

Western Conference in the spring

OUR 19TH annual Western Conference will be held April 15–17 at the Resort at the Mountain in Welches, Oregon, at the base of spectacular Mt. Hood.

There will be several pre-conference events on Wednesday and Thursday. These include a two-day workshop on drawing and compound joinery led by carpenters from Germany and France, similar to our recent workshops at the Eastern Conference. **Robert Savignac** from the International Log Builders Association (ILBA) will spend Thursday demonstrating mitred joinery through scribing, a great way to get natural-looking connections, especially with round timbers. Thursday will also include former California State architect **Sim Van der Ryn** in a hands-on design studio where you can get top-notch advice on your own project. We'll also have a tour of the Forest Grove Lumber mill.

Presenters during the main conference include these speakers. Keynote speaker **Tedd Benson** reprises his wonderful talk from the Eastern conference, *Timber Framing: Key to the Past or Bridge to the Future?* Keynote Speaker **David Eisenberg** from the Development Center for Alternative technology will talk on *Building Codes for a Small Planet*. David will return during breakout sessions in our popular Natural Building track (again well coordinated by Chris Dancey), with a seminar on straw bale enclosures. **Sim Van der Ryn** will also present a keynote address, *Design for Life*, to show us how to return spirit and sensibility in the things we build.

The Salem (Oregon) project rendezvous will start immediately after the conference (see page 16), and we'll present training based on this project as part of our Professional Development initiative. This will include seminars by **Curtis Milton**, **Grigg Mullen**, and **Jennifer Anthony** on how the design and engineering evolved.

Gord Macdonald will present his newly developed curriculum module on site safety, which will be used during the Salem project. Together with **Will Beemer**, he will also give an overview of the complete curriculum outline now available on the TFG website.

Denis Buét will team up with **Rudy Christian** to describe their collaboration to restore a historic barn in Washington State. **Harrelson Stanley** will demonstrate

Our new directors

ELECTION RESULTS are in. With 720 valid ballots returned (the most ever), our newest directors are Gordon Macdonald, Al Anderson, and Rudy Christian. The entire slate of directors is now as follows: Al Anderson, Brenda Baker, Laura Brown, Leon Buckwalter, Rudy Christian, Rick Collins, Gordon Macdonald, Curtis Milton, and Grigg Mullen. Congratulations to the new directors; our thanks go out to all who ran and to members for voting.

The board were hard at work early: the annual directors' face-to-face meeting took place January 7–9, in Manchester, N.H.

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tuning and sharpening Japanese hand planes and describe his upcoming dismantling and reconstruction of the historic Soma House. **Pete Slisz** will describe the layout and cutting of scarfs and show us clever ways to incorporate mandated steel connections in wooden joinery. **Patti Southard** will give us the latest on sustainable wood resources. **Mira Jean Steinbrecher** and **Andrea Warchaizer** will examine timber frame design case studies. **Todd Swanson** will enlighten us on building a sustainable business model. **Al Wallace** will present some very practical details and materials for promoting sustainable building practices. (See his article, page 18.) **Vicco von Voss** will reprise his two spectacular Eastern conference presentations on form, function, and timber frame design. **Barbara Carper** will anchor the business track with benchmarking and company performance improvement. **Boris Noël**, visiting from France to help lead the pre-conference joinery workshop, will also tell us about the *compagnons*' system for training young timber framers. Other presenters have yet to be confirmed.

There are a few special highlights at this conference. One will be a Saturday tour of the Freuhauf house in nearby Corbett, one of the premier green building projects in the country. The timber frame was built by TFG member Lon Tyler, and the house incorporates numerous unique features, including *leichtlembau*, a natural, sustainable building technique from Northern Europe using clay and fiber for wall systems.

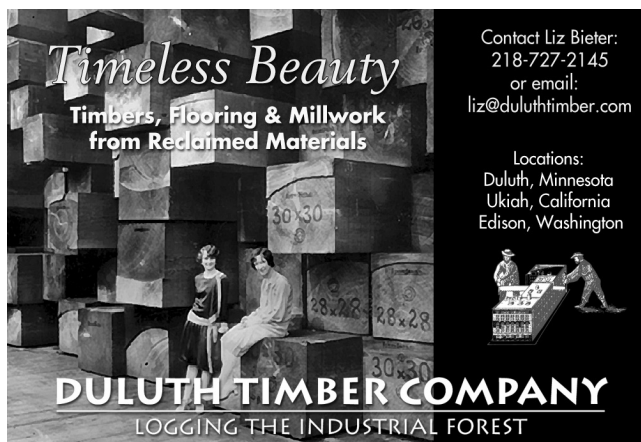
Those of you who attended the 2000 Western Conference at Salishan may remember the antics of Rhys Thomas, the jugglemaniac and comedian who regaled us and took no

prisoners. He'll be back this year! Check out some his video clips at www.jugglemaniamania.com, and be prepared to be called on to assist.

See also the Resort at the Mountain, www.theresort.com. Located just one hour east of Portland, the Scottish-themed hotel might have its golf course open. If you who want to hit the slopes, you can break away for the short drive up Mt. Hood for some spring skiing.

You should be receiving your registration flyer in the mail in early February, or you'll be able to sign up online at the Guild website sometime in January. See you there!

—Will Beemer



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Scantlings is the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild. It is published eight times yearly. Deadline is generally the 10th of the month before an issue comes out (though it often shifts).

Next deadline: January 10.

Please address contributions or information to:
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Group student memberships for first-timers

THE MEMBERSHIP committee has recommended that we find more ways to get young people involved with timber framing and the Guild. Thus, the Board has approved a group discount for first-time student members: \$35 dues for the first year of membership; individual membership forms must be sent as a group of three or more together, and you can pay with either one check or several. This applies to full-time students in academic programs. Copies of each student's current I.D. must be included. After the first year, students can renew at the regular student rate (\$50/year) and, again, must include a copy of a valid student I.D.

Instructors and administrators, we urge you pass this benefit to your students by signing them up at this reduced rate.

—Will Beemer

Lifetime memberships are here!

FORGET TO renew every year until you're hit with *Scantlings* withdrawal? Irked by those pesky renewal notices? Now you can pay once and be done—and you won't feel the pinch of future dues increases.

Lifetime individual memberships are \$850 US (ten times the current annual dues), available online or on your next renewal notice. International members (except Canada) will have to pay an additional \$250 for lifetime overseas postage charges. Lifetime family memberships are also available for an additional \$250, ten times the current annual family rate surcharge. Take advantage of this once-for-all opportunity!

—Will Beemer

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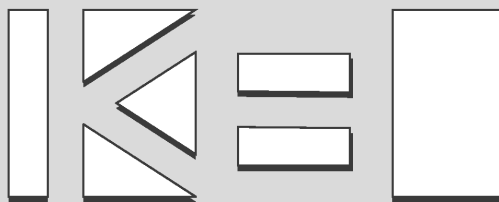
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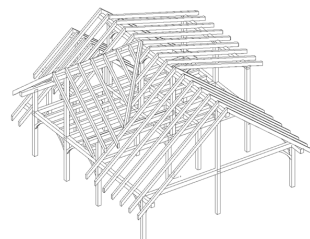


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TTRAG Symposium 2005

THE 14TH annual Conference of the Traditional Timber-frame Research and Advisory Group (TTRAG) will take place March 18–20 at Salt Fork State Park in Cambridge, Ohio. This beautiful resort–conference center in eastern Ohio is 100 miles south of Cleveland, 80 miles east of Columbus, and 40 miles west of Wheeling, W.Va.

This year's conference program is co-sponsored by the Friends of Ohio Barns (FOB). With the optional bus tour, we will begin the conference Friday morning. Ohio has an abundance of historic timber frame barns including the well-known Pennsylvania Bank barn, but the rugged south-central area of Ohio and Salt Fork is better known for its simple homestead barns. This early settlement area opened up when Zane's Trace was established along the route of earlier Indian trails. We will visit one of the early covered bridges that made the west accessible and explore one of the few remaining "S" bridges built when Zane's Trace became the National Road. Proceeds from the bus tour go to the Friends of Ohio Barns.

We will return to Salt Fork in late afternoon to check in to our rooms and join others attending the conference. After dinner we will begin presentations, with more seminars all day Saturday and Sunday morning. The conference will conclude with lunch Sunday.

Here are some of the presentations we plan. Retired TFG and current FOB president **Rudy Christian** will present the rehabilitation of the Malabar Farm working barn. **Larry Sulzer** will present Along the River, the historical research and dismantling of the Leavenworth-Lang-Cole hay press and barns. **Steve Gordon** will open the Saturday seminars with Purlins, Posts and Haymows: Ohio's Historic Barns, 1800–1950. **Jack Sobon** will illustrate barn repair and joinery techniques. **Arnold Graton** will speak on his remarkable repair of St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Beaufort, S. Carolina. **Arron Sturgis** will show case studies of barn repairs in New England. **Brian Mulcahy** will give a presentation on locating and documenting historic structures using GPS. Barn detectives Rudy Christian and Larry Sulzer will investigate mysteries discovered on the Friday tour and offer solutions.

Don Hutsler, an author and consultant on restoration and reconstruction projects, curated for the Ohio Historical Society for 36 years. On Saturday he'll tell us about log buildings in Ohio, and on Sunday he'll describe historic sawmills. **Jan Lewandoski** will tell us about the restoration and repair of covered bridges, principle and practice. (Ohio is loaded with historic bridges.) **Michael Burrey** is tentatively scheduled to demonstrate hewing. We also plan a panel discussion on barn repair, in order to exchange information among our Ohio friends who are new to a TTRAG conference and the TFG's own traditional building experts.

On Saturday evening we will hold the annual slide show; please do bring ten images of your work related to traditional timber framing. Guidelines for submission will be in your conference confirmation material.

Rooms and meals are *not* included in your conference fee. Those staying at the Salt Fork Resort will pay these fees directly to the resort and can secure their rooms with a credit card. Room and board costs are \$245 per person (double occupancy) or \$329 per person (single) for Thursday dinner through Sunday lunch, and include breaks, taxes, and gratuity. Two-day commuter rates for those staying offsite include all meals, breaks, gratuity, and taxes; there are also single-day and half-day options. You will receive meal tickets from the hotel when you check into your rooms, or from the TFG registration desk when you check in as a commuter.

To reserve your room, please call Salt Fork Hotel Reservations at 800-282-7275. Other hotels are eight miles away in Cambridge.

If you go on the bus tour, you will not be able to check into your rooms until after the tour if your lodging package starts Friday night. (If you want to arrive Thursday, rooms will be available at Salt Fork.) We will meet in the parking lot and leave our cars during the tour. The fee for the bus tour is \$50 and includes lunch. Details and a map will be sent with your confirmation.

If you need to cancel, your cancellation received before February 21 will result in a 75 percent refund. If you cancel between February 21 and March 7, you'll receive a 50 percent refund. Cancellations after March 7 will receive no refund.

Nicknamed the Crossroads of America, Cambridge and Salt Fork are conveniently located at the junction of interstates 77 and 70 (also known as Route 40, the historic national road built in 1827). A unique feature of the National Road, "S" bridges were built to span the county's numerous creeks and streams. Their masonry spans were always built at right angles to the stream flow, regardless of the angle of the crossing road, and so in plan often formed a kind of S when combined with the necessary road turns at each end. Many still exist, along with remnants of the great glass industry that once flourished in Guernsey County. —Will Beemer



photo Rudy Christian

A small hill country barn, gable roofed, with cupola.

TTRAG 2005 Symposium Registration Form

(One person and spouse per form, please)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Company _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Vegetarian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Early registration: Save \$25 on registration postmarked by February 15 (Full Conference or Two Day Commuter attendees only)

Conference options and rates

Rates do not include room. Full Conference rate does not include meals, which are included with your room package at Salt Fork. To reserve your room, please call Hotel Reservations at 800-282-7275.

Full Conference if staying at Salt Fork, TFG or FOB (Friends of Ohio Barns)—Member: \$125; Non-member: \$150; Spouse: \$80. (Your name must appear on the reservations list at Salt Fork)

Commuter Rates (if staying off-site) including meals:

Two Days (Fri. dinner through Sun. lunch)—TFG or FOB member: \$240; Non-member: \$265; Spouse: \$200

Saturday One Day (Sat. breakfast, lunch, dinner, breaks, gratuity, tax)—TFG or FOB Member: \$120;

Non-member: \$135; Spouse: \$90

Saturday Lunch Only (Lunch, breaks, gratuity, tax)—TFG or FOB member: \$90; Non-member: \$100; Spouse: \$60

Pre-Conference Bus Tour: \$50 per person (including lunch).

Summary

Check one: ☐ TFG Member ☐ FOB Member ☐ Non-Member

Check one: ☐ Full Conference ☐ Commuter

type of commuter: check one: ☐ two days ☐ Saturday one day ☐ Saturday lunch only

Check one: ☐ I will be staying at Salt Fork ☐ I will be staying offsite

☐ Spouse registration fee \$ _____

☐ Less early registration discount (\$25; Full Conference and Two Day Commuter rate only) (- _____)

☐ Pre-symposium Bus Tour (optional; \$50/person) \$ _____

☐ Guild membership fee or 2005 renewal (\$85 US & Canada, \$110 other International) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment (check one):

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Send completed form and fees to: TFG, PO Box 60, Becket, MA 01223; fax credit card payments to 888-453-0879 or call them in to 413-623-9926.

Workshop policy changes

WITH THE comment period under way for the new Guild curriculum outlines (if you haven't visited them on the web yet, go to www.tfguild.org/members/curriculum.html), it's become clear that we will have to make some changes to accommodate new programs that will want to use the curriculum as it becomes available. In addition, there has been some confusion recently, even among the Board and staff, as to what constitutes a Guild workshop.

A number of Guild instructors are now starting to offer identical workshops at a number of different shops and schools, and the traditional definition of a Guild workshop has included the requirement that registration occur through the Guild office. However, most of these schools are capable of handling registration and workshop coordination themselves. Thus, in the interests of saving the TFG office time (and liability), and putting all quality programs on an equal footing, we've decided to anticipate the future role of the TFG as providers of curriculum and instructors only. This includes leaving the coordination and registration to those who do it best on the ground where the workshop is being held.

timber framing workshops. Thus, those looking to register for workshops at Heartwood, Rocky Mountain Workshops, or other schools and shops may still do so by accessing the appropriate websites through the Guild's Workshops section. Heartwood and RMW anticipate no reduction in the number or quality of their timber framing programs because of this change. Those programs run or taught by members who wish to have their programs linked to the Guild site should submit a letter or email to will@tfguild.org and joel@tfguild.org expressing their interest. Include a brief history of the program, a past brochure, at least three former students for recommendations, and the URL for the linked site.

The TFG will promote directly those workshops that incorporate the curriculum we are developing as it becomes available, but it's anticipated that registration will still occur through the school using the program. The Guild will generate income through the publication and sale of curriculum materials, and training programs that purchase these will benefit through their use.

The Guild will still sponsor our own workshops, administered through our office. These could include

We've decided to anticipate the future role of the TFG as providers of curriculum and instructors only.

Workshops that have previously been TFG sponsored at the Heartwood School (Washington, Mass.) and Rocky Mountain Workshops (Pingree Park, Colo.) will now be coordinated by and registration will go through the offices at Heartwood and RMW. Registration will not be through the TFG unless there is a special workshop or event at these facilities coordinated by the TFG.

We will now accept links on the Workshops section of the Guild website for those who request it and can demonstrate a reliable and proven track record of successful

training workshops associated with rendezvous projects; we're planning more of these this spring and summer at Salem, Oregon, and Angola, Indiana. TFG workshops would also include onetime events, traveling seminars that visit shops, or special training in professional development. We also may have unique opportunities involving talented instructors, international visitors, and special venues not usually associated with existing workshop programs.

—Will Beemer

Please comment on our new curriculum offerings

AS MENTIONED in the last *Scantlings*, you can now go online at the TFG website (www.tfguild.org/members/curriculum.html) and download the complete set of curriculum outlines developed over the past year. We are seeking your comments before we begin the next phase of collecting, writing and producing the content that can be used to teach these skills.

Sections 1 (Safe Work Practices), 9 (Timber Framing Techniques), and 10 (Tools and Equipment) have been available for comment online (using a service called Quicktopic) since November. We have added three new sections: 2 (Drawings & Specifications),

3 (Historic Timber Framing), and 16 (Conservation Techniques).

You may comment on these sections online through Quicktopic or via e-mail (to gordonmacdonald@shaw.ca and will@tfguild.org), or surface mail or fax to the TFG office. We will be adding new sections to the online service every few months in order to finish the comment period by mid-2005.

Please take advantage of this quick and easy way to submit your input. Those of you not online can obtain the curriculum outlines by contacting the TFG office.

—Will Beemer

Gewerbe courses on hold

THE GUILD'S relationship with Gewerbe Akademie in Rottweil, Germany, has been put on hold for the time being. Those who have attended the Rottweil courses have praised the depth and quality of the instruction, and we've reaped additional dividends in the visits of instructor Filippo Campagna to our annual conferences to lead workshops. However, the last two three-week courses, one basic and one advanced, had to be cancelled because of low enrollment.

Perhaps we do not have a deep enough pool of potential candidates who can afford this level of training, or maybe we are not mature enough as an organization to provide the consistency needed to plan such an ambitious program on a regular basis. The dropping value of the U.S. dollar internationally certainly doesn't help.

We clearly have much to learn from our peers overseas, and we will continue to strive to provide international exchange opportunities wherever feasible. We thank Heiner Maute, Filippo, the Chamber of Crafts, and the Akademie for all the time and money they have invested so far in this relationship. Our gratitude also goes out to Oliver Amandi and all the folks at Dietrich's for their facilitation of the project.

A few years ago, we removed "of North America" from the Timber Framers Guild name, anticipating our willingness to run with the big dogs on the world timber framing scene. We would like to consider this hiatus in offering German timber framing courses as a mere temporary delay of a full-fledged international exchange. This has been a truly valuable educational experience. I ask those who did take part to spread the word to their colleagues; and I ask all of you who are serious about improving your timber framing knowledge to consider these courses in the future.

—Will Beemer

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Japanese compound joinery

Grappling with complexity on Gabriola Island

CHRIS HALL'S Japanese compound joinery workshop on Gabriola Island, B.C., a Guild workshop, was quite an initiation to the Timber Framers Guild. The two-week program (November 8 through 19) was my first, and it was an extremely useful, challenging, enriching experience. "Unforgettable" was how many participants described it.

Sixteen of us showed up on the island and took quarters where we could. (I shared a two-bedroom cabin at Page's Resort with full kitchen and fireplace for \$25/each per night for four of us.) Some slept in their vehicles or an RV, others in tents, a couple in unheated rooms without facilities. Bright and early Monday morning, we assembled in Hall's 1200-sq.-ft. shop, which looks out on a million-dollar view of ocean passage between Vancouver Island and the mainland through tall trees inhabited by bald eagles and woodpeckers.

The initial introductions of class members revealed a very able, experienced, well-traveled, and articulate

group. Everyone was enthusiastic and focused on the material.

The course consisted of 11 eight-hour days focused on the geometry, trigonometry, and layout of four-way splayed wooden structures. (Special thanks to Chris' friend Ilana Gerjuoy, who prepared delicious noon meals and afternoon snacks with good cheer and a warm heart.) We studied the methods of calculating the various angles in the joinery of three projects: a small hopper or bin (imagine a cradle-like box), a four-way splay-legged sawhorse or stool (*shibo korobi* in Japanese), and a corner of a traditional ornamental Japanese hip roof, with two intersecting wall plates and some jack rafters. Sound simple? Almost without exception, class members were struggling to comprehend the math and layout techniques presented by Hall. This is not a criticism, but rather an indication of his challenging but clever methodology for creating perfect, light-tight, and beautiful joinery in compound angles, primarily using hand tools.

Many of us had built similar structures, but our angle calculations were by guess and by golly, through scribing techniques and successive approximation. We had not, as Hall had, analyzed the mathematical relationships that enable one to make an accurate scaled drawing and transfer precise angles and lengths to a layout of the components of the structures. Now, most of us understand how to remove the guesswork and to approach more perfect joinery with mathematical precision.

Before beginning the first project, we spent a full day reviewing the Pythagorean theorem of the lengths of sides of right triangles: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. Use of the theorem requires knowing the length of any two sides. Next, using a hand-held calculator with trigonometric functions (one of several special items on the tool list that many of us purchased for the class), we solved problems to get familiar with the calculator and the trig formulas for dissecting right triangles. Trigonometry is the Western system of calculating angles and relationships of the



photos Robert Kroll unless otherwise noted

The view from Chris Hall's shop.

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workshop

sides of triangles such as the sine, cosine, and tangent of angles. This material was presented in order to appreciate the relative simplicity of the Japanese compound angle calculation and layout system.

Although Hall had never taught math before, his teaching style and technique were reminiscent of some of my best high school math and drafting teachers. (I last handled a trig equation in 1960, before JFK was elected president!) Using Plexiglas triangles to create three-dimensional models of the angle structures we were discussing, Hall showed us first how Western carpenters calculate the angles for the cuts of a sloped (e.g., 4 in 12, 5 in 12, etc.) rafter. Hall, who worked and studied in Japan and is fluent in Japanese, contends that the calculation methods used by Japanese carpenters involve fewer steps than the Western system.

Hall has designed an improved *sashigane* or carpenter's square which is now produced by the Shinwa tool company. It uses inches divided into tenths, the basic unit of the Japanese system of measurement and of slope. This was a required item for the course. (Hall assured us he receives no royalties on sales of the new square.) One side of one leg of the new Hall *sashigane* has a "stretched" inch scale, increased by the square root of two, required for the layout of the cuts on a typical hip rafter. The *sashigane* is the brains of any project and can be used to calculate square and cube roots.

Any slope is composed of a rise and a run. The compound slope, one that leans in two directions, consists of a *stretched* run, holding the rise constant. Assuming a 90 degree corner and equal intersecting roof slopes, the amount of this stretch in the run is always a factor of the square root of two, or 1.414213562., because the hypotenuse runs at 45 degrees and is the square root of the sum of two equal sides squared. In typical hip roof structures, the compound hip slopes are equal and can be reduced to a base of one on each side. This is especially easy in a base-10 system. Things get more complex if the



photo Wonhyung Kim

The hopper, an infundibular form for soaking water stones.

compound slopes are unequal. We did not reach that level of complexity.

Our first class project was an infundibular form (funnel-shaped) box, the hopper, *jo go kata* in Japanese, which Hall uses to soak water stones for sharpening his tools. This was an ideal project to demonstrate the value of accurate drawing, layout, and execution, because any mistake means the box does not hold water! Also, the box is essentially an upside-down hip roof structure. The side slopes of $3\frac{1}{2}$ in 10 meet a stretched hip slope at a 90 degree corner.

At this point in the class, Hall departed from the Western system of calculating slope and demonstrated the Japanese way. The Japanese system also relies on a rise and run, but in base 10 instead of base 12. With base 10, one starts with a given rise, then moves the decimal of rise and run one stop to the left to calculate the stretch factor, the hypotenuse. To calculate the slope of a face cut on the compound-angle of the hopper box sides, the Japanese simply start with the rise-run triangle of the average slope, e.g. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in 10, and calculate a middle rise or *chu ko*. The calculation involves a "similar triangles" equation: $\text{run} \div \text{hypotenuse} = \text{rise} \div \text{middle rise or } chu ko$. Thus, the *chu ko* is equal to the run/hypotenuse times the rise. It may sound complex, but demonstrated as Hall

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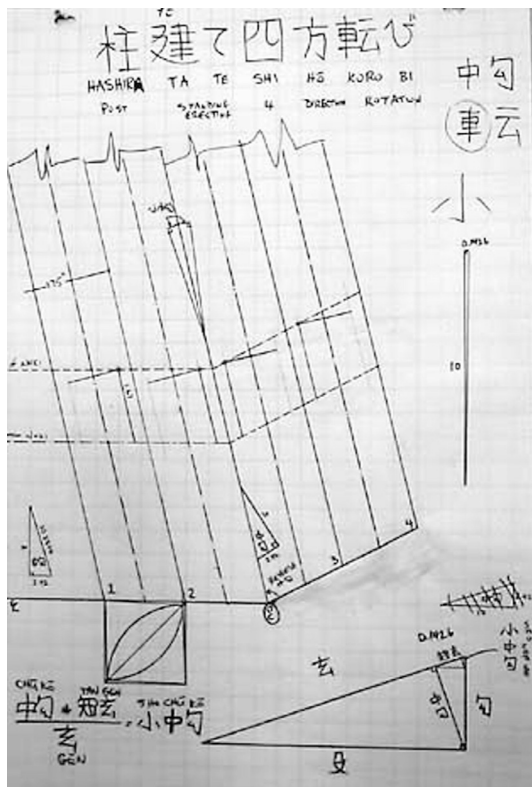
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Left, sawhorse leg layout.

Right, Chris shows us a completed yellow cedar sawhorse



did, with visual aids, diagrams, and patient explanation, it made sense. And, best of all, it is a concept that involves less number crunching than the Western system of figuring the same slope.

All of this material was presented well before the end of the second day. Our heads hurt. Our butts hurt. We had not yet cut any wood, but rather we took copious notes, reviewed math, learned some of the obscure Japanese *kanji* (Chinese characters, actually) representing the various slopes and angles, and made detailed diagrams. We broke for the day.

Beer and conversation flowed freely in the evenings and into the wee hours in some cases. Gradually, after discussions in and out of class, we assimilated the Japanese system for making the calculation even before picking up a *ryoba* (rip and cross-cut combo) saw. A class-

mate, computer whiz and cartographer Marshall Thompson, created a spreadsheet of values for different slopes, beginning with $\frac{1}{2}$ in 10 and increasing in units of $\frac{1}{2}$ to a 10 in 10 (a steep 45° slope). The spreadsheet includes calculations of the *chu ko* (the hypotenuse of the slope), the *tan gen*, which is the angle for a butt joint between two sides of the hopper, and the *cho gen*, for the miter angle between two sides of the hopper. The lingo is foreign, but after a bit of use, the terms are as good as any to describe these various slopes or angles.

Our next project, begun on the third day, was a four-way splayed yellow cedar saw horse. The structure is called *ko ko gen ho* in Japanese. This piece is a miniature version of a hip roof, albeit a shallow-pitched one ($2\frac{1}{2}$ in 10). The trick here is to re-shape the legs from $1\frac{3}{4}$ -in. squares to a diamond cross-section by planing slim



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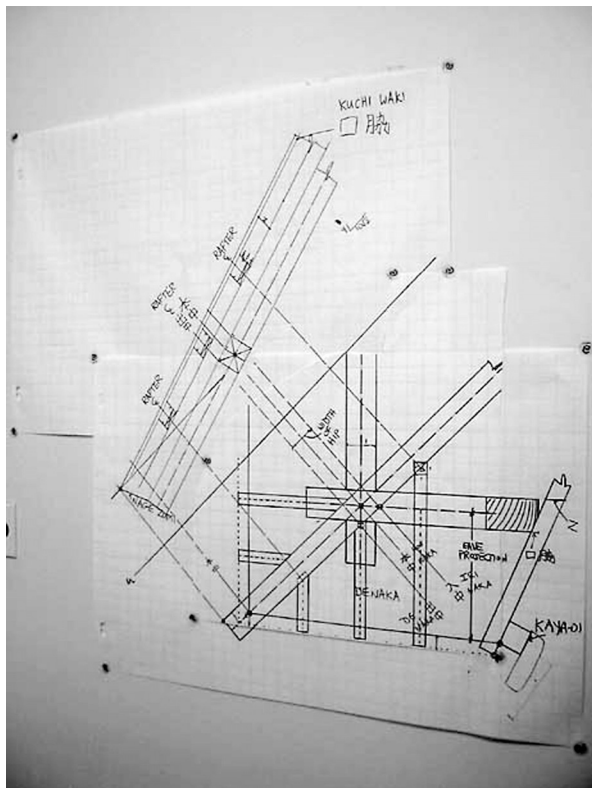
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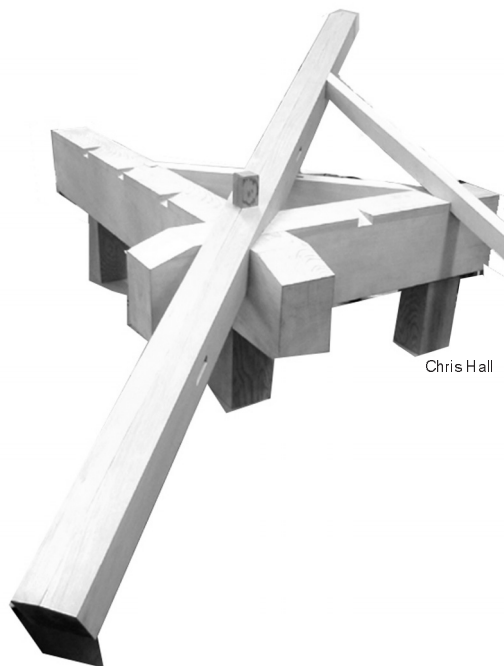
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Left, the layout diagram for the hip roof.

Right, perspective model of the hip roof.



Chris Hall

wedges off each side. The result is that the tenoned stretchers, *nuki* (literally, “pierce through” in Japanese) that support the legs are more easily cut and fit tighter in square, rather than parallelogram, mortises. Also, the legs now lie in a flat plane. The Japanese use this system in temple and shrine building where corners are splayed so the siding will lie flat and joinery is simplified. The completed structure literally stands upon accurate use of these slopes and tight-fitting mortises and tenons. Three days later, we were still discussing, trying to come to grips with the interrelationships of these slopes and joinery.

The culmination began in the second week. We built a scale model of an ornate decorative yellow cedar hip roof consisting of two intersecting roughly 3 x 4-in. beams or wall plates, the *keta*, bisected through the middle of their

twisted half-lap joint by a third twisted half-lap where the hip rafter, or *sumi ki* (corner wood), notched to support four to six delicately proportioned jack rafters, *taruki* (droop wood), hangs down.

From a careful study of Japanese carpentry and design manuals, Hall presented us with various proportions used for sizing the post, beam, and roof members. These proportions are as much aesthetic considerations as structural, especially for the decorative under-roof structures. Most traditional Japanese structures have at least a double roof structure with the joinery of the upper roof hidden by the lower, more visually pleasing roof. Above the rafters are *kaja oi* or perimeter fascia. All dimensions of lumber begin with the rafter size and are multiples of them.

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During the workshop, Hall oversaw our hand work and gave demonstrations on using, conditioning, and sharpening Japanese hand tools. But the emphasis throughout was on the calculations, the design, and the layout that enable the builder to generalize and apply the techniques to other projects.

None of us finished any of the projects, and most brought or shipped the boards home for completion and for memories of an outstanding experience.

—Robert E. Kroll



The Gabriola Island class. On couch at rear, left to right: Allan Peoples, wearing hat (San Francisco), Brad Morse (Becket, Mass.), Gordon Eberding (Quesnel, B.C.), Eric Manigian (Brooklyn), Benjamin Shoot (Portland, Ore.), Wayne Kapitaniuk in the dark shirt (Pemberton, B.C.). Standing behind couch: Derek Brown (Canmore, Alberta), Ian Lawford (Kemptville, Ont.), Wonhyung Kim (Keyung Gi Do, South Korea). At and around coffee table: John Buday (Longbranch, Wash.), Chris Hall, Ilana Gerjuoy (Gabriola Island), Marshall Thompson (Spokane, Wash.), Robert Kroll (Berkeley), Huw Price (Essex, Mass.), Jerii Cassidy (Quesnel, B.C.), Ward Wilcox (Seattle).

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Staff changes

THERE'S A fresh new face in the office and a new voice on the phone in Becket. Welcome to Sue Warden, who brings years of office experience to the job, most recently at a leading outdoor equipment store.

Sue will be taking over the job previously done by Michele Beemer, who will now be working primarily for the Heartwood School. Michele will be spending time in her long-neglected garden and playing with her new horse, Kate. Michele promises to continue to help out at conferences so she can still see all the friends she's made over the years. Even so, Michele, we will miss you dearly!

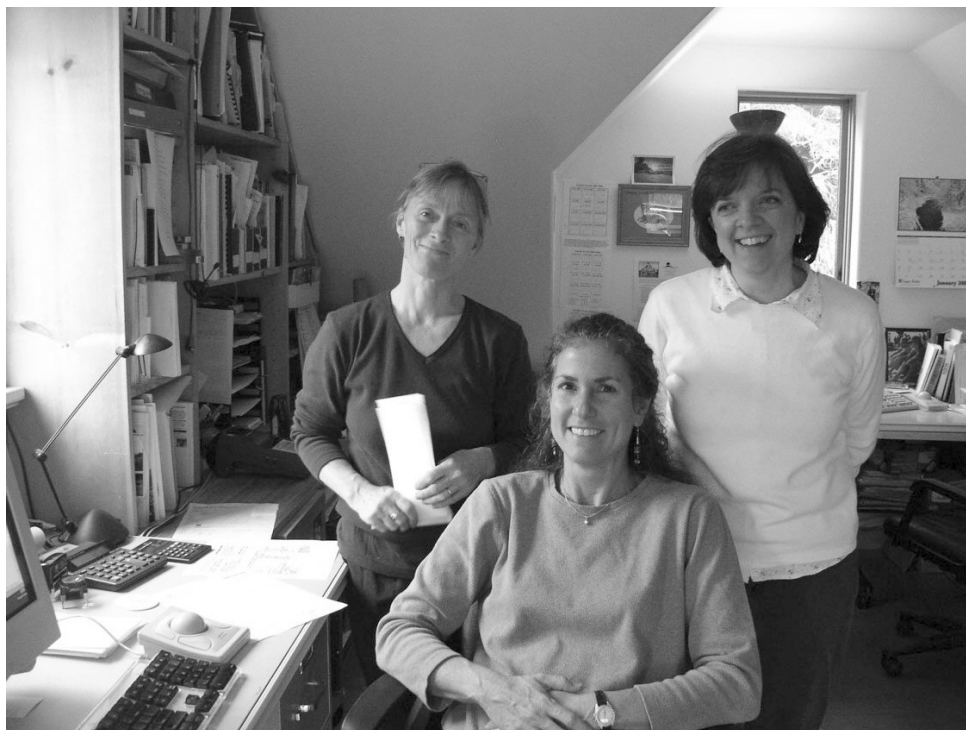


photo Will Beemer

Keeping the Guild going: from left, Michele Beemer, Cynthia Grippaldi, and new staff member Sue Warden.



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Memorial scholarship fund grows

EACH YEAR, the Guild awards an average of \$2300 in scholarships to assist people financially when they take part in our events. This fund, which hundreds of members add to by checking the \$10 box on their forms when they renew or join up for the first time, has recently grown significantly.

The fund was originally established upon the untimely death of Mark Brandt, one of the best instructors we've ever had and a compound joinery whiz. Members of the Board of Directors decided to augment members' donations by allocating money from the general fund when we had a comfortable surplus, thus achieving our original goal of \$40,000 in a short time. The amount awarded each year was based on the interest generated by the investments the scholarship holds.

Recently, generous donations in the memories of Mark Witter and Dave Gaker have swelled the fund to over \$60,000. We have changed the name to the Memorial Scholarship Fund, and with each scholarship we will remember those in whose memories it was established. We will now award a minimum of \$3000 annually, regardless of the vagaries of the stock market, which has reduced the interest generated recently. Shortfalls will be covered from the general Guild coffers.

In addition, you should suggest ways you can make an in-kind contribution of labor to the Guild in exchange for the scholarship. In a new policy change, we will not ask those applying for a scholarship to attend their *first* conference to do something for the Guild in return. This condition is waived for those attending their first conference who are applying their scholarship to the conference fee. Preference will be given, though, to those who can give back something of value. Such efforts might include:

- a report for the Guild's newsletter, *Scantlings*, or an article for the Guild's quarterly journal, *Timber Framing*. (This could be an account of your experience at the event or a discussion related to timber framing.)
- graphic design help for conference T-shirts, illustrations, or brochures
- assistance at a Guild event during registration or some other activity
- helping out at the Guild office if convenient, especially with computer work
- promoting the Guild in your region, such as finding new members or sponsors
- finding advertisers for Guild publications

A scholarship is available if you need it.

In general, we have had just enough money to award scholarships to all who have asked for them and who have been able to contribute something in return. The following guidelines are here offered as a reminder that a scholarship is available if you need it.

Scholarship amounts vary, but in general are limited to a maximum of \$300 or half the registration fee for the event, whichever is less. Scholarship fees cannot be applied to room and board costs. In considering an application for a scholarship, priority will be given to Guild members. The Guild's scholarship committee will review the applications; we'll strive to distribute the entire balance of the fund revenues for that calendar year based on the merit and completeness of the applications.

If you would like to apply, submit your material for consideration at least one month prior to the event for which you are requesting financial assistance. Send a letter that includes at least the following:

- name, address, phone number, fax number, and email address of the applicant
- title and date of the event you wish to attend
- statement of need expressing the specific amount of scholarship money requested and why it should be awarded (how you will benefit from the scholarship and experience). The more reasonable the request, the more likely it is to be funded.

- making and/or contributing an item of equivalent value to a Guild auction
- other initiatives you propose.

Besides the above materials, you could include a résumé of related experience and letters of recommendation. Submit your application (ideally in an email, as a Word attachment) to scholarships@tfguild.org or by mail or fax to TFG, PO Box 60, Becket, MA 01223, fax 888-453-0879.

—Will Beemer

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Kids at the Penna. conference

IN SPITE of our inability to identify the kids in these photos, the images themselves say a lot. This children's workshop, during which a climbing wall was created, was by far the most involved children have been at our conferences. We thank all the adults who were involved: Kimberley Reagan, Josh Stewart, Phil Newey, Cathy Martin, Todd and Sandy Bissell, Maryke Noël, and John Macfarland.



photos Will Beemer

Spring Guild project: Salem Rotary

April 18–May 1

THIS ROTARY Pavilion in Salem, Oregon, the tangible result of years of lobbying by Rotarian Mark Wulf, is a large and complex structure with almost entirely compound joinery. Mark has proven adept at corralling local support for this event, as evidenced by the number of names on the sign at the site.

This structure depends upon the four masonry columns to resolve outward forces, making it possible for us to create an airy and open roof system without major tie beams from corner to corner. In a real way, this evokes the earliest uses of heavy timber construction in the great cathedrals of Europe: masonry walls supporting and resolving the thrust of lofty roof systems.

Participants will have access to qualified and experienced instructors in English scibe, square rule, and compound joinery through the two weeks. We will be spread out on a downtown work site that is a defunct industrial facility right on the banks of the Willamette River, now reclaimed as a pastoral city park. We'll have multiple work stages, sites, and techniques for you to engage in.

Under the big bridge will be the scribing team, led by a vastly experienced English scribe of legendary accomplishment.

Under the on-ramp will be square rule timber framing of the compound parts not destined for scribing.

And out on the concrete will unfold a complex and large-scale multi-crane raising that will give you an opportunity to learn a thing or two from the best.

The shop drawings were done by John Mumaw, after an original model created by Curtis Milton. Engineering is by Jennifer Anthony with generous consultation from Grigg Mullen and Ed Levin.

The entire project runs April 18–May 1. (It begins just after the Western Conference in nearby Welches, Ore.) You can take part in several ways. If you'd like to be a **leader**, email a résumé or recommendation to projects@tfguild.org (or send it to Timber Framers Guild, 176 Pratt Road, Alstead Center, N.H. 03602-3304 or fax to 888-453-0879). You can participate as a **professional** if you are of sufficient skill and motivation to accomplish quality work with a minimum of supervision. You will be fed, housed, and showered with praise—but you must register, sending us a résumé or recommenda-

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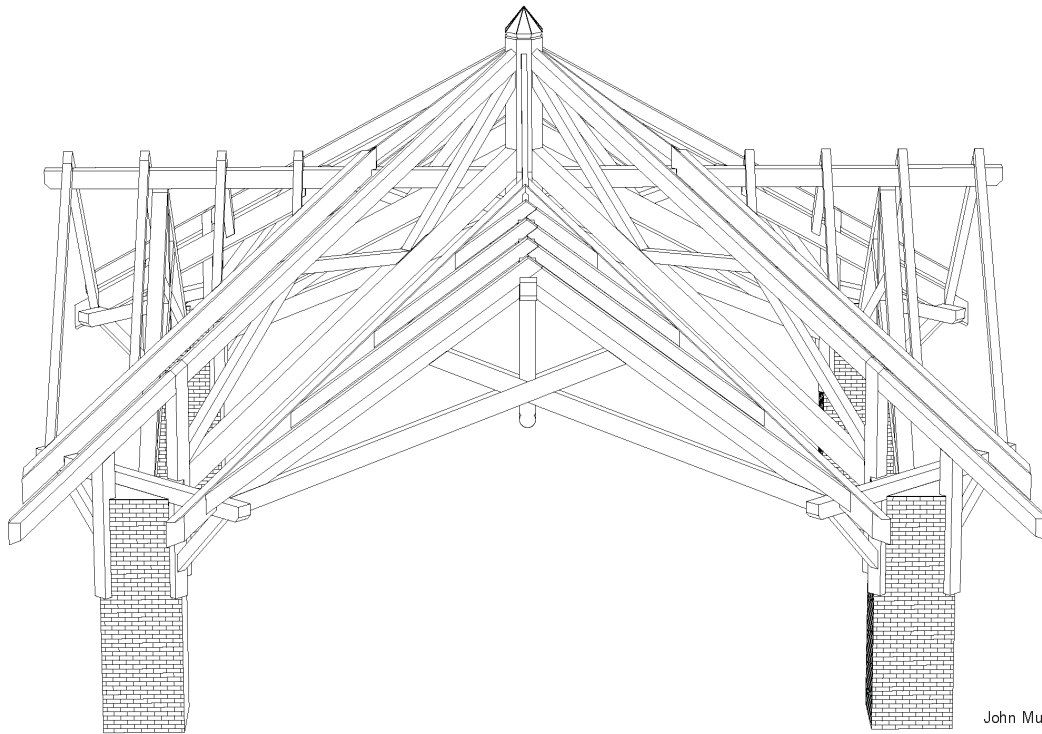
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Pavilion



John Mumaw

tion, if you wish to be considered. You can take part as a **student** for one of the two weeks (\$150 tuition) or both weeks (\$250 tuition). Your time will be well rewarded, you will take home skills that will be essential to your own projects, and perhaps more importantly, you'll be an integral part of a community event much larger than our individual goals and accomplishments. (If you need to cancel, you'll receive a full refund before March 1, half refund before April 1, and no refund after that.)

If you're over 65 or a full-time college student during the academic year, your tuition is on us, no matter what your experience level. You *must* register in order to participate, and you'll be provided with plenty of challenges during the project. You will need to demonstrate your student status.

Registration can happen by following the Events links on the Guild website, www.tfguild.org, or by calling 603-835-2077.--okay, Joel? or 888 number?]

If you cannot commit for a week, please consider coming along for the raising, April 30–May 1. This should be a lively, fun workshop and we'd love to have you.

—Joel C. McCarty

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Advocating sustainability

I LISTENED to King Kool and his Royal Blues while reading *Scantlings* 110. This newest compilation of heart-felt stories stimulated my thoughts as the late Mark Witter's music touched my soul. Though I've been a member of the Guild for just over a decade, I wondered anew how the TFG might be an inspiration to its members and the larger building community for sustainable architecture. In *Scantlings* 110, Tedd Benson's keynote speech at the Eastern Conference and Rick and Laura Collins' article on sustainability further stirred me.

I believe the Guild's members possess the potential for real leadership in sustainable design-build. Such leadership is worthy of our time and efforts, and it directly supports our stakeholders. The pursuit of sustainable architecture is not only a core TFG value; it is a worthy cause with immense impact.

Our members are ever more sophisticated and demanding. The Internet has changed how people find us and what they expect from us: with our strong presence at www.tfguild.org, we are found at once, researched, studied, visited, donated to, and joined. I suspect a high percentage of these newer members are not timber framers but rather future clients or potential partners, and this

is borne out by Guild membership studies. (At the Eastern conference, I met at least eight new members who were in the process of building a home and thought timber frames were cool.)

The new members, appropriately, trust the Business Council to refer them to a qualified company or the Guild to teach them joinery. Many were looking at *mainstream methods for sustainable architecture* integrated with the frame. (For some bizarre reason, they think people who recycle old timber or harvest sustainable trees might value the planet.) For example, Vicco von Voss and others I spoke with at the Eastern conference expressed a strong desire to understand which technology and material systems are truly sustainable in the frames they design and build. These intelligent individuals left with lots of information about grass-roots sustainability. Left unanswered, however, were their legitimate questions about readily available sustainable materials such as insulated form foundations or methods for heating and cooling a frame with minimal environmental impact. While this information is innovative to American builders, it is commonplace with our European brethren.

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As a respected international educational trade organization, the Guild builds communities and improves the quality of life through education and increasing awareness of healthier building environments. We do this with limited resources. So why broaden our focus? In a recent discussion I had with Will Beemer about the sustainability agenda at the upcoming Western Conference, he provided some excellent direction: since our conferences are already crammed with knowledge presentations, we should offer more hands-on sessions. If information is available elsewhere, the Guild should refer its members to it.

I wholeheartedly agree. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find this information specific to timber frames despite membership in the Department of Energy's E*Star program, the Energy and Environmental Building Association, National Association of Home Builders/Green Building Certification, American Society of Landscape Architects, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (U.S. Green Building Council), and so on. These organizations do not understand timber frames. I have found that timber framers more readily accept green technology than the converse: ironically, many green organizations hold that building with wood is not sustainable.

My perspective comes from a fairly intimate knowledge of the architecture, engineering, and general contracting communities, as they struggle (some more than others) with the balance between economics and the environment. Many of these professionals, just as they consider timber frames high-cost, high-risk, and unpredictable, argue that economic considerations limit the application of sustainable best building practices.

I firmly disagree. We must weigh the merits of short-term profitability against the long term environmental impact. Sustainability is an "economic state where the demands placed on the environment by people and commerce can be met without reducing the capacity of the environment to provide for future generations." (Paul Hawken, *The Ecology of Commerce*, 1994)

For most of us, change creates consternation. After reading Tedd Benson's two books a decade ago, I was sickened to see metal joinery on timber structures in downtown Denver. Similarly, when working on the design for a single-bent warehouse with Benson Woodworking's Ben Brungraber, P.E., I was appalled that he proposed cantilevered beams suspended by steel cables. In retrospect, the solution was brilliant, but I wasn't ready for it. A couple of years later, I recall Guild members chastising Benson Woodworking for purchasing a Hundegger. Many ignored that (1) the machine improves the competitiveness of a timber frame company in the general building market, and (2) the software reduces waste products.

We can apply these lessons about hybrid construction and tooling evolution to the scope of the Guild's involvement in sustainable architecture. If you accept Hawken's

definition of sustainability, we have two responsibilities. In order to promote sustainable building practices, the Guild must both advocate for the economic health of our sustainability-focused members and promote environmental stewardship.

We have the ability to understand a little, yet leverage a lot: there is a limited number of best-practices products and processes that create sustainable architecture. Without reinventing the wheel, timber framers can easily comprehend approved solutions for integration with frames. I come to this conclusion based on my own personal experiences, listening to industry-leading professionals, observing European building practices, and discussing these issues with Guild members. For the past five years, I have studied sustainable building processes and materials that integrate into timber frames. I have researched best practices and installed alternative energy systems, radiant floor heating, structural insulated panel systems, moisture barriers, gray water systems, and insulated concrete form foundations. Joe Lstiburek (a building forensic scientist and principal of Building Science, Inc., in Westford, Mass.) has documented similar successes regarding best practices implementation for competitive advantage. (He's also collected the worst practices; search Google for his name and enjoy the ten dumbest . . .)

Zimmermeister courses in Germany teach best practices as part of their core curriculum. (I attended a course there, and I recommend it highly.) While trained in timber framing, master builders build with sustainable materials: insulated form foundations, SIPs, suspended floor systems below the sill plate, and environmentally-friendly, commercially-available straw panels assembled with rice glue or something other than formaldehyde-based adhesives. Their building process includes performance-testing the building envelope, with calibrated blower door fans, and pressure-assisted air sealing with water-based caulk. Technology that we view as exotic in the U.S. is standard practice in Europe.

Other than seeing green as a marketing ploy, I find little inclination within the U.S. mainstream building market and its associated trade organizations to really promote sustainable architecture. Given the division of roles among developers, general contractors, architects, engineers, subcontractors, and timber framers, the TFG may be the only international *educational trade organization* whose members as subcontractors are in a position to significantly influence the design of the foundation, space, skin, and systems in a building.

Timber framers are well positioned to impact the sustainable design and building process and take it into the mainstream. All we really need is resource documentation, a little guidance, and hands-on exercises.

—Al Wallace



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Compagnon seeks employment.

Steven LeBer, a French *compagnon* who demo'd roof framing at the Montebello conference with Boris Noël, is seeking a company in the Northwest (U.S. or Canada) to work for a year starting in April. He is 24, placed 6th at the 2001 World Skills Championship in Seoul, and has

stairs as one of his specialties. The Guild has agreed to help establish initial contact with interested companies in order to promote international exchange. If you can keep this very talented carpenter busy for a year, please ask me for his résumé and other information. Will Beemer, will@tfguild.org, 413-623-9926.

Designer-engineer-construction manager seeking immediate job.

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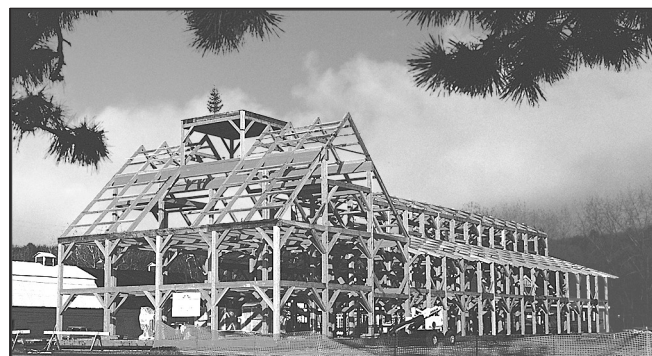
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Experienced joiner (min. 5 years) and also an apprentice, to join our team in booming Big Sky, Montana. Must have skills including fly tying, duck calling, and an advanced sense of humor. Pay DOE. We do timbers, logs, and anything in between. Please note, these positions are not for the faint of heart. Fax résumé to Laftwerk Industries, 406-995-4282.

Looking for work.

Currently taking the timber frame course with instructor Higgs Murphy at College of the Rockies in Kimberley, B.C. Will graduate December 17, 2004. Looking for full time employment in this trade. I am young, energetic, and eager to learn. Call Matt McIntyre at 250-427-5675 (call 250-547-2105 after end of December) or email zepp_420@hotmail.com.

Timber framer and shop manager.

Timber framer: at least two years of full-time timber framing experience in layout, cutting with power and hand tools, and raisings. Compound joinery, log, and scribe work a plus. Must be a good problem solver and a team player. Wages DOE.

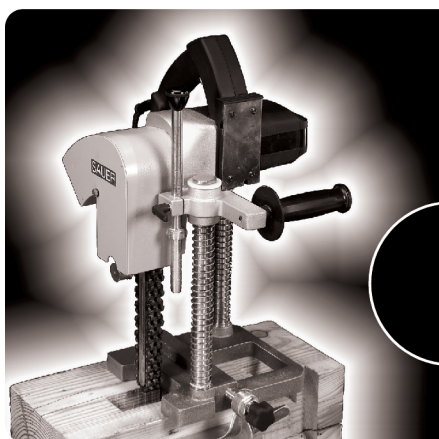
Shop manager: Jack or Jill of all trades, knowledgeable in layout, cutting, designing, CAD, shop drawings, plus overseeing high-end custom timber projects, managing shop of 4-9 employees, working with clients, estimating projects; flexible, organized multi-tasker. Wages DOE. We are an environmentally friendly, growing company with a fun, progressive work environment. Kathy or Mark Miller, 970-203-9305 or 970-461-1523. Please send résumé to PO Box 343 Masonville, CO 80541.

Timber frame raising crew and foreman needed.

We are looking for independent timber frame/SIP raisers to work on our challenging projects throughout the Western states. If you have at least 10 years timber frame and SIP experience, can teach, are organized, and like to travel expenses paid, you could be earning top dollar. We are setting up a network of raising advisors and crews to call on in the next year. Direct your résumé, references, and questions to Grant Calverley, 360-378-6186, grant@sanjuantimberframes.com.

Timber framers needed.

Bitterroot TimberFrames of Stevensville, Montana, is looking for quality timber framers with 4 to 5 years experience. Please call 406-777-5546 or fax résumé to 406-777-5547.



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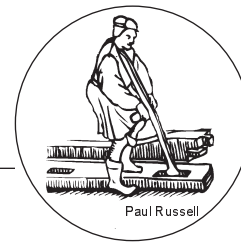
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EVENTS



Guild events on location

In Salem, Oregon:

Rotary Club pavilion for Salem. Apr 18–May 1 (see page 16.)

In Fredericksburg, Va., sponsored by TFG, Fredericksburg Foundation, Virginia Military Institute

Great Oak pavilion. Mar 25–Apr 5. Joel McCarty or Grigg Mullen, grigg@vmi.edu, 540-817-9255.

In Angola, Indiana:

Selman pavilion. Jun 13–24.

Guild rendezvous contact:

Joel C. McCarty, joel@tfguild.org, 603-835-2077.

Guild conferences

TTRAG 2005 Symposium and Tour. Mar 18–20, 2005, Salt Fork Resort & Conference Center, Cambridge, Ohio.

Western Conference 2005. Apr 13–17, 2005, Resort at the Mountain (base of Mt. Hood), Oregon.

Eastern Conference 2005. Oct 13–16, Burlington, Vt.

Western Conference 2006. Tentative mid-Apr, Tigh-Na-Mara Lodge, Parksville (Vancouver Island), B.C.

Other conferences

International Log Builders Association

32nd Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Feb 17–20, 2005, Coeur d'Alène, Idaho.

Robert Savignac, robert@logassociation.org, www.logassociation.org, 800-532-2900.

National Association of Home Builders

NAHB Green Building Conference. Mar 13–15, Atlanta, Georgia. www.nahb.org.

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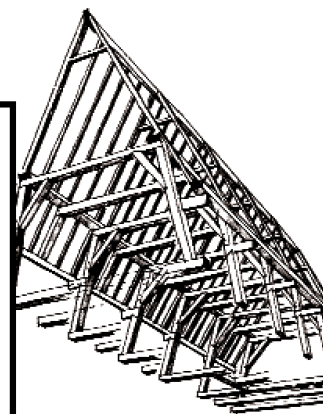
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Other workshops

College of the Rockies

Timber frame production. Jan 10–Apr 1, Kimberley, B.C. Mike Flowers, mflowers@cotr.bc.ca, 250-427-7116.

Fox Maple Timber Framing

Introduction to timber framing. Feb 21–Mar 4, Costa Rica. Apr 18–23, Tampa, Fla.

Natural building. May 25–29, Jun 4–5, Brownfield, Maine.

Intro and advanced timber framing. Jun 6–18, Brownfield, Maine.

www.foxmaple.com.

Grand Oaks Academy of Timber Framing

Introduction to Timber Framing. Apr 17–29, Paris, Tenn. Scott Stevens, 731-642-2908, scott@grandoakstimmerframing.com.

Rocky Mountain Workshops

Advanced timber frame engineering–modeling and joinery design with Grigg Mullen and Jennifer Anthony. May 25–29.

Mastering the basics of square rule timber framing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson. Sep 11–17.

Compound joinery with Will Beemer and Curtis Milton. Sep 18–23.

Pingree Park, Colo. Peter Haney, 970-482-1366, haneyrmw@frii.com, www.rockymountainworkshops.com.

Potter Homebuilders

Introduction to timber framing. Jan 15–16, Red Gate Farm, Buckland, Mass. 413-743-7110, rpotter@bcn.net.

International Log Builders Association

Pre-conference workshop: Hands-on timber frame roofs. Feb 5–16, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Wil Dancey, dancey@amtelecom.net or Robert Savignac, robert@logassociation.org.

B.C. Log and Timber Building Industry Association

Pre-conference workshop: Roof layout using Dietrich's FREE D-CAD-L. Feb. 24–25, Chase, B.C. Wil Dancey, dancey@amtelecom.net or Colin Williams, info@logbuilders.net.

Heartwood

Drawing in the way of the *compagnon* with Boris Noël. Apr 20–23.

Timber frame design and joinery decisions.

May 30–Jun 3.

Timber framing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson.

Jun 6–10, Aug 8–12.

Compound joinery with Will Beemer. Jun 27–Jul 1.

Converting trees to timbers. Jul 18–22.

Cruck framing with Jack Sobon. Jul 25–29.

Scribing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson. Aug 1–5.

Saving a historic barn: timber repair with Jack Sobon. Aug 15–19.

Washington, Mass. Will and Michele Beemer, 413-623-6677, info@heartwoodschool.com.

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Introduction to timber framing. Jun 6–10, Fairview, Alberta. 888-999-7882, x. 617.

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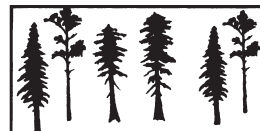
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photos Matt McIntyre

Hooked on timber framing

THESE SHOTS are from the raising of a structure built by the College of the Rockies timber framing class, taught by Guild and International Log Building Association member Higgs Murphy. The weather was cold and windy, but the boys put it together without much fuss. All the lifting was done with a tractor-crane setup, rigged by Higgs himself. We started on Wednesday morning and were done early Thursday. The raising was by far the best part of the whole process, and, needless to say, we're all hooked.

—Matt McIntyre

[It appears that Matt, son of the ILBA's Cathy Hansen, is leaving the round world to join the square!—Ed.]

Log builders meet

THE INTERNATIONAL LOG BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (ILBA) holds its annual conference in lovely Coeur d'Alène, Idaho, February 17–20. Pre-conference workshops include a hands-on timber frame roofs (with Wil Dancey and Grayden Lang), log grading, basic principles of timber framing (with Tim Chauvin and Higgs Murphy), and the Pederson dovetail system. You can get more information at www.logassociation.org.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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