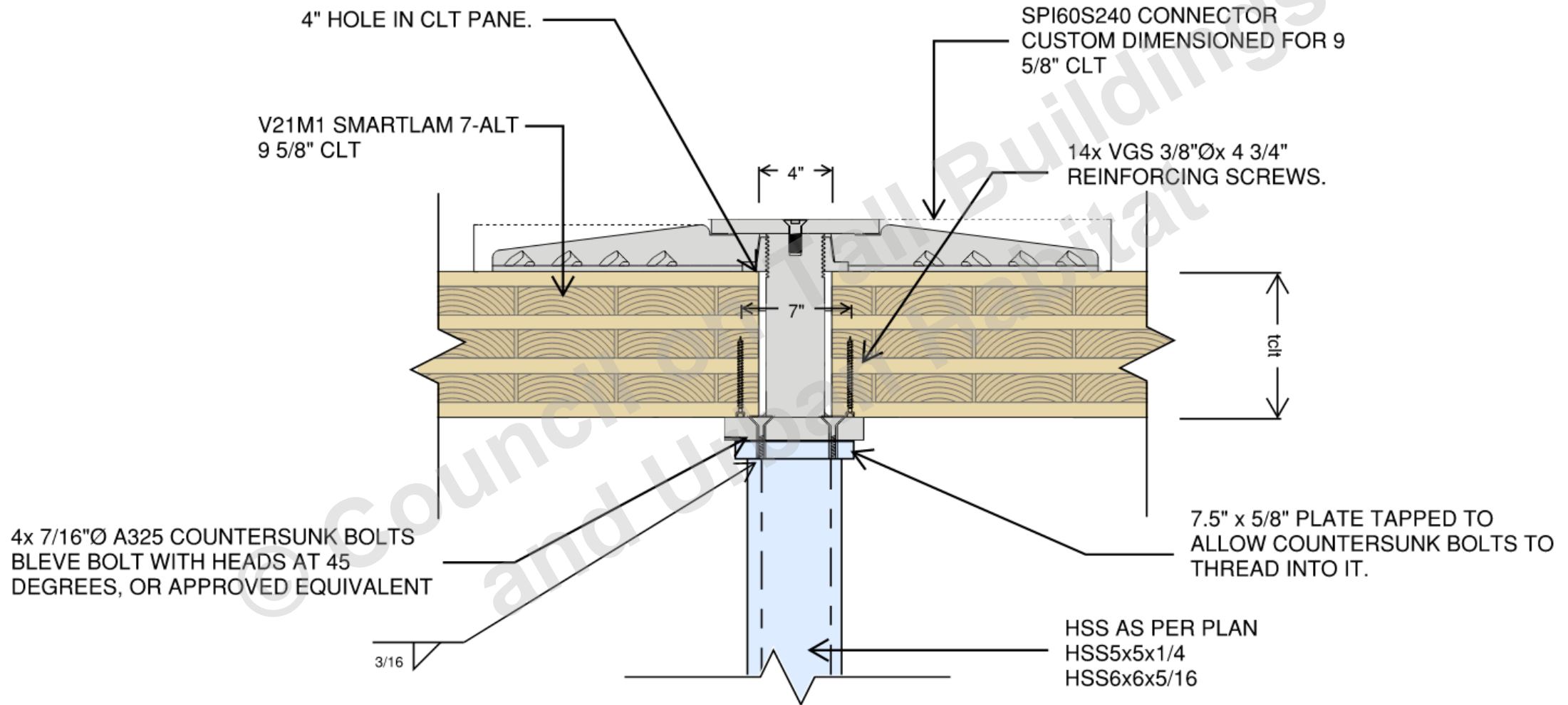
## Structural Engineer

Fast + Epp

## Installers

R.M. Rodgers, Inc and Binkley Construction

# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Project Details





# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation Training





# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation





# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation



# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation





# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation

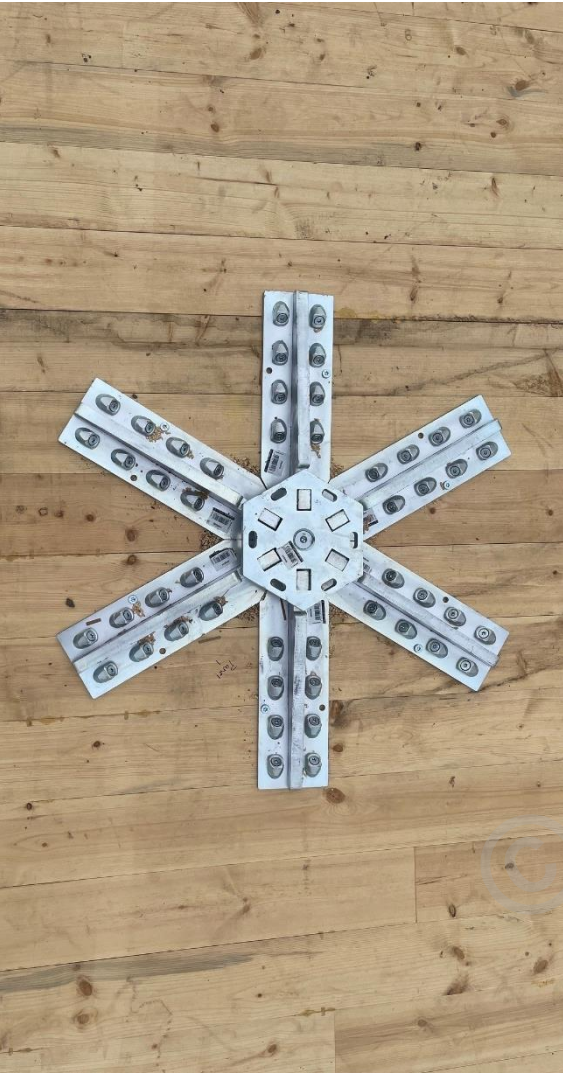




# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Installation



# SPIDER – Case Study: Aggie Park – Conclusions



Accelerated construction schedule was dependent on design schedule

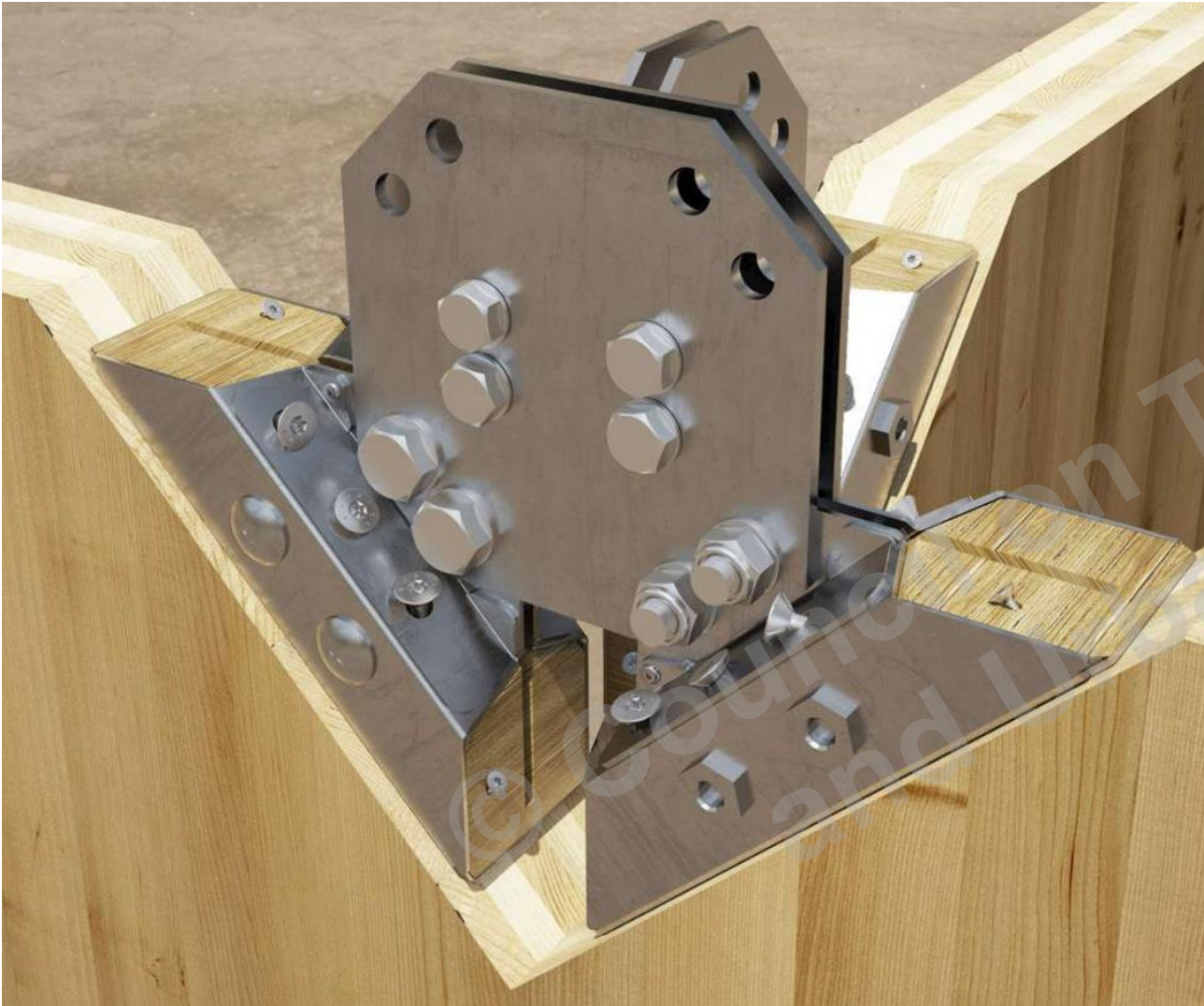
Off the shelf solutions and design assist/support from Rothoblaas ensured project schedule was met

Low risk solution confirmed by product testing

Installation and tolerance considerations for panel-to-panel connections



## X-RAD – Structural System



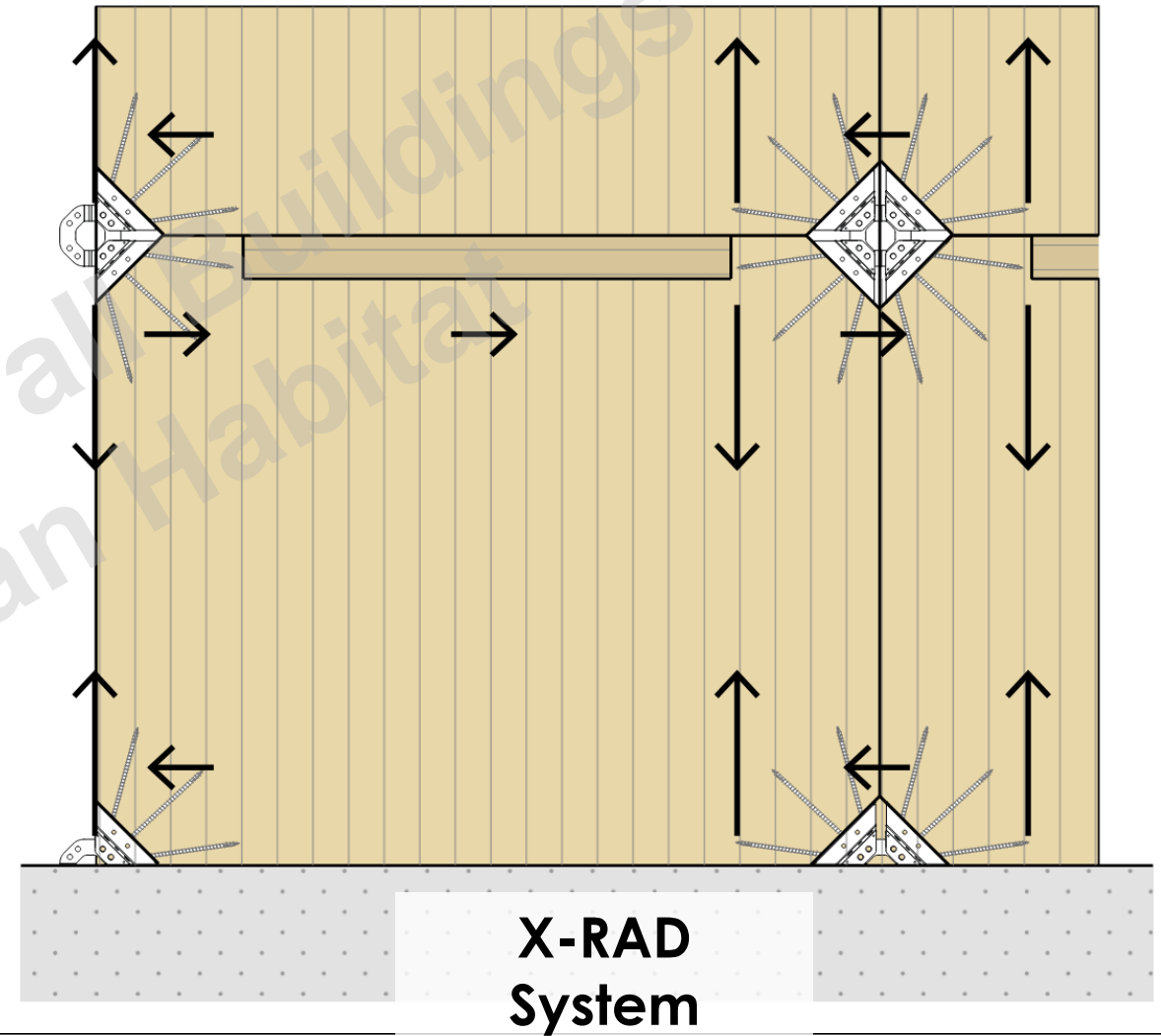
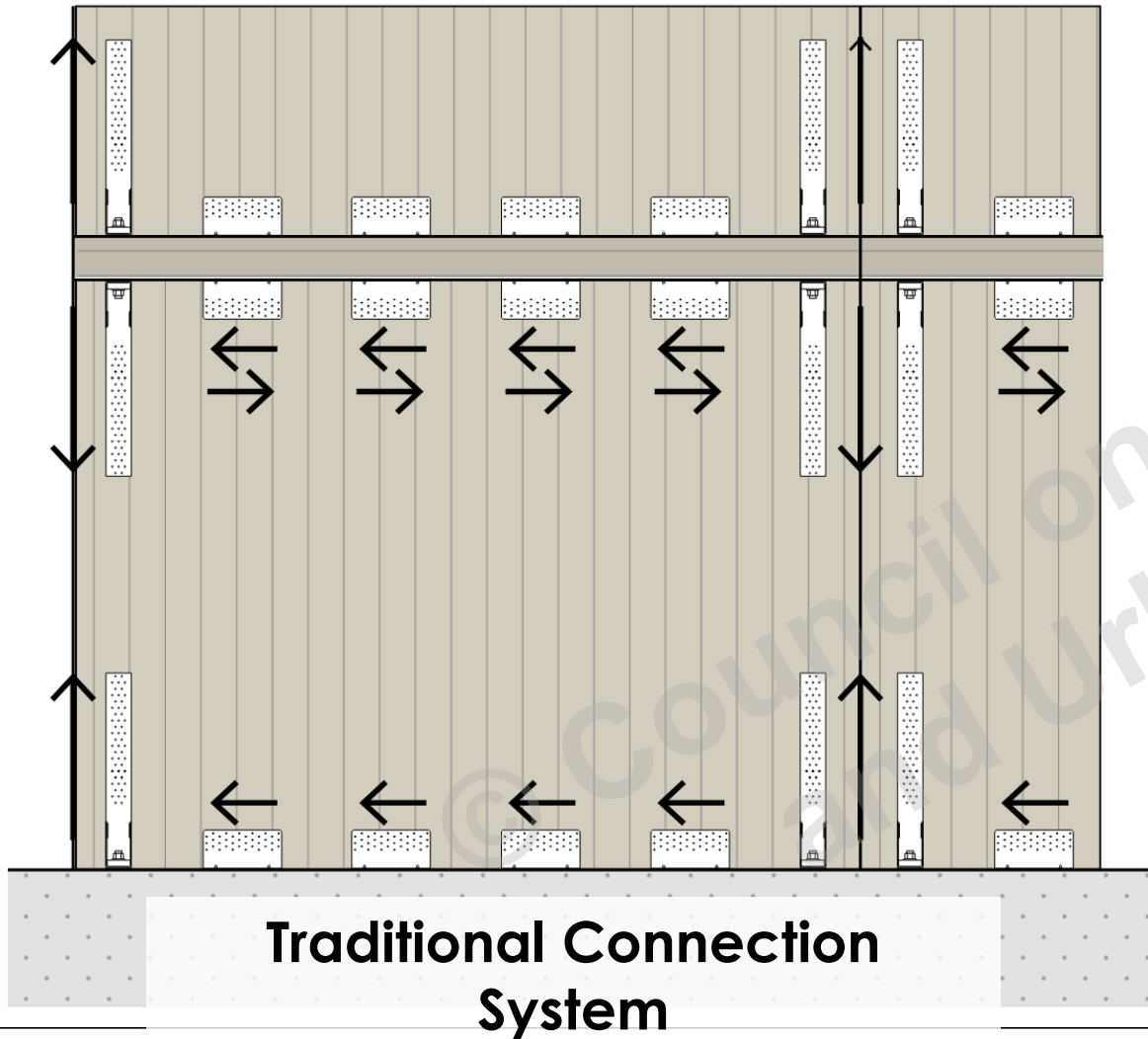
Innovative connection system ideal for CLT wall applications

Provides a solution for in-plane loads in all directions

Reduces the number of connection points

Compliments the prefabrication and modularity of CLT construction

# X-RAD - Mechanics



# X-RAD – Components and Options



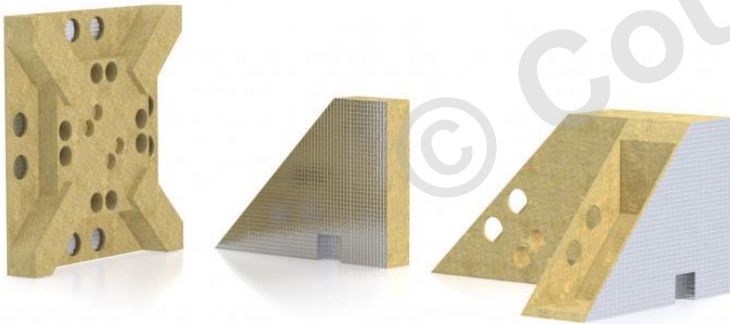
## **X-ONE**

Installed on a CLT panel to create a building module



## **X-PLATE**

Provides options for connecting building modules and assembling them in various configurations

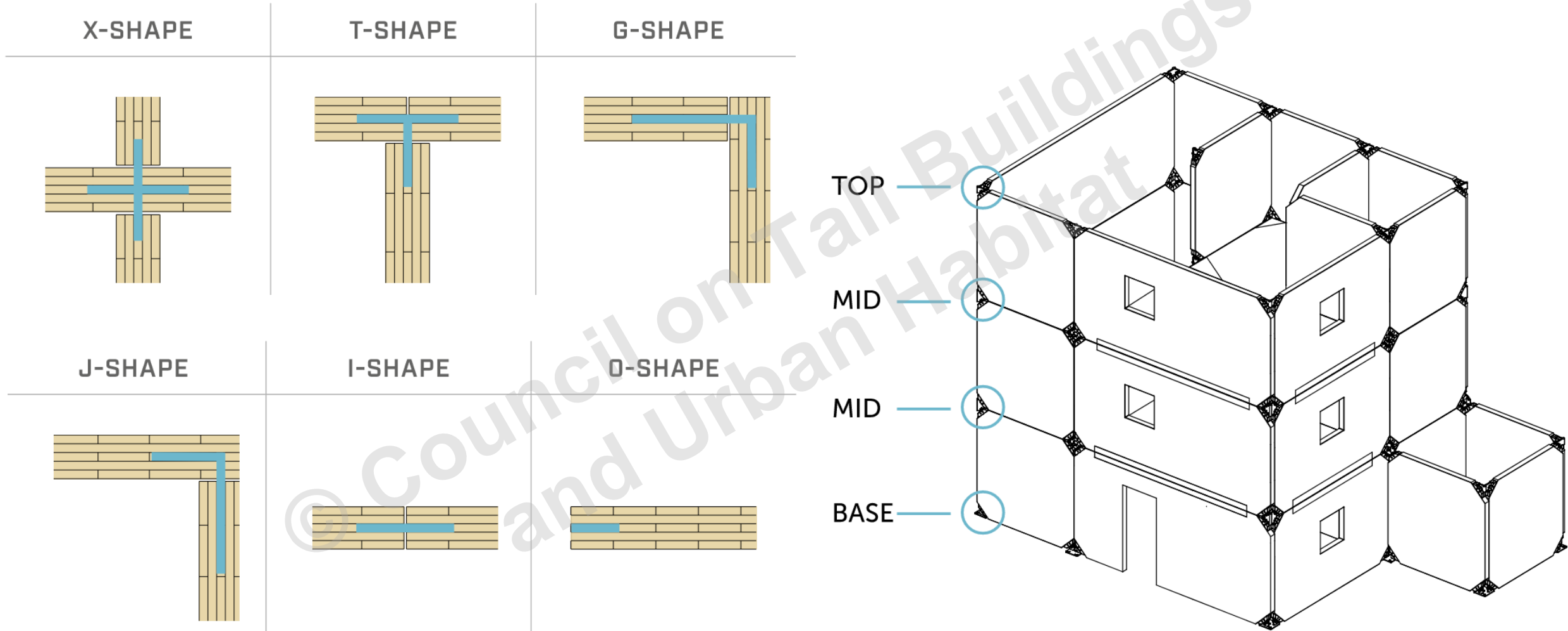


## **X-SEAL**

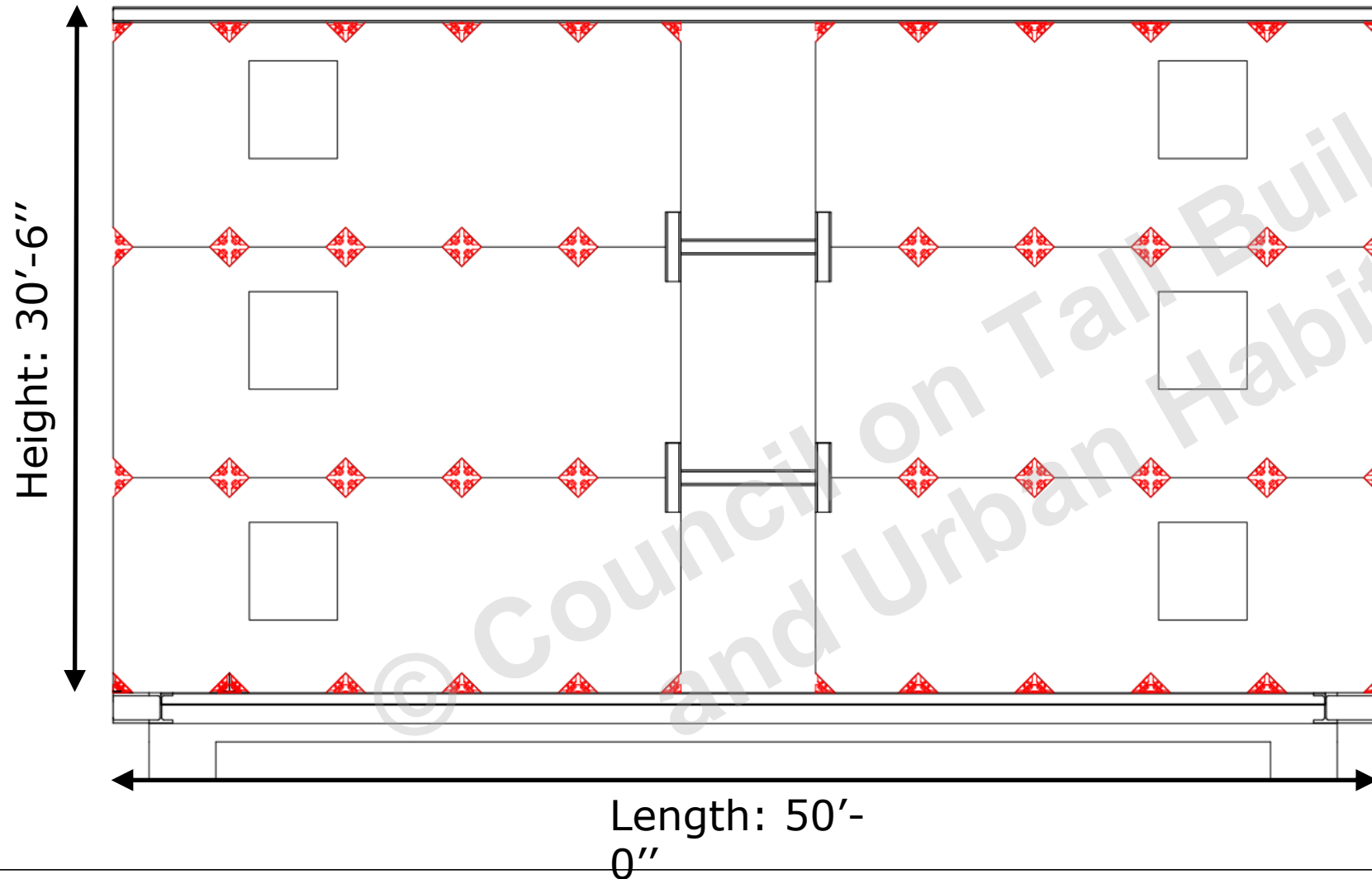
Pre-shaped airtightness and noise abatement



# X-RAD – Design Versatility for ALL Locations Within a Structure



# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Project Details



## Project

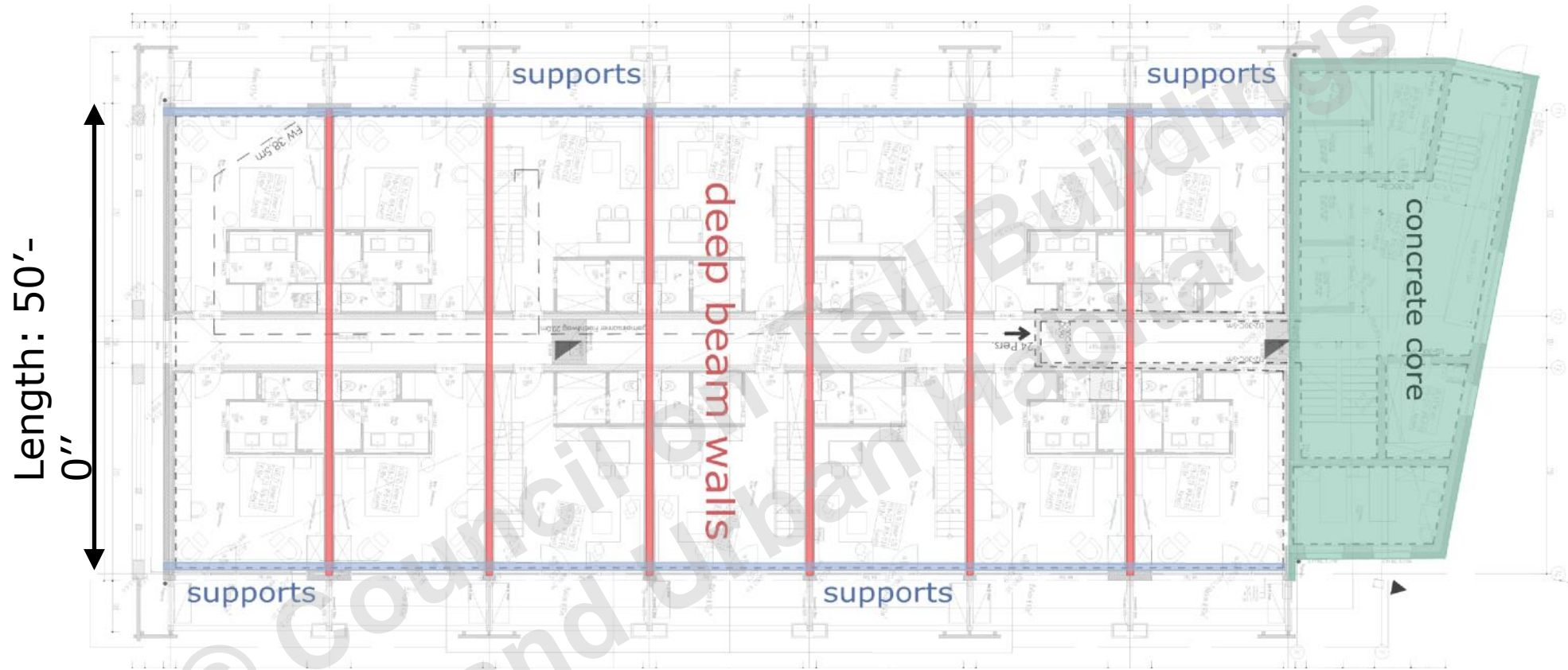
3 story mass timber addition  
over 2 stories of existing  
masonry

## Location

Obermieming, Austria



# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Solution



Additional bearing walls or framing not permitted on existing lower floors

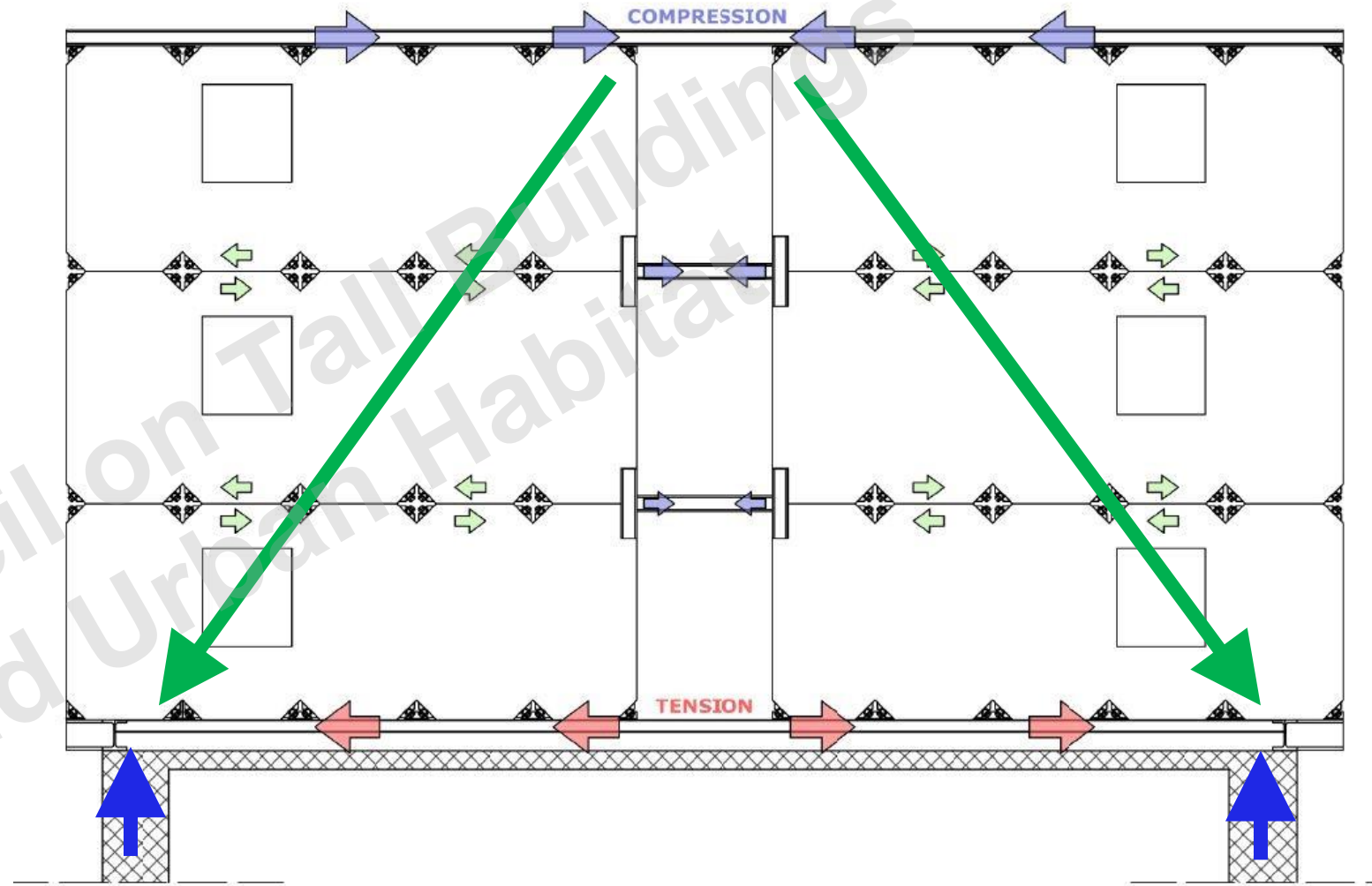
CLT walls were designed as 3-story deep beams spanning between masonry wall supports

# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Solution

New floors and roof supported by the deep beams

CLT and X-RAD resolve in-plane shear forces, compression and tension

Steel beams used as tension and compression chords





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation



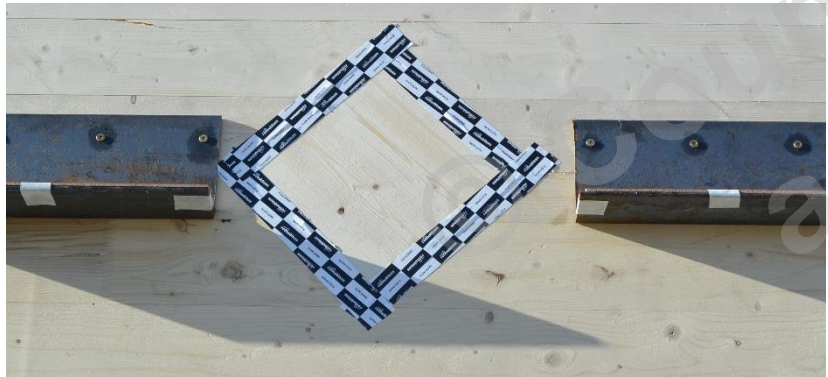
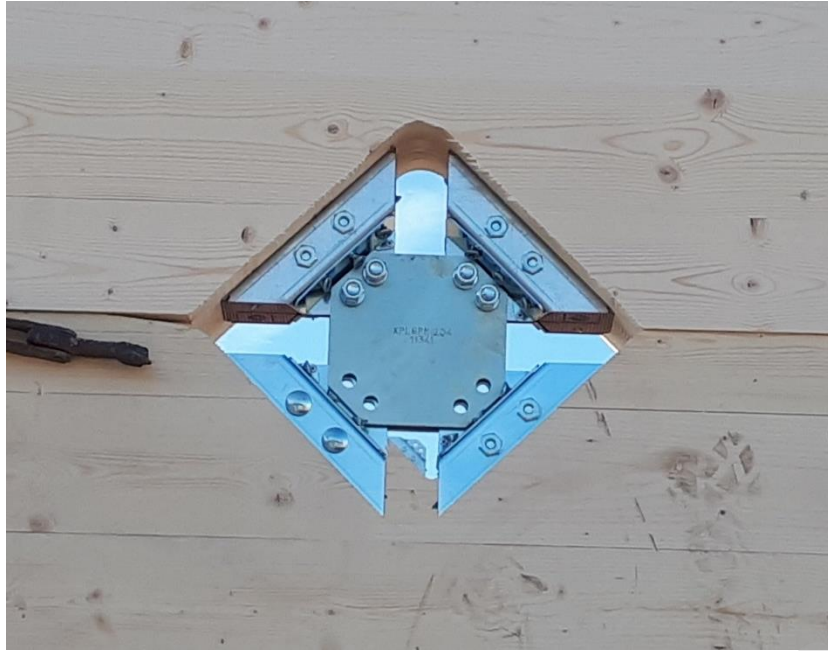


# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Installation





# X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Project Details





## **X-RAD – Case Study: Hotel Schwartz – Conclusions**

Preinstalled and reduced number of connections = decreased installation time

Similar connection detailing between CLT elements and steel elements

Connector stiffness provided verification of deep beam behavior

Ductile performance for seismic areas

Concentrated connection areas within the plane of CLT

- reduced interference with floor structural connections
- Simplified fire protection

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOU ATTENTION**



**Hannes Blaas** – [hannes.blaas@rothoblaas.com](mailto:hannes.blaas@rothoblaas.com)  
**Jason Cattelino** – [jason.cattelino@rothoblaas.com](mailto:jason.cattelino@rothoblaas.com)