



NEWS RELEASE

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Encore Architects Partners with Freres Lumber Company to Design its Block Party Showcase – BALhaus – with MPP

LYONS, ORE. 19 Aug., 2019—Can design help us achieve personal balance and live our best lives? How can design thinking foster a society that balances the needs of all of its people and the planet? What is the role of design to mitigate our impact on the planet and achieve greater natural balance?

These questions are what this year's Design in Public Seattle Design Festival challenged architects and designers to address. In a fun, two-day street fair Aug. 24 and 25, the Festival is showcasing "balance" through large-scale design installations, performances and activities. The installations are designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, sizes and abilities, from both the general public and the design community.

[Encore Architects](#) will showcase their design installation "[BALhaus](#)," made from [Freres Lumber Co.](#)'s Mass Plywood Panel, at the weekend [Balance Block Party](#). Typically used in low- and mid-rise construction, Freres Lumber Co.'s MPP has been selected on various occasions by architects and designers for its sustainability, flexibility, strength, aesthetics and functionality.

"We were looking for an innovative and sustainable product that would allow us to build unique designs such as the BALhaus nesting frame which was built from one piece rather than the typical framing methodology," said Uwe Bergk, senior associate at Encore Architects. "The opportunity to work with this new construction material allowed us all to better understand the properties and opportunities MPP has in the construction industry."

In keeping with the event theme, the BALhaus structure itself "balances" the use of material and technology—it is composed of Mass Plywood Panels that were cut via Computer Numerical Control. Five frames were cut from one piece, which allowed Encore to create nesting house frames that push out and form a dynamic space. The pattern is repeated four times.

Encore Architects aspired to create a space that would evoke familiarity with different types of housing, life transitions, circumstances and conditions reflected in all of our lives. BALhaus is a physical, interactive representation that illustrates how a baseline of stability and balance in life is essential to support a stable community. And, that living and thriving as an individual requires an interdependence on a community that provides access to education, a living wage, transportation, and mental and physical healthcare. All of these factors are threaded together by the need for housing.

Seattle Design Festival Block Party

When: Saturday Aug. 24 and Sunday, Aug. 25
10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Who: Encore Architects, Freres Lumber Co., Bykonen Carter Quinn and Walsh Construction present BALhaus.

Where: BALhaus is on display at The Balance Block Party in [South Lake Union Park](#), to the south and west of the [MOHAI \(Museum of History and Industry\)](#) in spot A4 west of the center for wooden boats. 860 Terry Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109.



Encore Architects supports Design in Public's regional event not only by participating in the design competition, but also through financial donations and by donating their time. Encore believes the Seattle Design Festival is a fun way to collaborate, learn and connect with their community as well as other designers and architects. Encore plans to donate BALhaus to a local organization following the Design Festival.

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About Freres Lumber Company

Established in 1922, Freres Lumber is among Oregon's premier engineered wood products manufacturing companies. Specializing in bringing high-quality wood products to market, Freres manufactures finished plywood products, lumber, veneers and structural composite lumber, and continues to transform and modernize building practices with its latest innovation, Mass Plywood Panel (MPP). The company follows sustainable management practices throughout its three operations—Freres Lumber Co., Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LCC, using 100 percent of its materials in its products or as fuel. Freres is committed to providing family wage jobs, and operates six wood products facilities, including a cogeneration facility. For more information, visit www.frereslumber.com or call 503-859-2121.