

ALBERTA

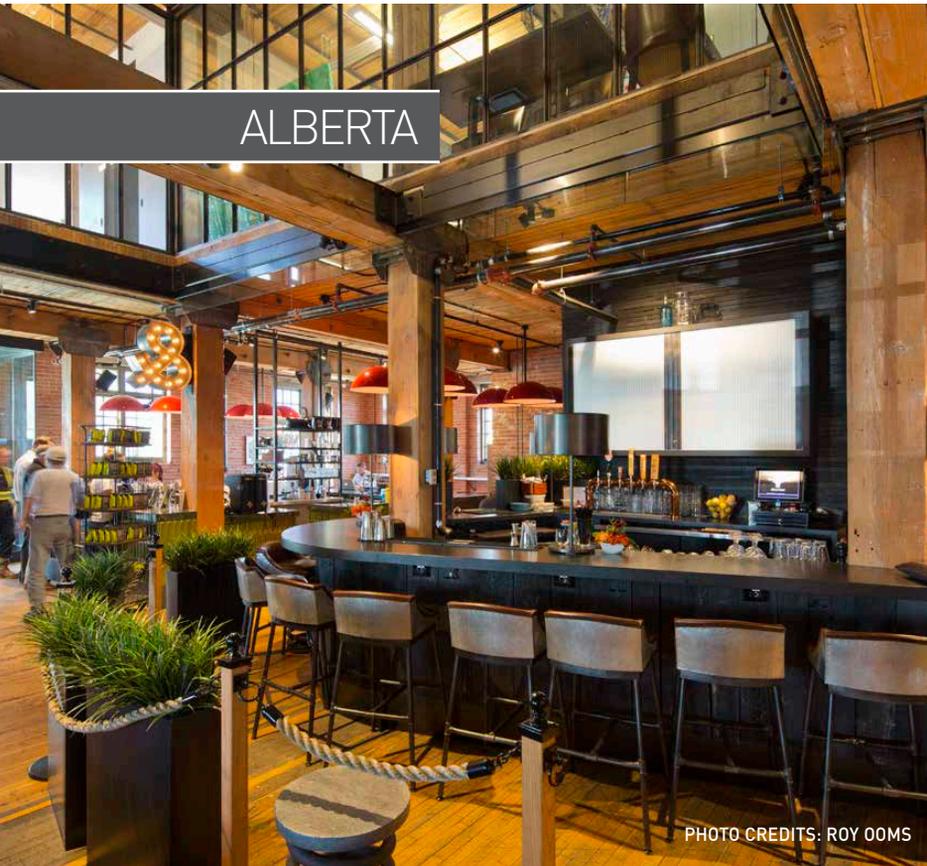
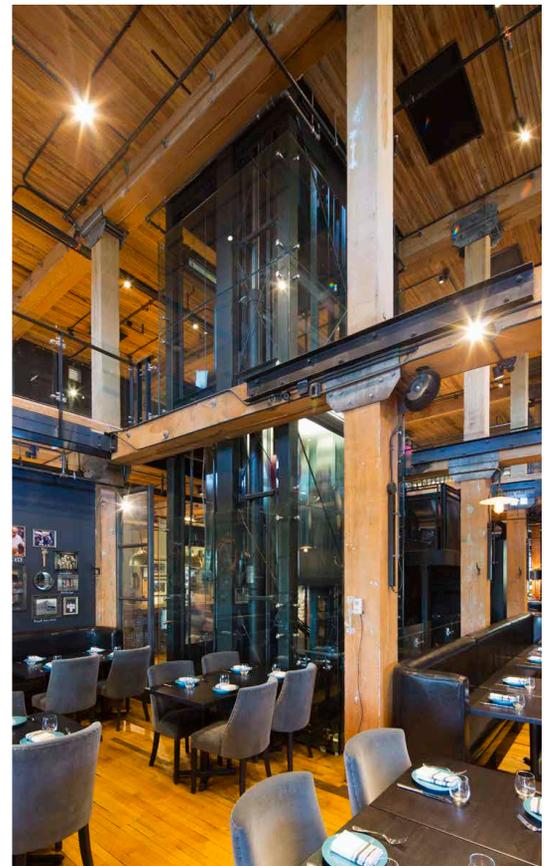


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Simmons Mattress Building – Building Conversion and Heritage Restoration

Calgary, AB

By Dan Prentice, RJC Engineers

In 2007, Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) began the task of revitalizing East Village into a bustling new community. Now halfway through the master plan vision for the neighborhood, the Simmons Building is renowned as a landmark feature. The project saw extensive assessment, restoration and redevelopment, while keeping much of the original, century-

old features, including the exterior brick walls and internal heavy timber wood framed structure intact.

This project involved the adaptive reuse of the historic Simmons Factory Warehouse building to accommodate a new restaurant occupancy. The factory was built in 1912 as a two-story brick and heavy timber structure situated on the bank of the Bow River in Calgary's East Village. The original building featured an exposed heavy timber post and beam structural framing system with a Nailed Laminated Timber (NLT) floor deck. The robust design of the NLT floor deck system from the original warehouse easily accommodated the demand for the new loading associated with a restaurant

occupancy. One mandate of the project was to maintain the integrity and composition of the original heavy timber and mill construction as regulated in the municipal historic resource bylaw. The heavy timber elements were therefore featured throughout the building by opening up areas of the floor space to allow for larger spaces to congregate as well as highlighting necessary code required interventions that allow a glass elevator and feature stair elements to be used for accessibility and exiting. Sustainability was a large part of this project as it proved the longevity of the original heavy timber design and its adaptability for new uses to revitalize a historic resource for years to come.

The restored Simmons Building is now home to some of Calgary's most exciting food and beverage tenants, Phil & Sebastian Coffee Roasters, Sidewalk Citizen Bakery and Charbar, complete with a rooftop patio and full access to the city's famed RiverWalk.



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