



CASE STUDY OSU HARBORTON STREET HOUSING



Photo: O'Brien Lucas Ventures

CHALLENGE

Build a safe and resilient housing complex for OSU's growing Hatfield Marine Science Center.

SOLUTION

OSU chose Mass Ply for its structural and aesthetic benefits, building prefabricated panels off-site to save time and cut costs.

RESULT

OSU's Harborton Street Housing addresses Newport's housing shortage and provides safe lodging outside of the tsunami zone.

OSU USES MASS PLY FOR HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER HOUSING COMPLEX

In 2023, Oregon State University (OSU) began designing a new, 77-unit housing complex for their thriving Hatfield Marine Science Center. In three years, the number of students at the coastal campus in Newport skyrocketed from 100 to more than 500.

Harborton Street Housing addresses the area's critical need for workforce housing and provides a safe alternative to the school's existing bunkhouses within the tsunami zone.

Freres Engineered Wood was thrilled to partner with O'Brien Lucas Ventures, a joint venture between Lucas Design Build and O'Brien & Company, on this project, providing Mass Ply Panels (MPP) for multiple building components. Structurally, MPP forms floors and ceilings of the three-story building, providing an efficient and durable solution for the modern build. By prefabricating the panels off-site, Mass Ply also allowed the design builder to save time and cut costs.



Photo: Trav Williams, Broken Banjo Photography

// I love that Mass Ply allowed us to work faster and more efficiently. It allowed us to work on multiple phases at the same time.

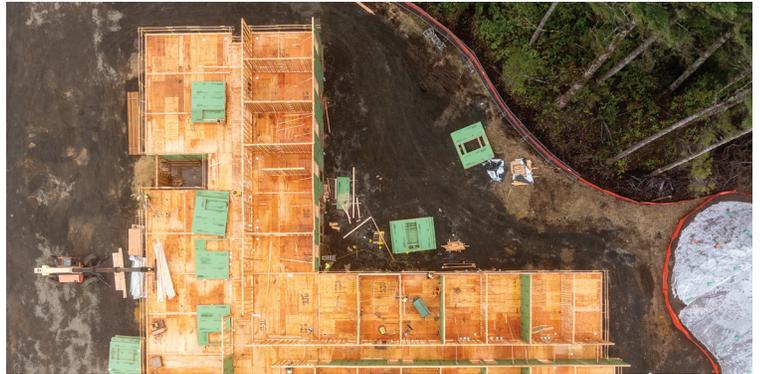
– Meysha Lovrien, project manager for Lucas Design Build

PARTNERS

- O'BRIEN & COMPANY
- LUCAS DESIGN BUILD
- MACKENZIE INC.



Freres' MPP also contributed to the building's design aesthetic, which blended natural and industrial influences with exposed pipes and wood. This included custom Mass Ply stairs, allowing for a greater span and a floating stair concept, as well as exposed MPP for the underside of the canopies covering the exterior doors.



Photos: Trav Williams, Broken Banjo Photography

/// On the coast it's cloudy and rainy most of the year, so using natural wood provided that warmer aesthetic. [Mass Ply] really feels like a material for the Pacific Northwest.

– Meysha Lovrien



Photo: O'Brien Lucas Ventures

After several years of commitment and hard work, the complex officially opened its doors following a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early October 2025.

The building's beautiful collection of studio and two-bedroom apartments will serve the short- and long-term housing needs of faculty, students, as well as visiting professionals. And thanks to a spacious five-acre lot, there is ample space for future expansion, as needed.