

By SENATOR  
WARREN G.  
MAGNUSON

# WOOD

## and the World's Fair



The Space Needle, with its rotating restaurant on top, towers above General Insurance Company's Information Center with its graceful Douglasfir glued laminated arches—30,000 boardfeet of lumber, plywood, and wood products

MAN'S oldest and most plentiful building material—wood—is holding its own with the latest scientific miracles of Century 21 at the Seattle World's Fair.

The manner and the quantity of forest products installations at Seattle may well be the most outstanding demonstration of wood's versatility shown by any international exposition in this century.

Although I am the senior Senator from the state of Washington, I can modestly disclose that I was a little too young at the time of Seattle's last big fair—the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific

Exposition of 1909—to remember many architectural details. Yet some authorities who observed the happenings of that time tell me the amount of wood used in the event of 53 years ago was much less than that seen in Seattle this year.

Several reasons can be given. The Seattle 1909 fair, and others of more recent times in various parts of the United States, depended heavily on plaster and chickenwire construction for temporary buildings. The varieties of woods available in earlier years were largely limited to structural lumber and timbers.

Century 21 comes at a time when the forest products industry is able to furnish wood in just about any shape or size desired.

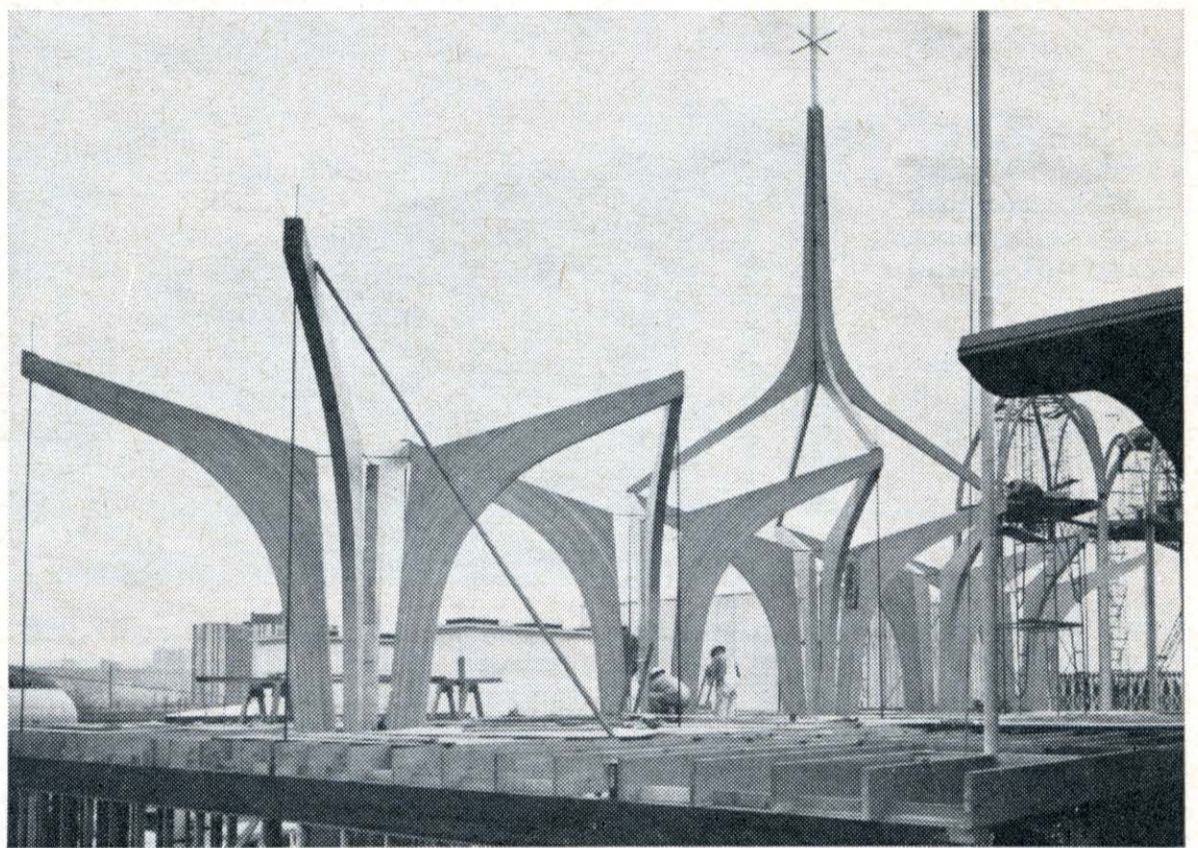
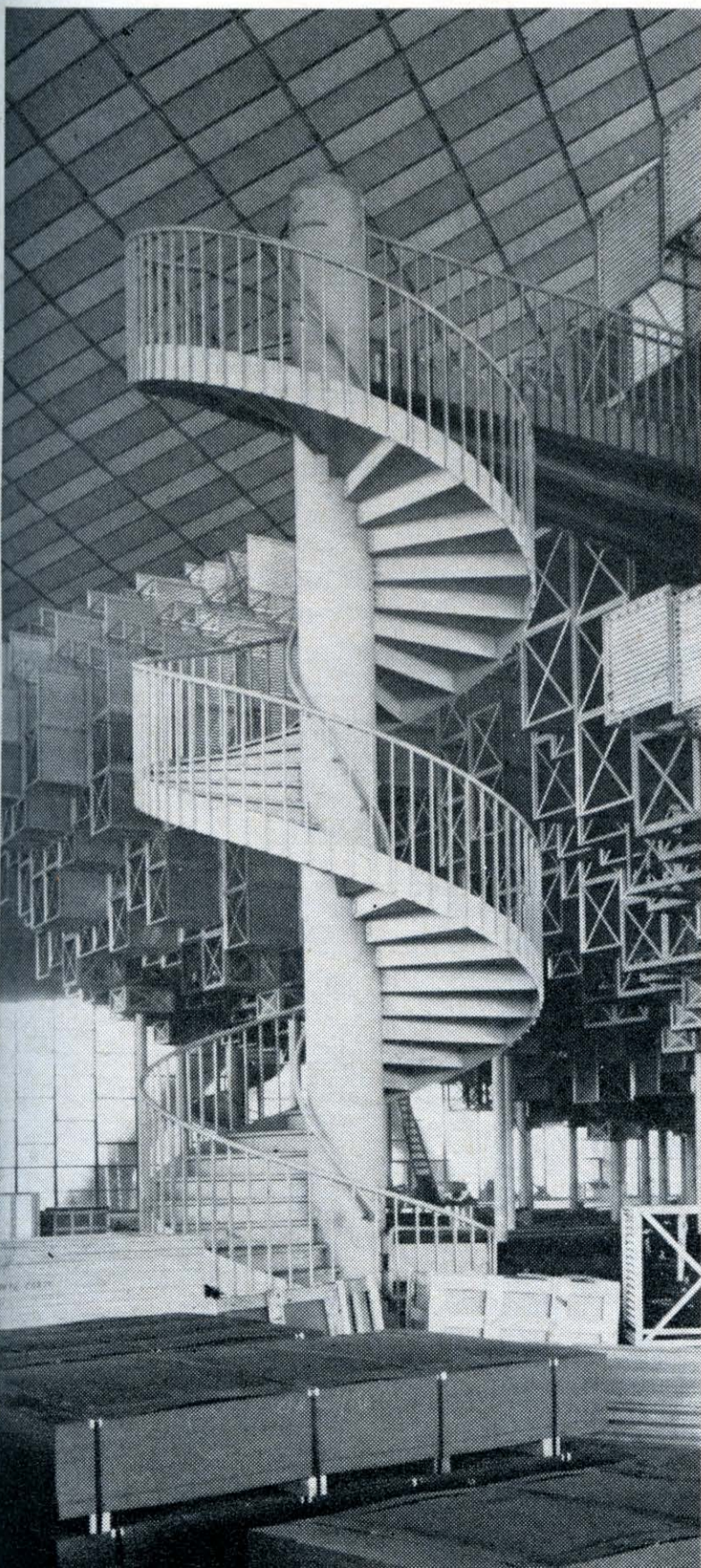
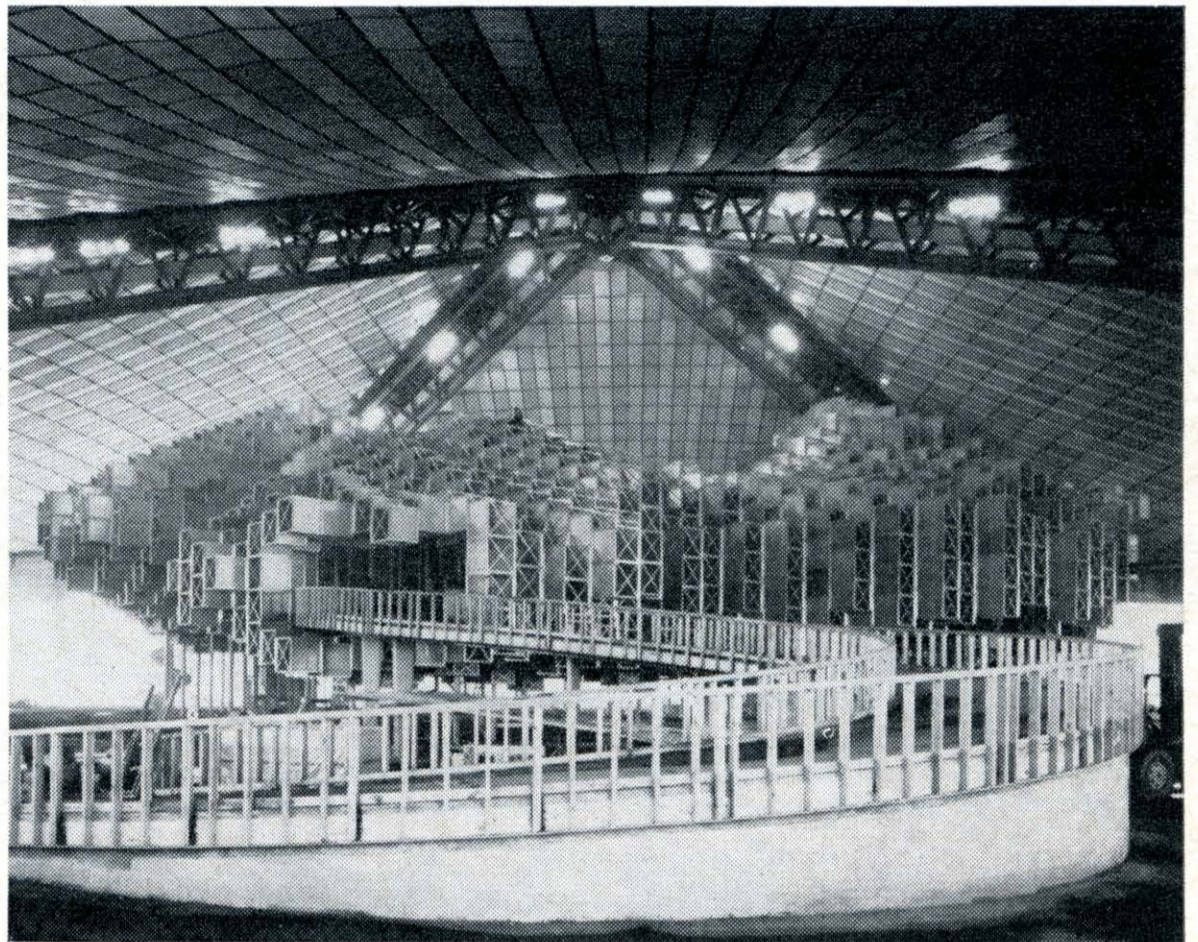
Laminated wood beams are a splendid example of this new wood technology. The Christian Witness Building on the fairgrounds contains an interesting group of 20 laminated wood beams installed more for design than for support. These beams are to be removed after the fair ends in October to be re-tooled and used again as 10 complete structural arches for a North Seattle church auditorium.

Nearly three million boardfeet of lumber, plywood and wood products were used constructing Seattle's World's Fair, and an additional half million feet will be used to build indoor exhibits before the Fair opens April 21

All photos courtesy of West Coast Lumbermen's Association

Wood, plywood and wood products form a wide ramp that wanders through cube cluster hanging in center of 11-story, four-acre Washington State Coliseum

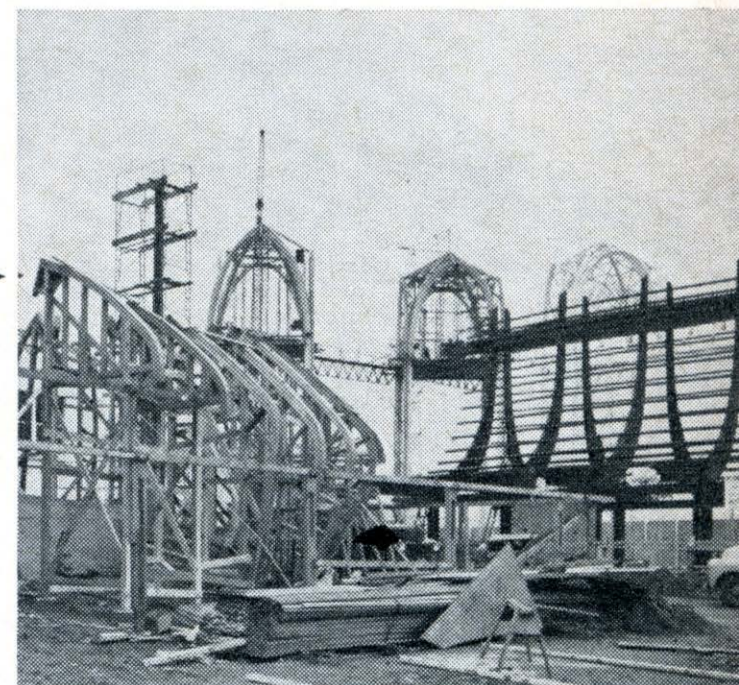
The Forest Products Industry Building is a 125-seat theater showing a color film on forestry and wood products

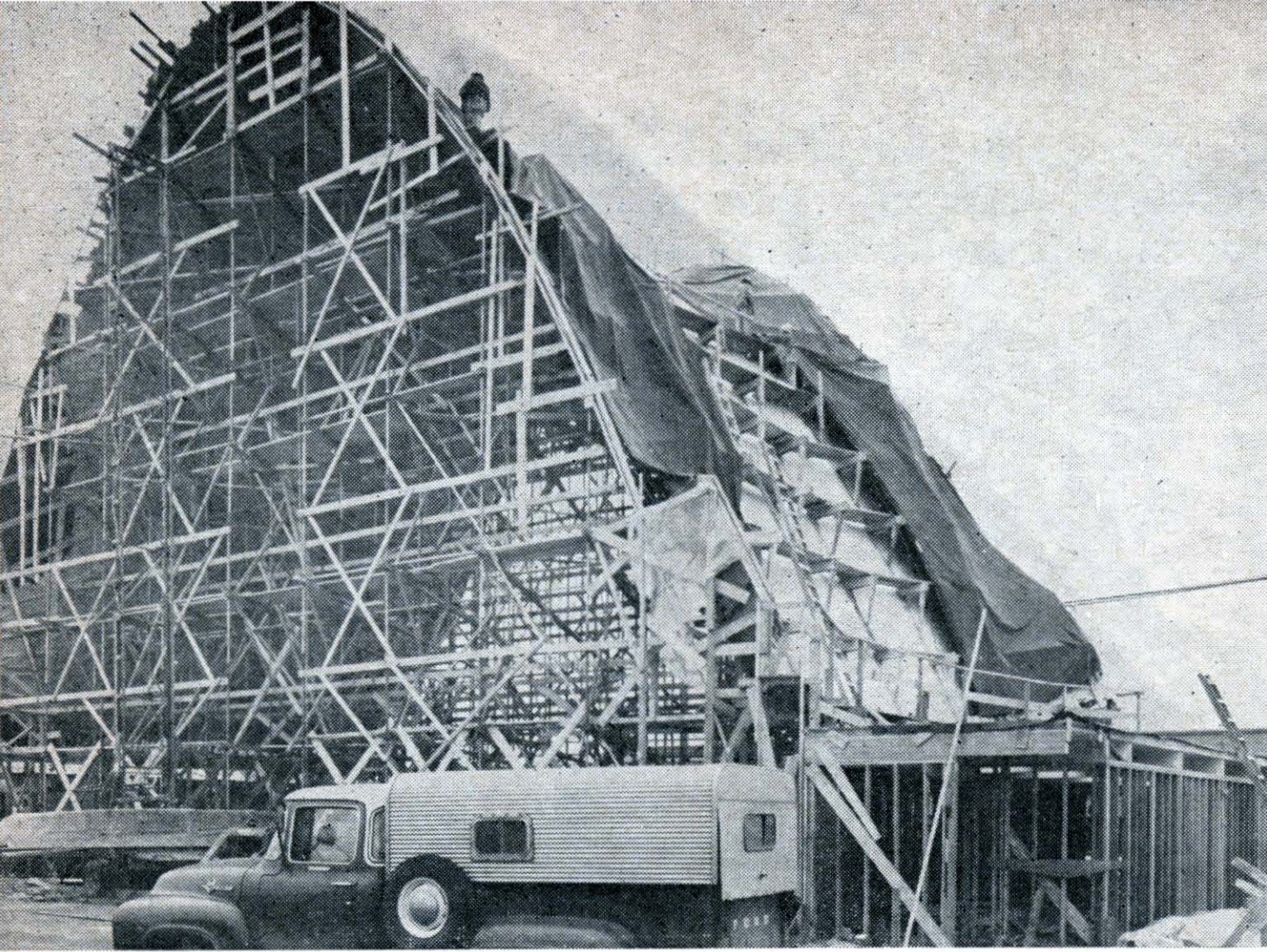


▲ The Christian Witness Building contains 20 laminated arches which will later be used for a Seattle church auditorium

Lumber is required to provide framework for mesh and resteel to form gunnite shell for 125-seat theater-exhibits building

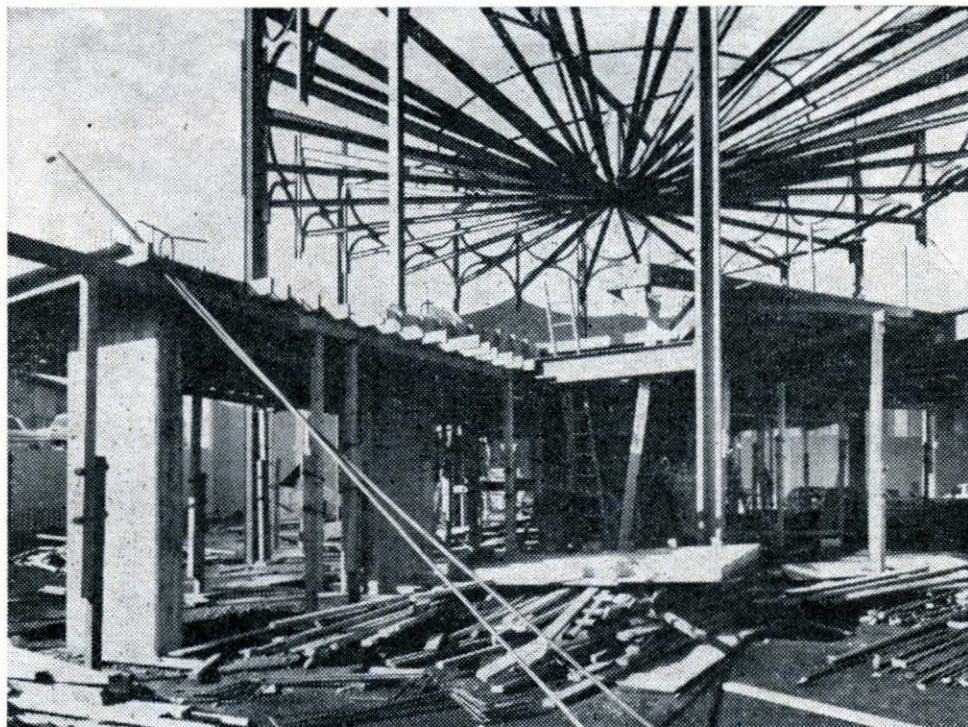
◀ Tempered hardboard and cedar siding lying in the foreground will be used on interior of the Washington State Coliseum



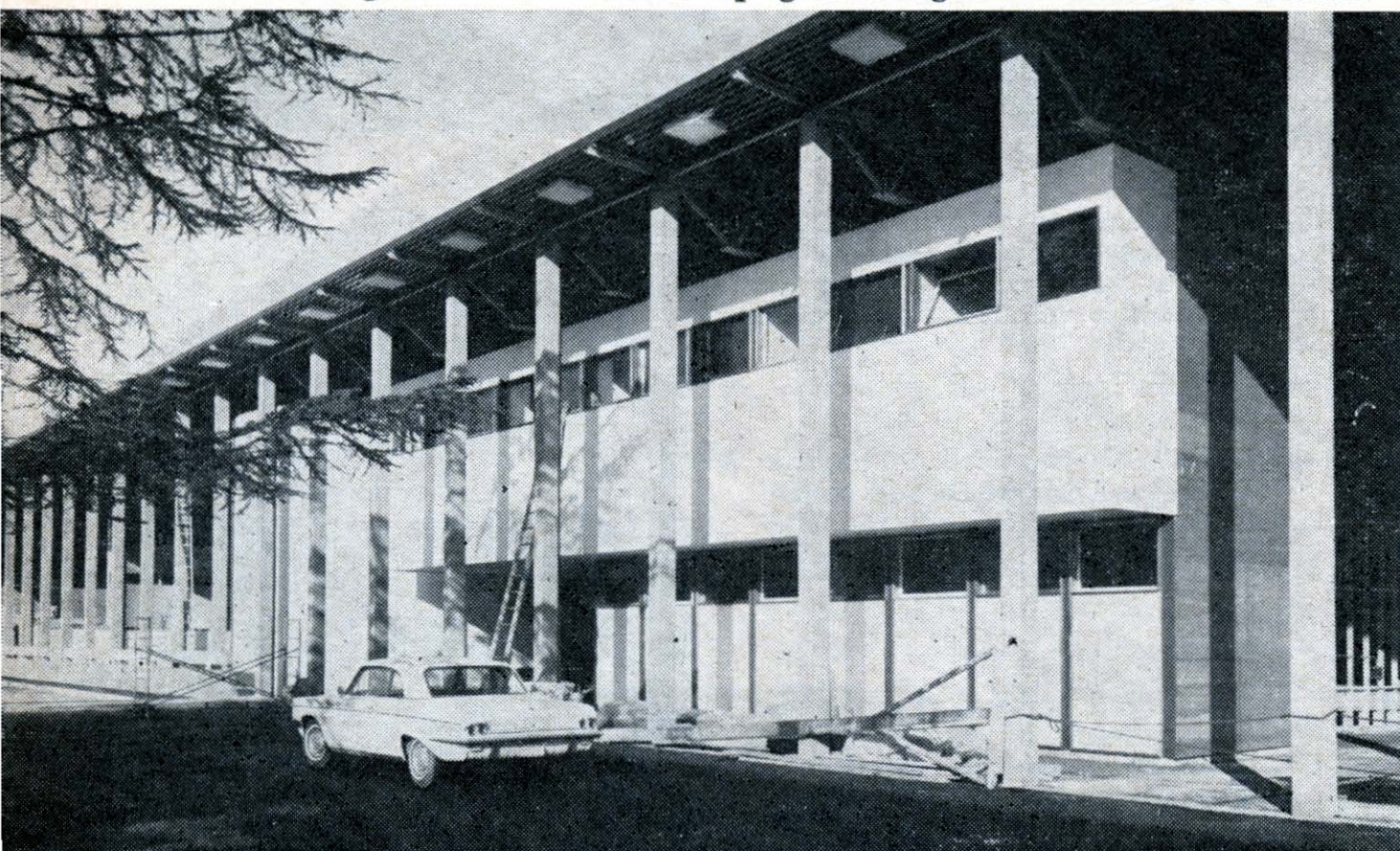


The East Gate of Century 21 will contain more than 20 million boardfeet of framing material. Restrooms, ticket offices and decorative fencing at the main gates alone will require another 40 million boardfeet of lumber and plywood

Skyride terminal has little wood visible, but subflooring and concrete forms were all made of wood



Within the International Commerce and Industry Building is the 11,900 square foot Canadian Participation Exhibit (painted white). It makes extensive use of cedar siding and dark vertical uprights alongside windows for accents



Other wood applications not seen at previous fairs of this type include a massive variety of plywoods, hardboards, and softboards. Indeed, wood's place in the expositions of long-ago often was limited to a buxom building assembled out of logs with the bark on or to some gigantic tree section propped up to demonstrate how large trees do grow.

Seattle building authorities displayed their full understanding of the World's Fair construction needs by waiving cumbersome codes and restrictions. It is to the credit of these enforcers of building rules that they took an open-minded view toward wood. This was especially fortunate from the standpoint of the fair's scheduled opening date. It is probable that many projects completed in time for opening day would not have met their deadline if wood had been excluded or seriously curtailed by prejudicial regulations.

I complimented Joseph E. Gandy, Seattle World's Fair President, on the generous usage of wood throughout the exposition and he made this interesting response:

"It is especially appropriate to have on display here—in the very land where the forest products industries provide our major payrolls—the exciting story of the uses of wood in the 21st Century.

"Forward-looking architecture in such pavilions as the fair's Domestic Commerce and Industry Building, the Christian Pavilion, the Child Care Center, the Forest Products Industry Pavilion, are demonstrations of the best in present-day design and construction."

The Seattle World's Fair is discussed nationally as a showcase for the finest and newest. And after October 21, when the fair officially closes its gates, beautiful examples of forest products, such as the magnificent paneling in the Opera House, will remain in the Seattle Civic Center for the enjoyment of our citizens throughout the years to come.

I asked a leading contractor at the fair just how many carloads of wood materials would go into construction.

"It would take a long spell on the adding machine to total it all up," he grinned. "But I can tell you this. There's easily enough lumber and plywood going into buildings, platforms, shelving, and fences around these 78 acres to build homes for a city of 20,000."

The fair in Seattle this year is good for the people and it's good for wood.