

49th Annual

# WOOD AWARDS



**Cork House**  
Gold Award 2019





## Small Project



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### MULTIPLY

**“As a design, it reflects its nature as a temporary structure: its form communicates modularity and repetition.”**

Adam Richards

Wagh Thistleton Architects' MultiPLY is a carbon-neutral pavilion comprising a vertical maze of staircases and labyrinthine spaces that intertwine and invite people to revel in its use of wood. Its heavily patterned tulipwood reflects the complexity of the structure and the cross-laminated timber used for finishes is almost silken to touch.

The pavilion debuted at the V&A during the 2018 London Design Festival and has subsequently been installed in two further locations. Each iteration is different, with the structure responding to the individual sites and challenging preconceptions about the aesthetics of prefabricated buildings. MultiPLY encourages its visitors to reflect on how we build by offering a sustainable and affordable construction model in which assembly, reuse and end-of-life are all considered.

The tulipwood has been left without any chemical treatment, meaning that the panels are reusable, recyclable and, eventually, biodegradable and non-toxic. Their thinness and the overall complexity of the flat-pack set are testament to the ingenuity of structural engineers Arup. The entire pavilion can be assembled easily in less than a week.

“MultiPLY is the first structure [made] of UK-manufactured CLT,” explains Andrew Wagh, director of Wagh Thistleton Architects. “As an abundant American hardwood, it is inexpensive, easy to machine and incredibly strong for its weight, making it a perfect pioneer hardwood for innovative timber construction.”

Architect: **Wagh Thistleton Architects**  
 Client: **American Hardwood Export Council**  
 Structural engineer: **Arup**  
 Main contractor: **Stage One**  
 CLT panel manufacturer: **Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC)**  
 Lighting design: **SEAM**  
 Wood supplier: **Glenalmond Timber Company**  
 Wood species: **American tulipwood**

**1** The flat-pack MultiPLY pavilion challenges assumptions about prefabricated buildings through its flexibility, which means it can be reconfigured and responds differently to each site.

**2** The untreated American tulipwood panels used to construct the carbon-neutral pavilion are reusable, recyclable and, eventually, biodegradable and non-toxic.

WINNER

