



ONTARIO AQUATIC CENTRE

LOCATION

St. Catharines

COMPLETED

2012

ARCHITECT

Shore Tilbe / Perkins + Will

ACCREDITATION

LEED Silver

AREA

49,000 square feet

DESCRIPTION

Featuring a sustainable, LEED Silver design, this aquatic centre includes a 25-metre, eight-lane, rectangular lap pool with ramp entry and built-in poolside bleachers, as well as an irregularly shaped leisure pool with spray features and a small child slide. The facility overall contains barrier-free access for persons with disabilities; on-deck and off-deck viewing for parents and guardians; change rooms, community rooms and administrative spaces. It also houses a new 7,000-square foot library branch.

Glulam was used as both simple beam and deck elements and knit into more complex structural assemblies. The thermal properties of timber allow it to be used to penetrate the envelope without introducing significant thermal bridges. The principal pool trusses span 32 m. The glulam top chords are coupled with a system of pre-loaded high strength steel tension rods and queen posts. Connections between the steel and timber are carefully crafted and visually expressed. The robust warmth of the heavy timber top chord contrasts nicely with the slender, minimal steel detailing.

Photo credit: Tom Arban