Public Identity (east elevation)
The building provides a coherent new face for the sprawling, haphazard existing campus; Located over 150 m across an open field from the main town thoroughfare, the building improves campus visibility with its long east façade - enhanced by a large clerestorey running the length of the building - animated by night with dynamic LED lighting that harkens to the aurora borealis.
Public Identity (east elevation)
The east elevation, animated by day with coloured glass, faces the main thoroughfare through Dawson Creek.
East Elevation
The new trades building creates a courtyard that leads to the main campus entry. Trades training shops occupy the double-height space to the left, which transitions into a two storey classroom block, then drops to one storey at the student commons. A linear light scoop borders the courtyard, reflecting southern light off the exposed mass timber structure into the lounge.
North Elevation - View of the Student Commons
Wood glows in a severe northern landscape, expressing warm respite from the cold.
Entry Courtyard
The new Trades building, new link, and new main entry frame the south and west sides of a new entry courtyard for the campus - providing shelter from winter winds and creating a sense of enclosure within an open landscape.
Link to the existing campus
CLT and glulam frame the link connecting the new main entry to the new Trades building.
Student Commons
View of the student gathering space. A light scoop along the north wall reflects warm southern light off the wood structure, and frames seating alcoves.
Student Commons
The student commons provides a lounge for collaboration, study, and relaxing between classes. Facing north onto the entry courtyard, it is transected by a screen of laminated veneer lumber that separates circulation from seating and screens views between the lounge area and classrooms.
Student Commons
View from the classroom, through the curved wood screen that separates circulation from the student lounge, and into the courtyard beyond.
Shop Commons

The loading bays for the shops face inwards into a shop commons that links the shops to the classrooms and work yard - within a sheltered environment. This inversion of the usual trades building layout allows the loading and storage function of the shops to operate year-round in the extreme cold climate and creates a flexible space for interaction between trades - and for multi-purpose functions. The wood structure, combined with acoustic treatment at the walls and between exposed ceiling joists, provides excellent noise mitigation for the noisy shop equipment.
Turbine Shop
Spacious, versatile shops open onto the shop commons. All work spaces are naturally lit by skylights and clerestories.
Carpentry Shop
The long-span glulam structure allows long runs of clerestorey windows along the building perimeter, bringing natural light to the carpentry shop.
Welding Shop
The building integrates large and complex equipment with the exposed wood structure.
Millwright Shop
The building is framed with laminated veneer lumber columns and beams; The beams transition into vertical fins to act as lateral support for the clerestoreys and interior light baffles (to control glare); CLT shear walls and partitions surround the shops, providing robust support for equipment; Durability is enhanced with a perforated metal skin at the bottom of the wall.
East Facade Detail
Coloured glass enlivens the clerestorey. The building is wrapped in a skin of metal shingles. Narrow windows provide glimpses out of the shops and classrooms, while still permitting the walls to be densely programmed with equipment.
East Facade Detail
East facade detail at night.
Site plan

1. New trades training centre
2. New link
3. New entry court
4. Existing campus centre
5. Existing CECET energy house
6. Existing campus entry
7. Main campus entry road
8. Service parking
9. New courtyard
10. Existing health sciences building
11. Existing gymnasium

Location plan

Location plan

Standard trades training building
1. Classroom
2. Corridor
3. Shop
4. Loading bay
5. Works yard

Inverted trades training building for a northern climate
1. Student Commons
2. Classroom
3. Shop Commons
4. Shop
5. Works yard
Lower floor plan
1. Link
2. Student commons
3. Vestibule
4. Classroom
5. Office
6. Meeting room
7. Womens locker room
8. Mens locker room
9. Vestibule
10. Shop commons
11. Millwright shop
12. Cutting
13. Welding crib
14. Grinding
15. Welding shop
16. Compressor
17. Acetylene storage
18. Gas store
19. Work yard
20. Dust collect
21. Carpentry shop
22. Tool crib
23. Plumbing shop
24. Turbine shop
25. Blade repair
26. Entry courtyard
27. New main entry
28. Existing Building

Upper floor plan
1. Classroom
2. 2nd floor commons
3. Electrical room
4. Storage
5. Chiller room
6. Admin reception
7. Admin office
8. Meeting room
9. Instructors office
10. Turbine shop mezzanine
11. Plumbing shop mezzanine
12. Mechanical mezzanine
13. Millwright shop mezzanine
14. Data room
15. Electrical mezzanine
16. Dust collection mezzanine
17. Mechanical mezzanine
Section AA
1 Student commons
2 Shop commons
3 Work yard
4 2nd floor commons
5 Service parking
6 New entry courtyard
7 Existing building

Section BB
1 Shop commons
2 Millwright Shop
3 Turbine shop
4 Turbine shop mezzanine
1  LVL beam
2  Brisco column
3  Extensive green roof
4  Student commons
5  New entry courtyard