

Experimental Testing of a Low-Damage Post-Tensioned C-shaped CLT Core-Wall

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ABSTRACT

The development of strong and stiff lateral load resisting systems (LLRS) is essential for mid-rise and high-rise timber buildings. On the other hand, within a seismic design philosophy strength/stiffness and ductility/drift capacity typically appear as opposite target parameters, depending on the acceptable level of damage. For improved stiffness and strength, core-wall tubular structural forms are commonly used for taller reinforced concrete buildings. This paper presents an experimental study on a new type of LLRS in cross-laminated timber (CLT). A post-tensioned C-shaped CLT core-wall mainly using screwed connections was designed and tested under uni-directional and bi-directional cyclic loading. It was found that the mixed angle screwed connection solution was the most effective. The highest partial composite action of 60-70% was reached and the core-wall system stiffness at serviceability limit state increased more than four times when compared to a decoupled test with only friction between the CLT panels. The (unbonded) post-tensioning technology provided strong and stiff core-wall base connections with re-centering capability and small residual displacements. The experimental test results confirmed that significant system strength/ stiffness and ductility/drift capacity can be achieved in a post-tensioned C-shaped CLT core-wall system with minimal damage through careful connection detailing.

1 INTRODUCTION

2 Timber is experiencing a renaissance as a building material. Engineered wood products such as cross-

3 laminated timber (CLT) are being produced to a high degree of prefabrication which allows for efficient
4 and safe on-site installation. CLT has been applied globally in many low-rise and mid-rise buildings
5 typically following the platform construction technology (Green and Taggart 2017). Under seismic loads,
6 conventional CLT shear walls with properly designed connection systems are able to provide adequate
7 lateral capacity for multi-storey buildings. However, in the cases of open commercial floor plans or
8 taller buildings, conventional CLT shear walls may struggle to achieve the required strength and stiffness
9 performance with current design methodologies. One possible improvement is to adopt hybrid systems
10 with steel or concrete. Another possible solution is to introduce flanged core-walls that can develop
11 composite action among in-plane and orthogonal walls to enhance lateral strength and stiffness. **While**
12 **the flanged core-wall concept is common for reinforced concrete structures** (Khan and Sbarounis 1964;
13 **Beyer et al. 2008**), **few studies for mass timber core-wall buildings were reported. One rare recent example**
14 **of mass timber core-walls is the Catalyst building (2018) in Spokane, WA which required performance**
15 **based engineering for code compliance through project specific testing** (McDonnell and Jones 2020).
16 **However, in general the lack of design guides and the challenge of forming robust connections between**
17 **orthogonal walls to achieve composite action are hindrances to further application of this system type.**

18 Conventional CLT shear walls have been researched widely in the last two decades (Pei et al. 2016).
19 Dujic et al. (2004) were the first to test in-plane CLT walls. Since then, in-plane CLT shear walls
20 have been extensively researched with standard connection systems (Popovski et al. 2010; Gavric et al.
21 2015; Flatscher et al. 2015; Hummel 2016; Amini et al. 2018). These standard connectors include
22 commercially available hold-downs and shear brackets which are connected to CLT wall panels mainly
23 with nails and screws. Research has reported that CLT wall panels behave relatively rigid **in low- to**
24 **medium-rise buildings** and that the connections are critical and govern the wall behaviour, typically
25 limiting their ductility/drift capacity (Izzi et al. 2018). **More recently, seismic performance factors for**
26 **platform framed CLT shear walls systems in the United States were determined by** van de Lindt et al.
27 **(2020) following the FEMA P695 (FEMA 2009) methodology for inclusion in the 2021 AWC Special**
28 **Design Provisions for Wind & Seismic.** In CLT platform construction, connections with self-tapping
29 screws (STS) are commonly used. This is increasingly the case for vertical joints between CLT wall
30 panels with recent aspect ratio (height-to-length) limitations between 1:1 and 4:1 (Tannert 2019; CSA 086
31 2019). This coupling effect will provide increased system displacement capacity and energy dissipation.
32 Experimental testing on STS connections has shown that inclined screws are able to provide higher
33 stiffness and strength but lower ductility when compared with screws installed at 90° to the timber
34 surface (or simply called 90° screws). However, by using screws installed with mixed angles, stiff and
35 ductile STS connection performance can be achieved for both in-plane and orthogonal CLT panel joints

36 (Hossain et al. 2016; Sullivan et al. 2018). Due to the limited stiffness and strength of conventional CLT
37 shear wall systems with commercially available hold-downs and shear brackets, their implementation
38 has been generally limited to low-rise or mid-rise residential buildings. For taller timber buildings or
39 timber buildings with a limited amount of walls, Buchanan (2016) stated that transforming conventional
40 shear walls to core-wall systems and also by using efficient connection systems such as post-tensioning
41 for connections between timber elements or timber elements and foundations could meet the increased
42 stiffness and strength demands.

43 Adapting concepts and principles originally developed for precast concrete construction (Priestley
44 et al. 1999), post-tensioned timber systems, also called Pres-Lam technology (Prestressed Laminated
45 Timber), have been developed and tested since 2005 at the University of Canterbury (UC) (Palermo et al.
46 2005). In post-tensioned timber shear walls, conventional hold-downs are not used and the moment
47 capacity at the wall base is provided by the clamping action of the post-tensioned tendons and/or by
48 special ductile "hold-downs", consisting of axially loaded internally epoxied or external and replaceable
49 rebars/dissipaters (Palermo et al. 2006). This system can maximize the stiffness achievable in mass timber
50 structures, minimize damage, and have strong re-centering capabilities. An extensive testing programme
51 at UC included post-tensioned laminated veneer lumber (LVL) single wall testing (Palermo et al. 2005;
52 Palermo et al. 2006), hybrid wall systems with internal epoxied and external replaceable energy dissipating
53 devices (Sarti et al. 2016), U-shaped flexural plates in coupled walls (Iqbal et al. 2015a; Kelly et al. 1972),
54 or simply coupled walls with nailed plywood sheets (Iqbal et al. 2015b). The importance of connection
55 detailing between the diaphragm and the lateral load resisting system was highlighted during a two-storey
56 frame and wall building experimental test by Newcombe et al. (2010a) and in-plane experimental testing
57 of Timber-Concrete-Composite diaphragms (Newcombe et al. 2010b). This was subsequently extensively
58 researched by Moroder et al. (2017). Careful detailing is required to resolve the wall-floor displacement
59 incompatibilities. While initial research with post-tensioned mass timber systems focussed on using LVL
60 for its inherent higher mechanical properties, recent notable work has also confirmed its usability with
61 other engineered wood products such as Glulam (Smith et al. 2014; Di Cesare et al. 2017; Mancini and
62 Pampanin 2018) and CLT (Dunbar et al. 2014; Ganey et al. 2017; Ho et al. 2017; Pilon et al. 2019; Chen
63 et al. 2020). Under the multiyear Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) research
64 project (Pei et al. 2017), Ganey et al. (2017) tested configurations of single and coupled post-tensioned
65 CLT walls on both steel and CLT bases. In 2017, Pei et al. (2019b) conducted a series of shake table
66 tests of a full-scale 2-storey mass timber building with post-tensioned CLT walls. At the end of the
67 NHERI project, a ten-storey full scale post-tensioned CLT wall building shake table test is planned (Pei
68 et al. 2019a). A current state-of-the-art in Pres-Lam concept, testing and implementation is provided by

69 Granello et al. (2020). In past post-tensioned coupled wall tests, the primary purpose of the in-plane
70 vertical joint between adjacent panel walls was to provide increased energy dissipation during the rocking
71 motion (Iqbal et al. 2015a; Ganey et al. 2017; Chen et al. 2020). There are few examples using the
72 in-plane vertical joint or orthogonal vertical joint as a method to provide increased strength and stiffness
73 through partial composite action between the panels to create a C-, I-, or tube-shaped lateral load resisting
74 system (LLRS), but this method could meet increased lateral stiffness demands for taller timber buildings.

75 Cast in-situ reinforced concrete (RC) core-walls are popular for commercial construction. Core-
76 wall structures provide advantages architecturally by allowing for open floor plans, and structurally by
77 developing a tube-like behaviour with high lateral stiffness and strength. Core-wall structures can also
78 provide torsional stiffness which is important for centrally located LLRS on floor plans. The US ACI318-
79 11 (ACI 2011) provides design indications for a RC core-wall section to consider an effective flange
80 width depending on the flange to web wall length ratio and total wall height and plastic hinging at the
81 foundation level. A summary of experimental works on various flanged-type RC walls by Constantin and
82 Beyer (2014) highlighted the complex behaviour of flanged walls and the importance of understanding
83 bi-directional loading (Beyer et al. 2008). In Australia and New Zealand (NZ) precast concrete core-
84 walls are also used and recent precast concrete core-wall experimental work by Menegon et al. (2020a)
85 suggested that typical connections used between precast concrete panels are too flexible, and that typical
86 grout tube connections to the foundation can result in unintended stress / strain concentrations. Thus, only
87 partial composite core-wall behaviour is developed and ductility is limited. More robust connections with
88 enhanced strength and stiffness for precast concrete core-walls were subsequently developed and tested to
89 provide increased composite action (Menegon et al. 2020b). Mass timber core-wall construction is more
90 similar to precast concrete construction in that connections are required to connect prefabricated panels
91 together and also to the foundation. In contrast to a cast in-situ RC core-wall, a post-tensioned mass
92 timber core-wall base connection stiffness is controlled by the stiffness of the post-tensioning elements
93 and any supplementary energy dissipation devices. Two post-tensioned CLT stair-case core-walls with
94 box configuration have been experimentally tested by Dunbar et al. (2014) with a small number of 90°
95 screws to connect the CLT panels together. While this work verified the feasibility of post-tensioned
96 timber core-walls, there is a lack of comprehensive research work to quantify the increase in stiffness
97 and strength achievable when considering the composite action of orthogonal walls. By engaging the
98 post-tensioning elements of the flange walls, a post-tensioned timber core-wall base connection stiffness
99 can be increased when compared to rectangular post-tensioned timber walls. Similar to precast concrete
100 construction, mass timber core-wall structures require robust high-strength and high-stiffness connections
101 to maximise composite action.

102 This study aimed at evaluating the seismic performance of a post-tensioned flanged C-shaped CLT
103 core-wall which can be designed as a LLRS in multi-storey mass timber buildings. As part of the exper-
104 imental campaign, a total of seven different core-wall configurations were tested under uni-directional
105 and/or bi-directional loading. Different STS connection methodologies were used to connect the CLT
106 wall panels at the in-plane and orthogonal joints. Most of the solutions are also a valid cost-effective
107 alternative to CLT platform construction in non-seismic areas. The construction detailing of the post-
108 tensioned core-wall specimen is presented first. The testing methodology is then introduced and the
109 experimental results are discussed with a focus on the global post-tensioned core-wall behaviour and the
110 local STS connection performance.

111 TEST SPECIMEN DETAILING

112 The complete experimental programme is introduced in Brown et al. (2020) which consisted of testing
113 three post-tensioned CLT shear wall specimens: a single wall (SW) in test Phase I, a coupled double
114 wall (DW) in test Phase II, and a flanged C-shaped core-wall (CW) in test Phase III. This paper presents
115 the experimental testing of Phase III. In Phase III, various STS connection design options were used to
116 investigate the influence of connection details on the composite shear wall actions and overall shear wall
117 behaviour. The post-tensioned core-wall specimen was designed in accordance with the Pres-Lam design
118 guide, with extensions made for post-tensioned core-wall design (Pampanin et al. 2013). Fig. 1 shows
119 an isometric of the core-wall test set-up with key information.

120 Wall Section Design

121 The wall specimens were four-storey high with a 2/3 scale factor. The CLT wall panels were five-ply
122 and 175mm thick (45/20/45/20/45), with SG8 grade Douglas-fir laminations as specified in NZS3603
123 (Standards New Zealand 1993). To accommodate internal post-tensioning bars, 100mm x 45mm ducts
124 were maintained in the middle layer of the CLT wall panels (refer to Fig. 1(a)).

125 All the wall components were designed to be assembled with a 2mm tolerance. Fig. 1(a) shows the
126 orientation of the four panels with respect to each other and location of the post-tensioning bars. Web
127 walls 1 and 2 were 1912mm in length and flange walls 3 and 4 were 1450mm in length. Table 1 lists
128 the mechanical properties of the CLT, post-tensioning bars and steel dissipaters. The flange walls were
129 overlapped with the webs walls such that contact bearing would occur at the orthogonal joint during
130 strong axis loading. A butt joint was chosen for the in-plane connection. Each wall had a horizontal joint
131 at 5.5m height which will be discussed further in castellation design.

132 Connection Design

133 Screwed Connections

Table 1. Material Properties

Material	Property	Symbol	Value
Cross-laminated Timber	Modulus of Elasticity	$E_{0,mean}$	8000 MPa
	Characteristic Compression Strength Parallel to Grain	$f_{c,0}$	18 MPa
	Characteristic Compression Strength Perpendicular to Grain	$f_{c,90}$	8.9 MPa
Post-tensioning Steel	Modulus of Elasticity	E_p	170 GPa
	Yield Stress	f_{py}	835 MPa
	Ultimate Stress	f_{pu}	1030 MPa
Mild Steel (Flat Bar)	Modulus of Elasticity	E_s	200 GPa
	Yield Stress	E_{sy}	300 MPa

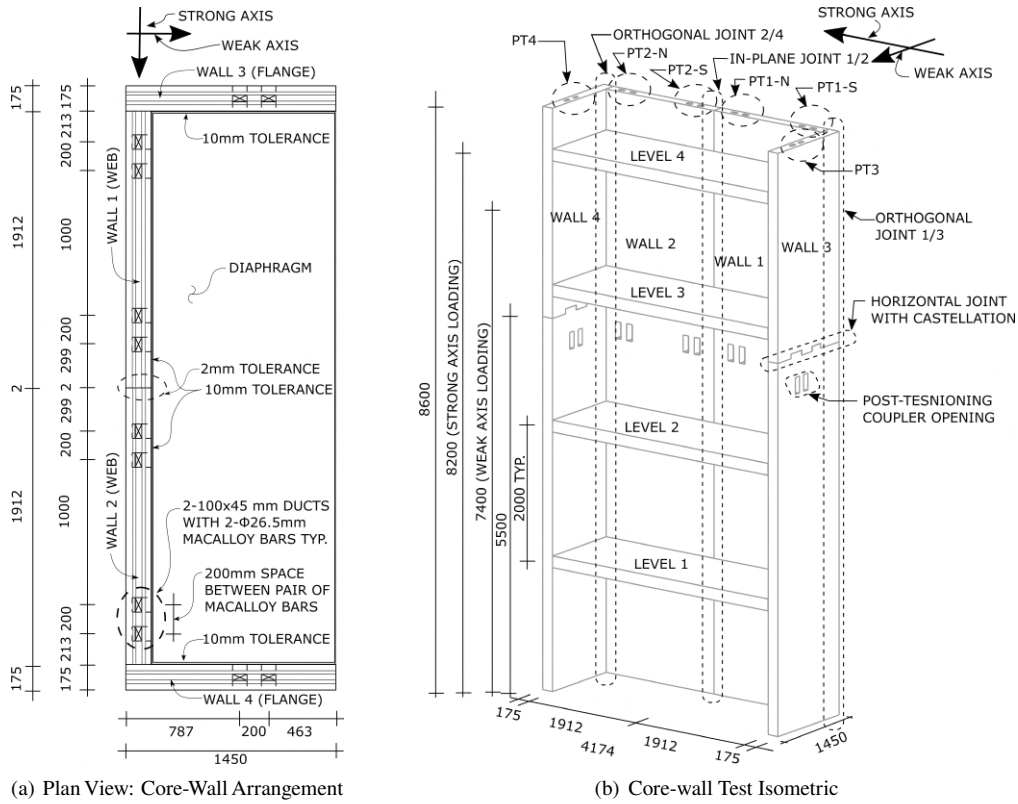


Fig. 1. Core-wall Experimental Design

134 The in-plane and orthogonal joints of the core-wall adopted STS. The screws were installed at 90°,
 135 inclined, or mixed inclinations which can provide different connection strength, stiffness and displacement
 136 capacity. The different screw installations for the in-plane and orthogonal joint are shown in Fig. 2. The
 137 screwed connection design summary yield strength (F_y) and stiffness (K_{ser}) predictions are provided in
 138 Table 2. The contribution from friction was neglected. For the in-plane joint, partially threaded (PT) or
 139 fully threaded (FT) screws were installed either at 90° with plywood or at a 45° + 45° double inclination.
 140 For the orthogonal joint, FT screws were installed either at 90° or at a 60° + 15° double inclination.

Table 2. Screwed Connection Design Summary

Test Joint	CW-2 & CW-7		CW-5		CW-6 In-Plane	CW-6 Orthogonal	
	In-Plane	Orthogonal	In-Plane	Orthogonal		Wall 1/3 Joint	Wall 2/4 Joint
F_y (kN/m)	36	30	60	84	150	68	63
K_{ser} (kN/mm/m)	18	23	45	67	121	55	51

F_y - yield strength prediction per metre of wall where shear-tension and shear-compression screws were determined as per Loss et al. (2018) and SPAX ETA (2017), and 90° screws were considered as per Eurocode 5 (2014) and SPAX ETA (2017)

K_{ser} - stiffness prediction per metre of wall which was considered for tension screws and was as per Loss et al. (2018) and SPAX ETA (2017)

141 All inclined STS were installed with the minimum spacing ($a_1 = 10d$) according to Eurocode 5 (2014)
 142 and European Technical Approval (ETA 2017). There was equal screw threaded length on each side of
 143 the timber joint, which meant that **countersinking** was required on the orthogonal joint. In addition to
 144 providing system stiffness through composite action, the STS can provide a source of energy dissipation
 145 under large wall deformations (Popovski et al. 2010; Lauriola and Sandhaas 2006).

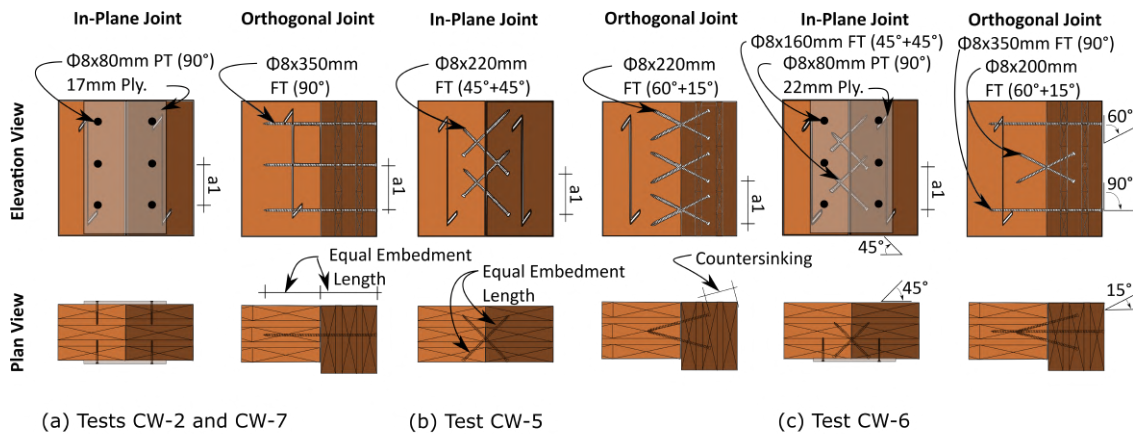


Fig. 2. Screw Connection Detailing

Post-tensioning Bar and Anchorage Design

146 A total of 12- ϕ 26.5mm high strength post-tensioning threaded bars (ETA 2018) anchored the CLT
 147 walls to the foundation. Fig. 1(a) shows the size and placement of the bars to ensure adequate load
 148 spreading in the CLT walls while satisfying the lab constraints. A 500mm long x 50mm thick anchorage
 149 plate was used to spread the load from a pair of ϕ 26.5mm high strength bars at the top of the CLT wall.
 150 Pairs of post-tensioning bars were spaced 200mm apart. For example a pair of post-tensioning bars
 151 are labelled PT1-S and PT3 for bars on wall 1 south and on wall 3 respectively. Because the standard
 152 length of the high strength bars is 5.6m, a mechanical coupler was required at the height of 5.1m to have
 153

154 continuous post-tensioning from the foundation to the wall top. To provide access to the mechanical
155 coupler, a 250mm x 100mm opening was cut into the CLT. The post-tensioning anchorage details are
156 shown in Fig. 3.

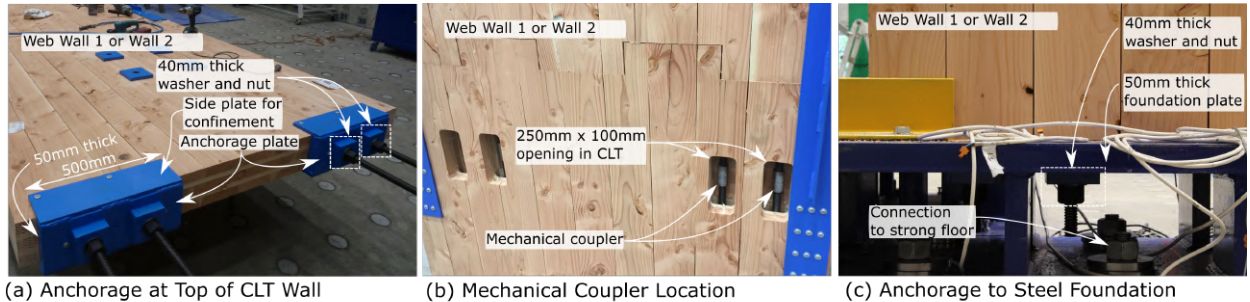


Fig. 3. Post-tensioning Anchorage Details

157 **Castellation Design**

158 Each CLT wall panel had a horizontal castellated joint located at a wall height of 5.5m to transfer
159 horizontal shear load. The purpose of the horizontal joint was to evaluate the effectiveness of such joints
160 transferring high shear loads. The castellation height location was chosen to ensure sufficient diaphragm
161 restraint and the two diaphragms above the castellation provided out-of-plane restraint. The castellation
162 only provided in-plane restraint. Further, the castellation height was high enough to ensure that gap
163 opening would not occur as the moment due to the applied lateral force was sufficiently smaller than the
164 pre-compression due to the post-tensioning. Though high friction could be expected due to the clamping
165 effect caused by high post-tensioning forces, Appendix B of NZS3101 (2006) (NZ Concrete Standard
166 covering jointed ductile connections for precast concrete) does not allow shear resistance to be taken fully
167 by friction. Thus, the castellated joint was conservatively designed to resist all the horizontal shear load.
168 The castellation was fabricated by a computer numerical control (CNC) machine with 2mm tolerance.
169 Each wall had two castellations with an approximate 3:1 length to height ratio. The web wall castellations
170 were 350mm long and 120mm high and the flange wall ones were 200mm or 250mm long and 70mm
171 high. A web wall castellation is shown in Fig. 4(a).

172 **Diaphragm Design**

173 CLT floor diaphragms provided out-of-plane restraint to the vertical wall components. Floors are
174 generally constructed outside a core-wall system such that lift/elevator shafts, service shafts, or stairwells
175 can be placed inside. However, in this study, by placing the diaphragms inside the core-wall, a self-
176 contained test specimen with its own out-of-plane restraints in bi-directional loading was achieved
177 without the necessity of additional structural members. The floors had a 10mm gap from the walls with

178 the intention to eliminate the strut action potential which was observed by Newcombe et al. (2010a).
 179 The floors were connected to each wall with a 700mm long Equal Angle (EA) 100mm x 100mm x
 180 6mm (Australian / New Zealand Standard 2016) with predrilled $\phi 11$ mm holes on the horizontal leg, and
 181 11mm x 20mm slotted holes on the vertical leg. A similar detail had previously been tested by Moroder
 182 et al. (2017). Following the NZ Steel Structure Standard (NZS3404 (1992)), the design out-of-plane
 183 force of 2.5% axial load required 16- $\phi 10 \times 100$ mm partially threaded washer head screws with pre-drilled
 184 holes. This out-of-plane force demand was appropriate based on results from Phase I and II testing. The
 185 screws on the **vertical leg** were unscrewed a 1/4 turn after installation to accommodate global wall-floor
 186 displacement incompatibility through movement within the slotted hole connection. The steel angles were
 187 placed in the mid-length of each wall to minimize the displacement incompatibility as recommended by
 188 Moroder et al. (2018). A slotted hole diaphragm connection detail was also used in the NMIT building,
 189 which was the first post-tensioned timber building erected in 2011 (Holden et al. 2016). The diaphragm
 190 connection design is shown in Fig. 4(b).

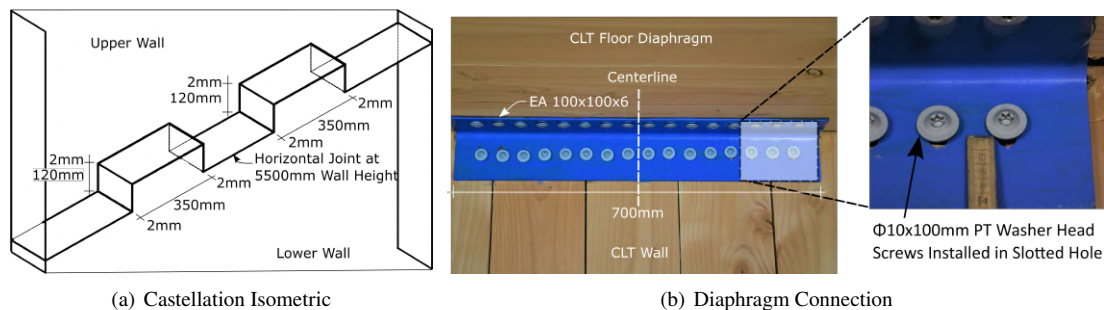


Fig. 4. Connection Design

191 **Dissipater Design**

192 At the corners of each wall base, mild steel U-shaped flexural plates (UFPs) (Kelly et al. 1972) were
 193 installed. While past research (Iqbal et al. 2015a; Ganey et al. 2017; Pei et al. 2019b) and the NMIT
 194 building (Holden et al. 2016) have used UFPs between post-tensioned walls to provide coupling effect and
 195 stable energy dissipation, in this study the primary focus was to investigate different connection details of
 196 the UFPs to CLT wall panels. Implications due to bi-directional loading would be investigated as well.
 197 Sarti et al. (2016) have shown the importance of providing a stiff connection to engage the dissipaters.
 198 As such, three different connections were investigated which are shown in Fig. 5: (1) inclined screws
 199 installed in the face of CLT, (2) inclined screws installed in the edge of CLT, and (3) an epoxied plate
 200 on the face of CLT. Each inclined screw connection was designed to remain elastic with an overstrength
 201 factor of 1.8 neglecting friction and the contribution from screws under compression. Each UFP was

202 connected by 2-M16 bolts to the steel plate and to the steel parallel flanged channel (PFC). 2- ϕ 12mm
 203 Grade 4.6 threaded rods (Standards New Zealand 1992) were installed to connect the PFC and the steel
 204 plate to eliminate the induced force couple because UFPs were placed only on one side of the CLT wall.
 205 Tests with and without the ϕ 12mm threaded rod were implemented.

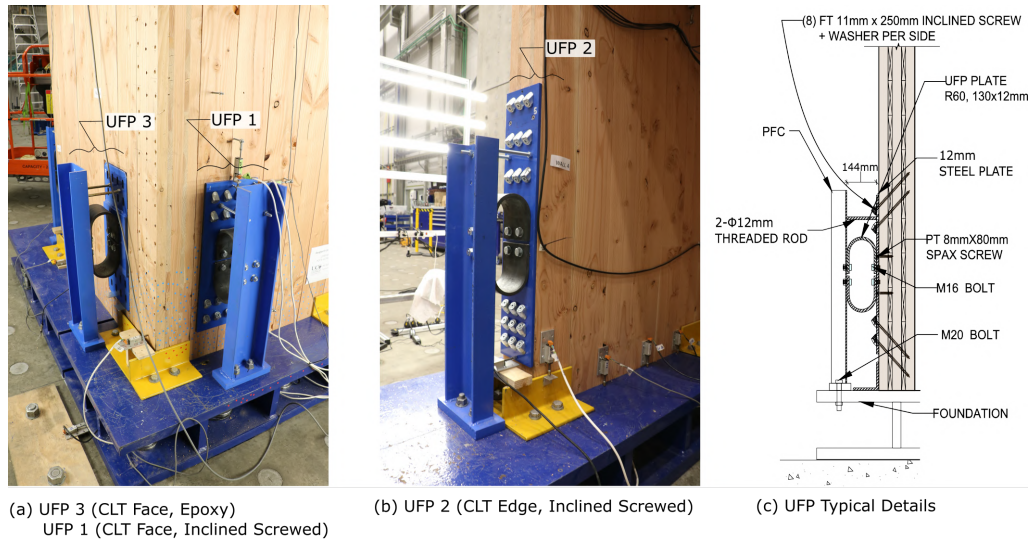


Fig. 5. UFP Connection Detailing

206 Foundation Details

207 Typically in post-tensioned timber buildings, large concrete pad foundations are used to transfer the
 208 concentrated loads from the post-tensioning bars while anchored steel plates can be used to transfer shear
 209 forces (Palermo et al. 2012). In this instance, a custom fabricated steel foundation provided connection
 210 to the strong floor, anchorage to the post-tensioning bars and a shear key connection. Shear keys were
 211 installed to prevent both in-plane and out-of-plane movement. The shear keys were EA 125mm x 125mm
 212 x 12mm (Australian / New Zealand Standard 2016) with welds on the bottom leg only so that the top leg
 213 could yield and bend to accommodate rocking as reported by Moroder et al. (2018) and also detailed for
 214 the Carterton Events Centre building (Palermo et al. 2012). The various shear keys used are shown in
 215 Fig. 6. The shear keys were bolted to the top flange of the steel foundation with Grade 8.8 M20 bolts
 216 (Standards New Zealand 1992) with zero tolerance. However, because the actual CLT web lengths and
 217 flange wall thicknesses were closer to 1910mm and 173mm respectively, approximately 8mm tolerance
 218 occurred at the core-wall base during the strong axis loading.

219 TEST PROGRAMME AND LOADING PROTOCOL

220 The core-wall testing schedule is provided in Table 3. The tests considered variations in terms of a)
 221 initial post-tensioning force, b) screwed connection detail, c) use of UFPs, and d) loading protocols. The

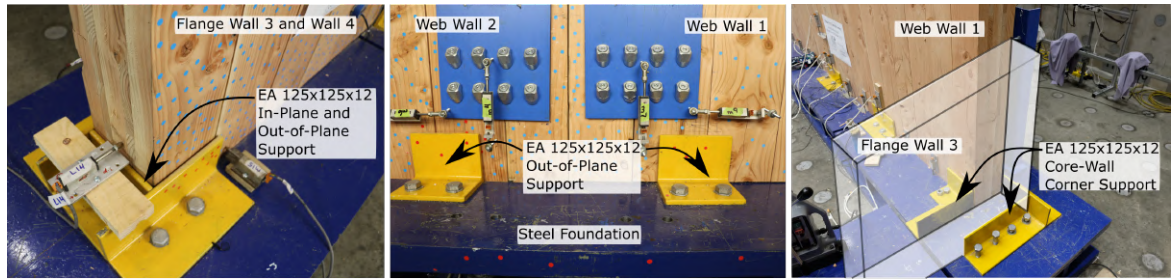


Fig. 6. Core-wall Shear Key Details to Foundation

222 initial post-tensioning force, differing from traditional unbonded post-tensioned concrete applications, is
 223 limited to 16% to avoid potential yielding due to wall uplifting. Fig. 2 has provided the details on each
 224 screwed connection type for the in-plane and orthogonal joints. Tests CW-1, 3 and 4 did not use STS at
 225 the wall joints such that friction between the panels could be quantified. This also provided a baseline
 226 and lower bound performance. The experimental test setup for the core-wall is shown in Fig. 7.

Table 3. Experimental Core-wall Test Programme

Test	Initial Post-Tensioning per bar (kN)	In-Plane Joint		Orthogonal Joint			UFP
		Screw	Screw Quantity Wall 1/2 Joint	Screw	Screw Quantity Wall 1/3 Joint	Screw Quantity Wall 2/4 Joint	
CW-1	25 (5%)**	Friction	n/a	Friction	n/a	n/a	No
CW-2	75 (16%)**	8x80 PT (17mm Ply.)	220(90°)	8x350 FT	83(90°)	83(90°)	No
CW-3	75 (16%)**	Friction	n/a	Friction	n/a	n/a	No
CW-4*	75 (16%)**	Friction	n/a	Friction	n/a	n/a	No
CW-5	75 (16%)**	8x220 FT	110(Inc.)	8x220 FT	82(ST), 72(SC)	82(ST), 72(SC)	Yes
CW-6	75 (16%)**	8x160 FT, 8x80 PT (22mm Ply.)	248(Inc.), 206(90°)	8x200 FT, 8x350 FT	42(ST), 36(SC), 78(90°)	34(ST), 36(SC), 78(90°)	Yes
CW-7*	25 (5%)**	8x80 PT (17mm Ply.)	220(90°)	8x350 FT	83(90°)	83(90°)	Yes

* indicates bi-directional loading protocol

** yield percentage of post-tensioning bar

PT - partially threaded screw, FT - fully threaded screw

Ply. - plywood as per NZS3603 (Standards New Zealand 1993)

(ST)-shear-tension screw, (SC)-shear-compression screw, Inc.-inclined screw, 90°- screw installed at 90 degrees

227 After each test, all of the screws would be removed from the specimen and new screws were installed
 228 in a different location following the minimum spacing requirement as per Eurocode 5 (2014). As the
 229 damage in the CLT walls was very localized, it was possible to run a number of tests by shifting the screw
 230 locations without impairing the connection behaviour significantly. This is also one advantage of using
 231 STS connections in mass timber products such as CLT to improve reparability.

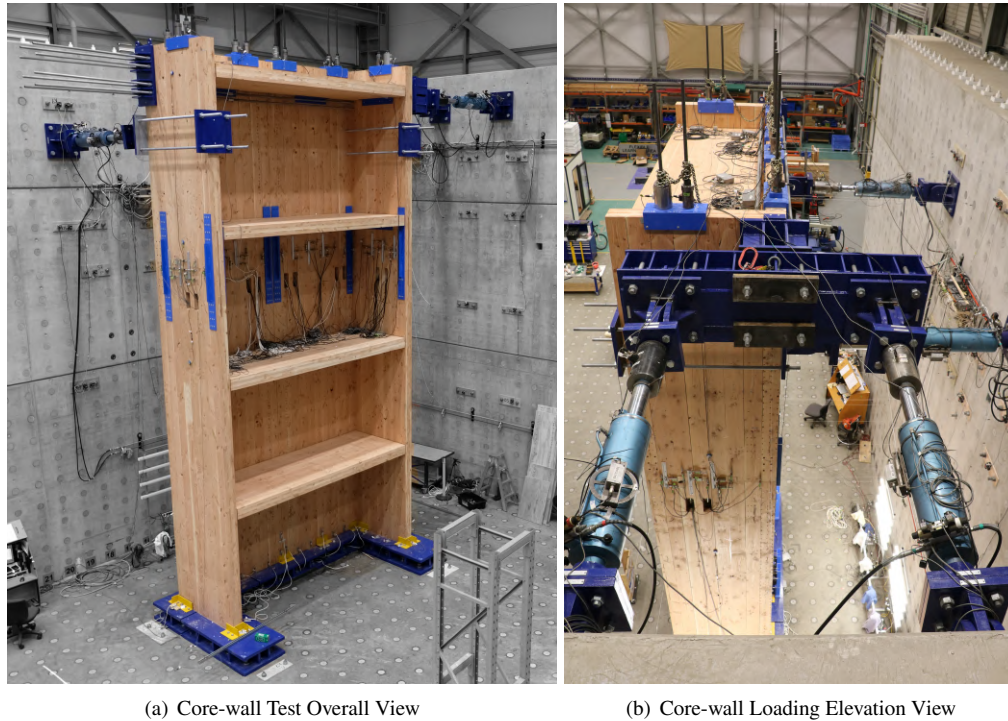


Fig. 7. Experimental Test Set-up

232 Fig. 7(b) shows how the specimen was loaded with actuators. Along the strong axis, two 700kN
 233 actuators with 8-M30 Grade 8.8 threaded rods were used to apply the lateral loads via a steel loading
 234 beam and bearing head at a wall height of 8.2m. Along the weak axis, each flange wall was loaded by
 235 one 700kN actuator with 4-M36 Grade 8.8 threaded rods at a wall height of 7.4m. Fig. 8 shows the
 236 two loading protocols used in the testing. **There was non-zero drift in the orthogonal direction for both**
 237 **loading protocols to account for the arc that was induced by transverse displacement to an orthogonal**
 238 **actuator. For example with reference to Fig. 8a, during uni-directional strong axis loading the actuators**
 239 **connected to each flange wall were required to extend during positive and negative strong axis drift to**
 240 **maintain in-plane movement of the core-wall.** The displacement controlled loading followed the ACI
 241 ITG-5.1-07 special protocol for post-tensioned precast structural walls (ACI Innovation Task Group 5
 242 2008). The amplitude of each subsequent cycle group was 1.25 times the previous cycle group, and each
 243 cycle group had three identical cycles. For Tests CW-4 and CW-7, one cycle group of uni-directional
 244 loading was followed by cloverleaf bi-directional loading. These drifts were chosen during each test upon
 245 evaluation of the actual CLT compression strains and visible damage at the wall base. For the final tests,
 246 the specimen was tested until either a connection failure occurred or the actuator stroke limit (i.e., 2.3%
 247 wall drift ratio) was reached.

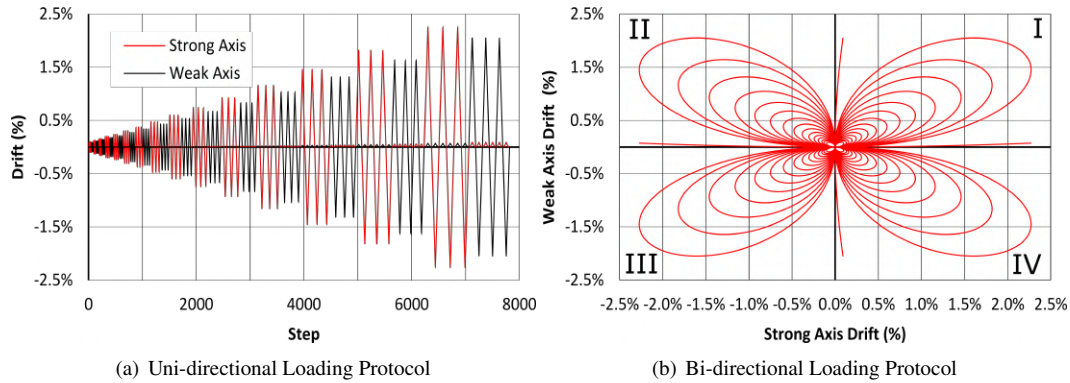


Fig. 8. Experimental Loading Protocols

248 **Torsional Restraints**

249 The asymmetric "C" shape of the core-wall along the strong axis meant eccentricity and therefore
 250 torsional restraints were required when loading along the strong axis. Torsional restraints were then
 251 provided by shear keys at the base, **blue vertical steel straps** at the castellation level (shown in Fig. 7(a)),
 252 and by the actuators on each flange along the weak axis. **The blue vertical straps were fastened only to the**
 253 **section of wall below the castellation, and extended above the castellation to provide restraint.** Further
 254 restraints to twisting were provided by the floor diaphragms.

255 **Instrumentation and Key Design Parameters**

256 In total, 220 linear variable differential transducers (LVDTs), 16 load cells, and 20 inclinometers
 257 were installed to measure the core-wall response. As an example, Fig. 9 shows the instrumentation to
 258 measure core-wall response at one floor level with the castellated horizontal joints and at the base level.
 259 Instruments were placed on the specimen at 2m inter-storey heights when practicable. The actuators had
 260 1000kN load cells to monitor the applied load, and the post-tensioning forces were monitored on each
 261 high strength bar with 500kN load cells. As the post-tensioning bars were placed in pairs, the results
 262 of each pair were combined. The potentiometers measured in-plane and out-of-plane wall movement,
 263 neutral axis depth (i.e., length of the compression zone) at the wall base, core-wall base sliding, wall joint
 264 relative slip, castellation movement, diaphragm connection movement, and UFP connection movement.
 265 Inclinometers measured wall and floor rotations.

266 **TESTING RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

267 The key test results along the strong axis loading are reported in Table 4. The table contains
 268 experimental results at the Serviceability Limit State (SLS) level, defined **herein** as 0.33% inter-storey
 269 drift ratio, and Peak Drift level. **AS/NZS 1170.0 Appendix C (2002) specifies SLS of 0.33% for**

282 Monolithic Beam Analogy (MBA) design procedure initially proposed by Pampanin et al. (2001) for
283 precast concrete, extended by Palermo (2004) to capture the elastic range and adopted by Newcombe
284 et al. (2008) for timber. For the fully non-composite section, the theoretical force was determined
285 considering only the two in-plane web walls acting as single post-tensioned walls with no composite
286 action contribution from fasteners or friction. For the fully composite section, rigid connections between
287 all flange and web walls were considered and the effective flange width was considered as the full length
288 of the flange wall. The theoretical calculations considered bending, shear, and rocking deformations. No
289 sliding deformation was considered. The post-tensioned timber walls were designed in accordance with
290 the Pres-Lam design guide (Pampanin et al. 2013) which provides further details on the use of the MBA
291 with timber. Fig. 10 shows the changing composite action at each drift level for each test. The highest
292 CA was observed in Test CW-6, where CA at 0.33%, 1.5%, and 2.3% drift were 65%, 62%, and 49%
293 respectively. This gradual decrease in composite action with increased wall drift was also observed in
294 Tests CW-2 and CW-7 and is indicative of the stiffness degradation of the screwed connections at the
295 orthogonal and the in-plane joints. A sudden drop of CA in Test CW-5 occurred when tensile failure of
296 screws at the in-plane joint occurred. This will be further discussed in this paper. The low CA values
297 reported in Tests CW-1, CW-3, and CW-4 are indicative of the friction contribution that occurred which
298 had been noted previously by Moroder et al. (2018).

299 The secant stiffness values at given drift levels in Table 4 include all possible slip and translation
300 sliding due to the tolerances between the CLT wall panels. The SLS stiffness of 2.2, 2.8, and 2.8 kN/mm
301 achieved in Tests CW-1, CW-3, and CW-4 respectively represent a lower bound for this post-tensioned
302 CLT core-wall system. The significant change in stiffness for Tests CW-2, CW-5 and CW-6 indicated the
303 impact connection detailing choice has on the system behaviour. In Test CW-6, the SLS stiffness was 8.9
304 kN/mm, almost four times of that achieved in Test CW-1.

305 The kinematics of the post-tensioned CLT core-wall was also dependent on the connection detailing
306 chosen between the CLT wall panels. The deformation contributions listed are in reference to the
307 displacement/drift at wall height 8.2m. For CW-6 using the mixed angle screwed connections, individual
308 contributions to the total wall drift due to rocking, sliding, and shear and bending were 61%, 4% and
309 35% respectively. They were 82%, 2% and 16% respectively for the comparable Test CW-3. The
310 observation was different from past conventional CLT shear wall testing by Gavric et al. (2015) where
311 the combined contribution of in-plane shear and bending deformation was less than 5% and the wall drift
312 was mainly caused by rigid body movement of CLT due to rocking and horizontal sliding. Therefore, this
313 experimental study indicated that the post-tensioned CLT core-wall with careful connection detailing was
314 able to provide more efficient utilization of strong and stiff CLT panels when compared to conventional

315 CLT shear walls. The bending and shear deformation contribution of 35% was comparable to that
 316 reported by Sarti et al. (2016) with post-tensioned LVL single wall testing.

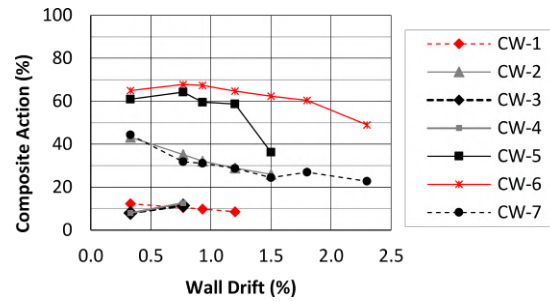


Fig. 10. Composite Action Summary

317 **Global Post-tensioned Core-wall Response**

318 **Core-wall Behaviour along Strong Axis**

319 All tests displayed non-linear geometric elastic behaviour, typical of post-tensioned rocking systems.
 320 In Tests CW-1, CW-3 and CW-4 very low energy dissipation was observed which was due to friction
 321 between the panels and minor post-tensioning losses. Residual drifts for Tests CW-1, CW-3, and CW-4
 322 were negligible. Post-tensioning losses at the end of each test were 5% (Web Walls) and 22% (Flange
 323 Walls) for Test CW-1, but negligible for Tests CW-3 and CW-4 respectively. **The initial post-tensioning**
 324 **force was approximately 5% for Tests CW-1 and CW-7 versus 10% for Tests CW-2 through CW-6,**
 325 **respectively, per NSZ3603 (1993).**

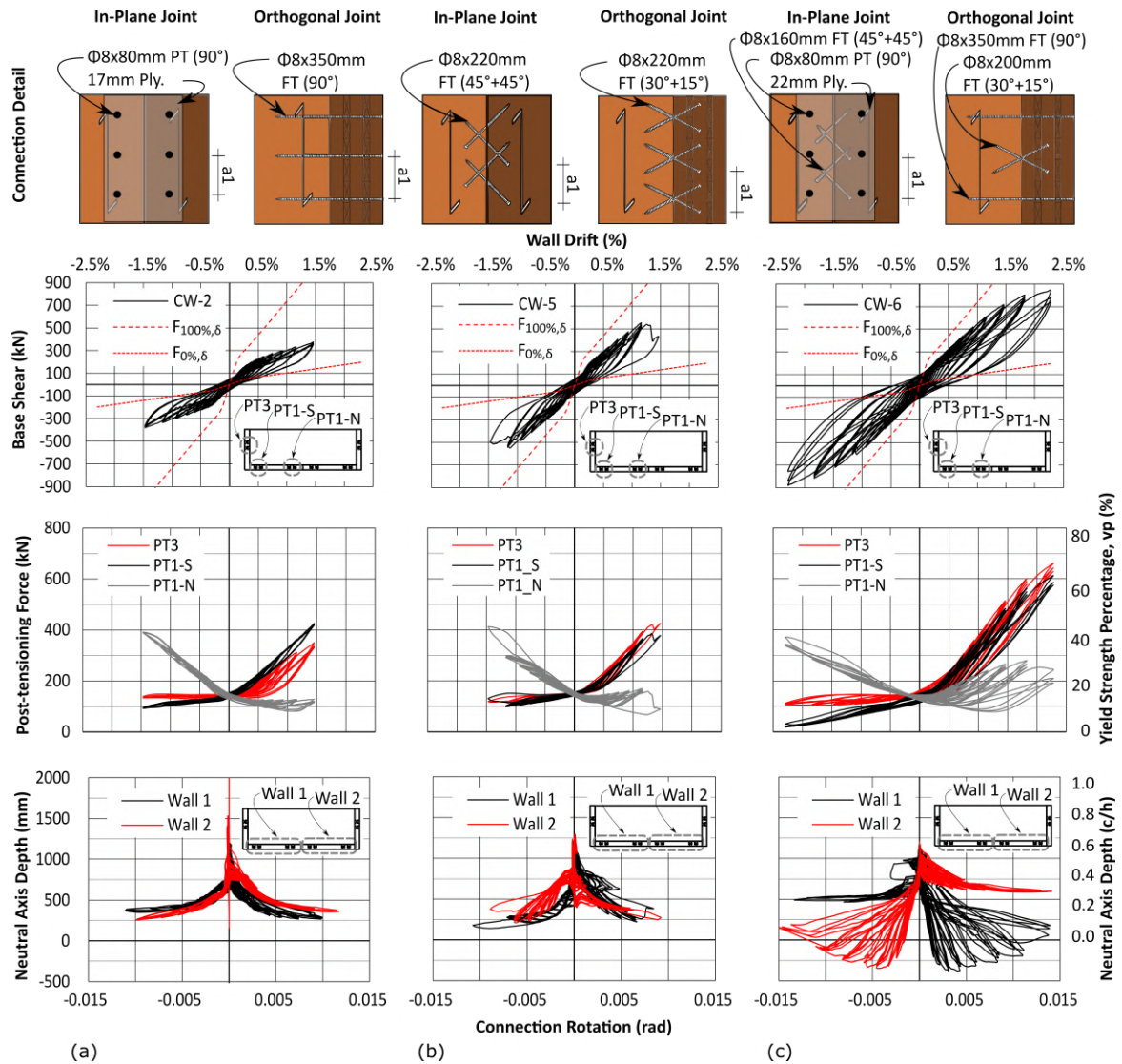


Fig. 11. Key Strong Axis Experimental Results: (a) Test CW-2 (b) Test CW-5 (c) Test CW-6

326 Fig. 11 shows selected key plots from Tests CW-2, CW-5, and CW-6. The base shear-wall drift
 327 plots compare test results to the theoretical fully composite, $F_{100\%,\delta}$, and fully non-composite, $F_{0\%,\delta}$,
 328 core-wall. Similar to CW-1, CW-3 and CW-4, a typical non-linear elastic behaviour due to wall gap
 329 opening was observed. The initial slip in each test before yielding was observed because of the residual
 330 deformation developed at the wall bases, sliding, compression perpendicular to grain of the flange walls
 331 and the tolerances at the wall base. In Test CW-6, peak sliding was 24mm at $\pm 2.3\%$ drift. With reduced
 332 screw spacing and the use of inclined screws, the core-wall strength, stiffness, and energy dissipation
 333 increased significantly. In particular, the use of mixed angle screws led to enhanced displacement capacity
 334 and energy dissipation. In Test CW-6 at 2.3% drift, a peak load of 845kN ($\approx 7000\text{kN-m}$ overturning

335 moment at the core-wall base) was achieved. At this drift level, a maximum load of 85kN was recorded
 336 in the actuators along the weak axis to provide torsional restraints.

337 In Fig. 11 the post-tensioning force-drift curves are only shown for walls 1 and 3 as similar responses
 338 in walls 2 and 4 were observed due to the symmetrical wall layout, shown in Fig. 1. The increase in
 339 post-tensioning forces in wall 3 from Test CW-2 to CW-6 showed the increased stiffness and composite
 340 action due to the enhanced orthogonal joint. In Test CW-6, the post-tensioning forces were higher in the
 341 flange wall 3 when compared to the web wall 1. The similar post-tensioning decrease in PT1-S and PT3
 342 for each cycle at 2.3% drift in Test CW-6 indicated the stiffness degradation in the in-plane vertical joint.
 343 Average post-tensioning losses for each test considering all unbonded bars were 9% (CW-2), 2% (CW-5),
 344 and 9% (CW-6) of initial post-tensioning force respectively.

345 The change of the neutral axis depth (c) compared to wall length (h) in Tests CW-2 and CW-5 showed
 346 that both wall 1 and wall 2 were in contact with foundation throughout the tests. In Test CW-6, the negative
 347 neutral axis depth indicated there was wall uplift, which is unique behaviour when it is compared with
 348 past post-tensioned coupled wall testing. As illustrated in Fig. 12, when the core-wall drift increased
 349 from the SLS level 0.33% to 1.8%, web wall 2 was lifted off the foundation. This was due to the high
 350 strength and stiffness of the in-plane joint. However, at 2.3% wall drift, the increased shear demand on the
 351 in-plane joint from increased post-tensioning forces and shear flow due to composite action was greater
 352 than the capacity of the mixed angle screwed connection. During the entire second and third 2.3% wall
 353 drift cycles, wall 2 was in contact with the foundation. This is shown as a positive neutral axis and by the
 354 lower post-tensioning forces of PT1-S, PT1-N and PT3 of Fig. 11(c). In all tests in general, the shifting of
 355 the neutral axis at each drift cycle and the differences between load and unload cycles is indicative of the
 356 screwed connections with pinching behaviour and stiffness degradation. Fig. 12 is vertically exaggerated
 357 to show the displaced shape more clearly.

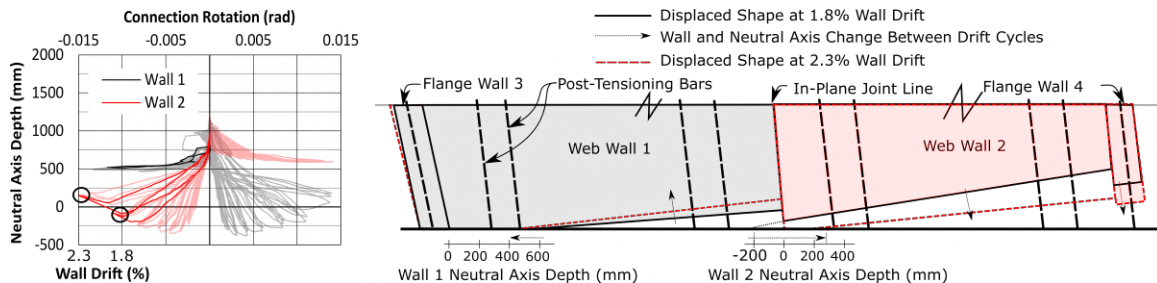


Fig. 12. Test CW-6: Changing Neutral Axis

358 At the end of each test, total residual drifts which included base sliding due to tolerances, relative
 359 joint slip, and timber crushing were 0.2% (CW-2), 0.2% (CW-5), and 0.5% (CW-6) respectively. The

360 contribution of base sliding in total residual drift was 0.1% for Test CW-2 and CW-5, and 0.2% for
361 Test CW-6. The increased residual drift of Test CW-6 was primarily due to yielding of the screwed
362 connections along the orthogonal and in-plane joints where there was an average residual joint slip of
363 more than 3mm. In Test CW-6, residual drift was negligible until the 1.8% drift cycle where it was
364 0.3%. Increasing the initial post-tensioning level might be able to reduce the residual drifts. However,
365 the compressive stress level in wood should remain relatively low to avoid the long-term loaded timber
366 creep effect (Ranta-Maunus 1975). While a creep model has been developed for CLT (Nguyen et al.
367 2019) and a design approach to predict post-tensioning losses in a post-tensioned LVL or glulam frame
368 building has been developed and quantified (Granello et al. 2018a; Granello et al. 2018b), further research
369 is required for post-tensioned CLT wall structures. Fig. 13 shows that damage was concentrated to the
370 compression toes of the wall base. Particle Tracking Technology was implemented at the core-wall base
371 to capture displacement and strain fields and results presented in Brown et al. (2020) show that the flange
372 engagement lessens with increasing distance from the orthogonal joint. Further, out-of-plane flange wall
373 rotation occurred and in Test CW-2, only 50mm of the 175mm flange cross-sectional thickness was in
374 contact with the foundation at the orthogonal joint interface. As such, it was observed that less flange
375 engagement occurred than that assumed in the analytical fully composite section. A discussion on wall
376 base behaviour can be found in Brown et al. (2020) and further work is required to determine an effective
377 flange width for post-tensioned mass timber core-walls. At 2.3% drift in Test CW-6, local compression
378 crushing and rippling occurred at the web wall corners, indicative of plastic strain behaviour. Though no
379 significant load drop due to this was observed during its first incidence in the first 2.3% drift cycle, an
380 increased neutral axis depth occurred in the second and third drift cycle as shown in Fig. 11c which can
381 be attributed to plastic compressive strain behaviour and connection slips, which will be discussed later.
382 The plastic behaviour at the wall base also contributed to residual drift.

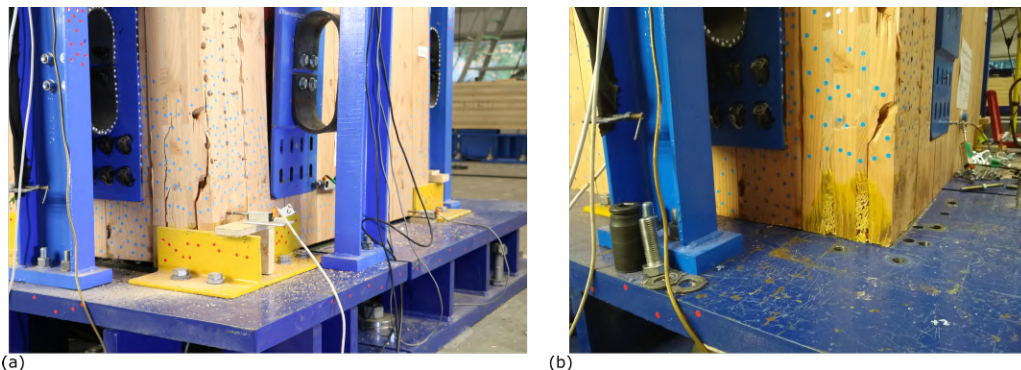


Fig. 13. CLT Wall Base Crushing (a) During and (b) After Testing

Bi-directional Loading and Global Wall Behaviour along the Weak Axis

Test CW-7 which followed the uni-directional (Uni-Dir.) and cloverleaf (Bi-Dir.) loading protocol is shown in Fig. 14. During loading along the strong axis, a similar response between uni-directional and bi-directional loading was found. For loading along the weak axis, differences between the hysteresis loop and strength are reported, especially during loading in quadrant I and II of Fig. 8(b). **Although stable system level performance was observed and no significant differences were observed in the compressive behaviour of the flanges, further research is required to quantify these effects.** As expected, the stiffness was much lower and unsymmetrical along the weak axis uni-directional loading. Web walls 1 and 2 were engaged accordingly to the orthogonal joint connection stiffness. Tests CW-5 and CW-6 reached similar peak loads of 300kN, however the mixed angle connection provided increased energy dissipation. When the web walls were engaged in tension, post-tensioning forces increased accordingly indicating the web wall uplift. The average post-tensioning loss for Test CW-7 was 6% of initial post-tensioning force.

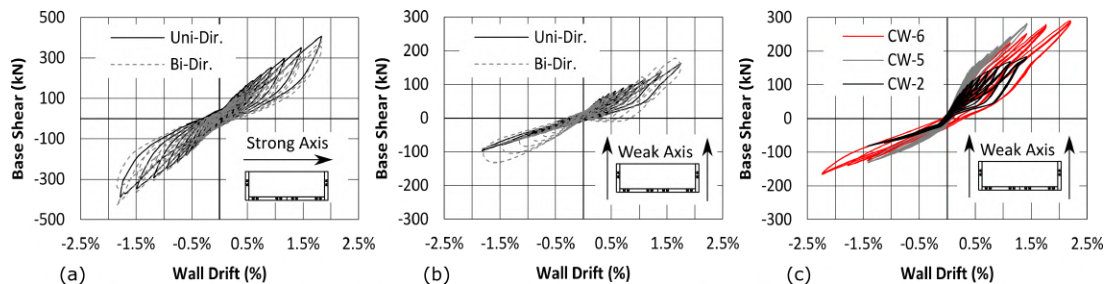


Fig. 14. Force-displacement: (a) Test CW-7 bi-directional strong axis (b) Test CW-7 bi-directional weak axis (c) uni-directional weak axis

Connection Behaviour

The screwed connection details for the in-plane and orthogonal joints had primary influence on the core-wall system strength, stiffness, and displacement capacity. Other than screwed connections, the castellations provided a strong and stiff horizontal joint, the diaphragm connection decoupled the wall-floor displacement incompatibility well, and each UFP connection performed well.

Screwed Connections

In the strong axis, Fig. 15 shows the varying relative joint slips. At 0.75% drift, the relative slips in the in-plane joint were 13mm, to 11mm, 6.6mm and 5mm for Tests CW-3, 2, 5 and 6 respectively. The relative slips in the orthogonal joints were 8.5mm, 4mm, 1mm and 1.5mm for Tests CW-3, 2, 5 and 6 respectively. In Test CW-5 in the 1.5% drift cycle group, the in-plane relative joint slip increased from 12mm to 20mm as a result of tensile failure in multiple inclined screws. The 12mm ultimate displacement capacity of the joint was similar to findings from Hossain et al. (2016). By using the mixed angle screwed

407 connections in Test CW-6, the displacement capacity of the connections exceeded 20mm while sustaining
 408 high loads, which is shown in Fig. 16(a).

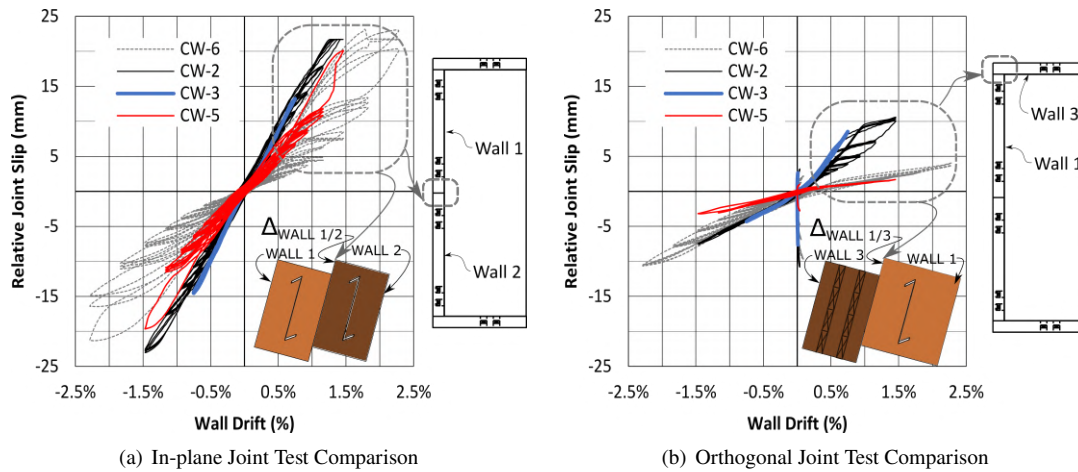


Fig. 15. Strong Axis Relative Joint Slip Behaviour

409 In all the tests, the in-plane joint was the weakest link in the system due to high shear demands. The
 410 inclined screws in Test CW-5 had limited displacement and energy dissipation capacity. In Test CW-6, the
 411 mixed angle screwed connections were implemented for the orthogonal and in-plane joints. This resulted
 412 in increased displacement capacity, energy dissipation capacity, and ultimately prevented a sudden loss
 413 in stiffness caused by brittle tensile failure of the screws. Table 5 provides the fraction of each screw
 414 type that failed in each test. As per Table 3, in Test CW-6 the orthogonal joint between wall 2 and wall
 415 4 had 20% less inclined **shear-tension** screws than the joint between wall 1 and wall 3. As a result, more
 416 **shear-tension** screws failed on the joint between wall 2 and wall 4, and Fig. 16(b) shows the distinct
 417 difference in the positive joint displacement. Increased displacement and energy dissipation is shown for
 418 the orthogonal joint between wall 2 and wall 4 but there was no notable difference between the positive
 419 and negative cycles of the global hysteresis loop in Fig. 11(c). In both orthogonal joints, the mixed angle
 420 screwed connections provided stable connection and system performance. Fig. 17 shows the images of
 421 wood crushing in CLT and screws bending in the in-plane and orthogonal joints after the tests.

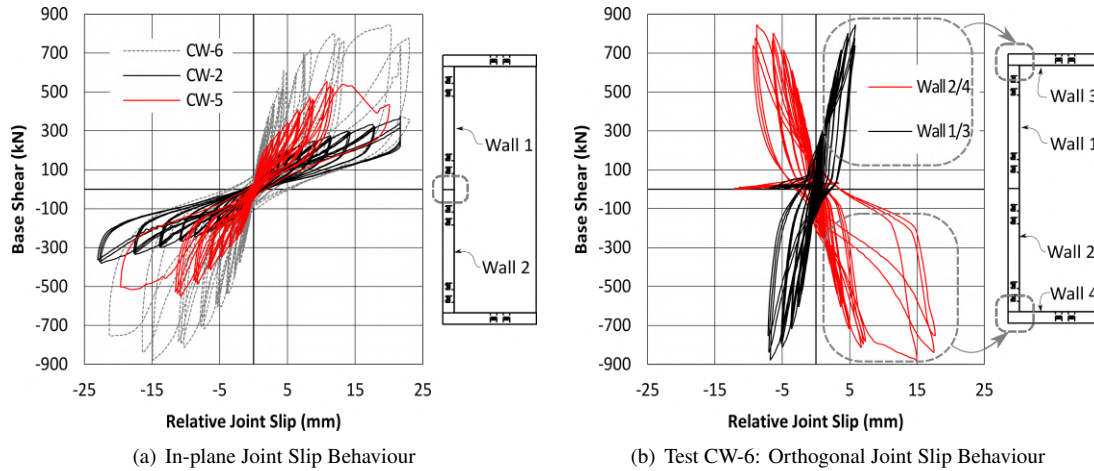


Fig. 16. Joint Force-Displacement Behaviour

Table 5. Screw Tensile Failure Summary

Test	In-plane Joint Wall 1/2 Joint	Orthogonal Joint Wall 1/3 Joint	Orthogonal Joint Wall 2/4 Joint
CW-2	12/220 (90°)	3/83 (90°)	1/83 (90°)
CW-5	95/110 (Inc.)	0/154 (Inc.)	0/154 (Inc.)
CW-6	43/248 (Inc.), 1/206 (90°)	8/42 (ST), 0/36 (SC), 3/78 (90°)	21/34 (ST), 2/36 (SC), 3/78 (90°)
CW-7*	73/220 (90°)	19/83 (90°)	29/83 (90°)

* indicates bi-directional loading protocol

(ST)-shear-tension screw, (SC)-shear-compression screw, (Inc.)-inclined screw, (90°)-screw installed at 90 degrees

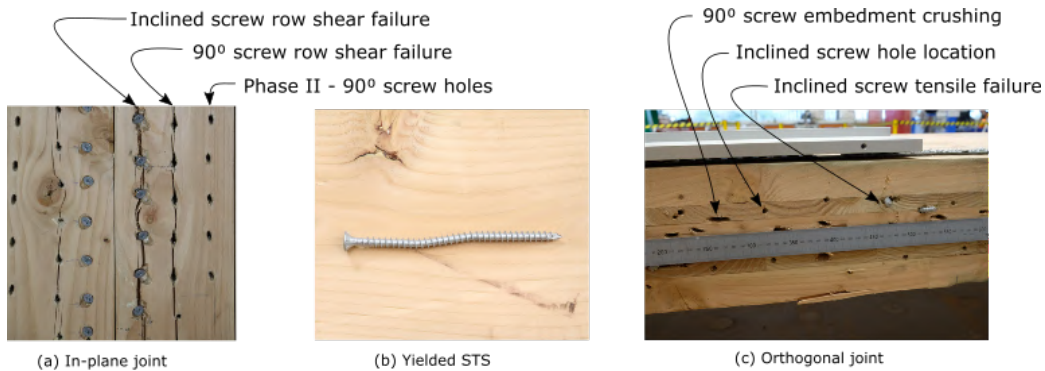


Fig. 17. After Test Screw Photos

UFP Connection Performance

In general, all three UFP connections performed well with varying levels of observed connection slip and behaviour under bi-directional loading. The design overstrength factor of 1.8 for UFP 1 and UFP

425 2 connections was found to be sufficient and ensured the screws remained elastic throughout the test
426 programme. In Test CW-7, vertical displacement of each connection type UFP 1, UFP 2, and UFP 3 were
427 2.1mm, 1.5mm and 0.4mm during peak core-wall drift of 2.3% and wall base uplift of approximately
428 25mm. While the UFP 3 epoxied plate connection had the least connection slip, the inclined screwed
429 connection had advantages to accommodate bi-directional movement. When any wall movement other
430 than vertical occurred (horizontal or out-of-plane), the inclined screwed connections behaved in dowel
431 action with observed lower stiffness than the epoxied connection. For example, during Test CW-6 strong
432 axis loading, total horizontal base sliding of 25mm at 2.3% core-wall drift caused UFP 1 connection
433 plate to translate horizontally 8mm and rotate 0.007radians. This UFP 1 connection plate movement
434 would have reduced any out-of-plane stresses in the UFP while in contrast, the UFP 3 connection plate
435 had less than 0.5mm translation and no rotation. The 2- ϕ 12mm threaded rods were implemented for
436 Tests CW-5 and CW-6 but not implemented for Test CW-7. During Test CW-6, at 2.3% drift during
437 strong-axis loading, one UFP 3 connection plate failed and detached from the flange wall. How significant
438 a contribution the 2- ϕ 12mm threaded rods had to this failure by creating a stiff load path to separate
439 the connection plate from the flange wall could not be determined because it was found afterwards
440 that the connection plate bonding surface had some deficiency due to mill scale. During Test CW-7
441 UFP 3 connection plate failure did not occur and greater than 10mm out-of-plane displacement was
442 observed between the connection plate and the PFC. While no brittle failure of a UFP occurred during
443 the test programme, a UFP connection plate failure occurred which could be at least partially attributed
444 to displacement incompatibilities which arise from any wall movement other than vertical. The limited
445 studied herein showed that screwed connections could provide targeted vertical connection stiffness while
446 accommodating horizontal and out-of-plane wall movement.

447 CONCLUSIONS

448 This paper reported the experimental test results of a post-tensioned flanged C-shaped CLT core-
449 wall. The flanged walls form a partial composite shear wall system and increase the lateral strength and
450 stiffness. The results confirmed that improved shear wall behaviour could be achieved through proper
451 connection detailing between the walls. The STS connections with mixed angle installations for the
452 in-plane and orthogonal joint offered one effective connection solution for such a core-wall system. It
453 was also found that different levels of partial composite action could be achieved based on the different
454 connection methodologies. The key findings are summarized as follows:

- 455 • Test CW-6 showed that wall uplift occurred during the rocking motion. This resulted in the
456 highest core-wall composite action of approximately two-thirds and the SLS drift stiffness was

- 457 almost four times when compared to decoupled Test CW-1.
- 458 • Mixed angle screwed connections provided stable system performance for Test CW-6 at a core-wall
459 drift of 2.3%, which was at the stroke limit of the actuators. While inclined screws can provide
460 high strength and stiffness, mixed angle screwed connections on the in-plane and orthogonal
461 joints provided necessary additional displacement and energy dissipation capacity. The partial
462 composite action decreased with increasing core-wall drift and this behaviour was stable with
463 either 90° or mixed angle screwed connection details.
 - 464 • Several tests were performed on the wall specimen with only minor damage occurring at the
465 compression toes of the CLT wall panels and in proximity of each screwed connection even **at**
466 **high levels of drift**. At the end of each test, all screws were removed and new screws were
467 installed in a different location following minimum spacing in an efficient manner. No significant
468 impairment to the connection behaviour was observed.
 - 469 • Though stable behaviour was observed in bi-directional loading, further analysis is required to
470 quantify the differences in hysteresis loops and peak forces which occurred when compared to
471 uni-directional loading.
 - 472 • The combination of post-tensioning to provide moment capacity at the wall base and mixed angle
473 screwed connection details at the in-plane and orthogonal vertical joints to provide a C-shaped
474 CLT core-wall composite behaviour is one effective solution to meet increased stiffness demands
475 of taller timber buildings.

476 This experimental work provided fundamental information for a better understanding of C-shaped
477 post-tensioned rocking timber walls. However, the authors, given the limited number of tests carried out,
478 intend to further numerically investigate different scenarios through **a deep sensitivity analysis** on key
479 parameters in order to provide design recommendation for **the C-shaped geometrical configuration**.

480 **DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

481 Some or all data, models, or code that support the findings of this study are available from the
482 corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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