



The Cannibal Lot

# Grain Elevator Deconstruction

## ADMT Wood Solutions Ltd

Saskatchewan, Ongoing

Circular Architecture

Materials Research

## Summary

*"We offer them a salvation that isn't burning"* - Alvin Herman, president of ABMT

Thinking beyond the landfill, these 30-metre-high towers grain elevators built with pristine lumber, which is now difficult to collect prime lumber, are sitting idle while becoming health and environmental safety hazards. That's where ABMT wood solutions comes in - they developed a process to take down these structures and repurpose them into construction materials for affordable housing methods.

*"We can dismantle & recycle your grain elevator at a lower fee than traditional demolition. The lumber will be repurposed. Our safe lifting techniques & ground processing reduce worker injuries & material damage. This service eliminates the liability of building collapses, fires, and rodent infestations."* - ABMT Wood Solutions Ltd.

## Lessons

- The cultural & historical significance of wooden grain elevators in Saskatchewan played a navigational role - the Prairies were flat and these tall elevators acted as pins on the horizon, it was an signal that there was a community in that specific site & oriented the vast landscape... this is a lesson in how digital navigation altered the need for physical landmarks.
- How adaptive reuse can contribute to energy efficiency and sustainability in architecture.
- Sometimes it costs more to keep things around than it is to repurpose them - the grain elevators cost \$5-6K to keep standing, they are a fire hazard in a state of disrepair while attracting critters & pests. ABMT promotes environmentally responsible construction practices and supports the global push towards reducing carbon footprints and conserving natural resources.

