

# ARROW TIPS

Put Your Happiness On Display With Timber Living



Summer  
Issue!

## In This Issue:

Makeover .....	1
Memory Lane .....	3
The Smile Express .....	3
Featured Project .....	4
Employee Highlight .....	6
Special Offer for Summer .....	6
Recommended Reading .....	7
Our Philosophy .....	7



## A Potent Dose of Deep Staying Power and Motivation!

Read on and find out...

- ... How a Post and Beam Makeover Transforms a Plan!
- ... Which Highlights are Included in our Featured Project!
- ... Which Book ATF Recommends to Avoid Happiness Gaps!
- ... How We Guarantee Our Stress-Free Process!

Pour yourself a cup of coffee and dig in!

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- Employee Highlight ..... 6
- Special Offer for Summer ..... 6
- Recommended Reading ..... 7
- Our Philosophy ..... 7



## Post and Beam Makeover A Modern Floor Plan



This modern home features an artistic timber package.

When the design team at ATF first saw this plan, it was well on its way to being a great home. It included simple, straightforward timber accents. Our team put their heads together to turn it from simple to unique. As the design process progressed, this plan blossomed into an artistic, energetic package, full of smooth-flowing vitality. We still shake our heads in disbelief.

In this article, you will see some of the tricks and modifications used to accomplish this. If you read previous ATF articles, you may have noticed that we are using the same basic tools and tricks: working with volume, with proportions, with flow, with timber sizing and frequency - and, of course, using surprises and creativity! The same principles align in each project to get a unique style and look for each unique customer.

We'd like to walk you through the ATF design process using this amazing modern floor plan. As we describe each phase, we hope to give you some ideas and takeaways to use for your unique timber living design!

*continued on Page 2*

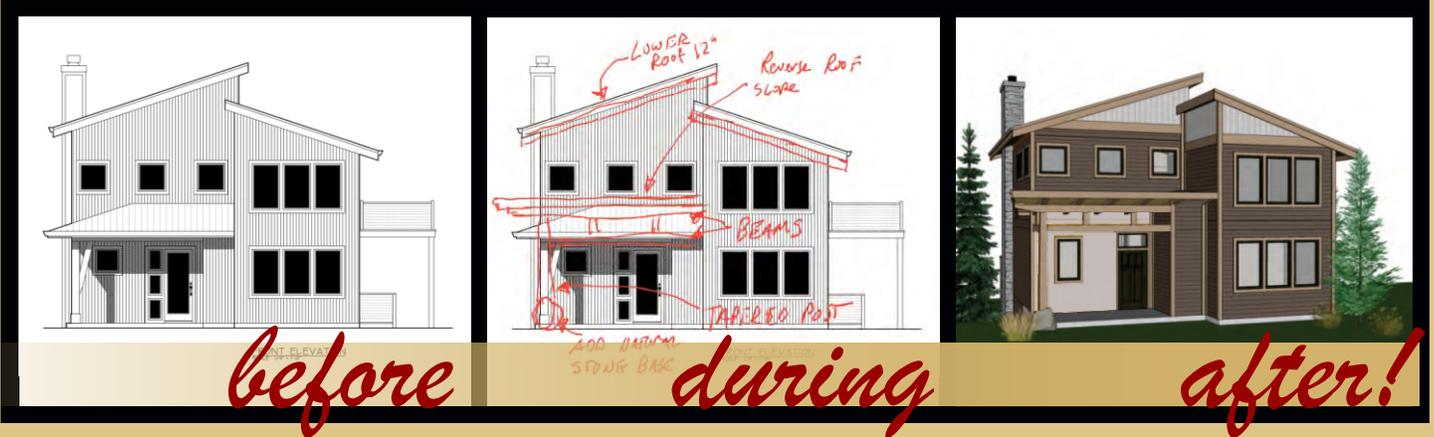
# Makeover ...continued



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## Front Elevation

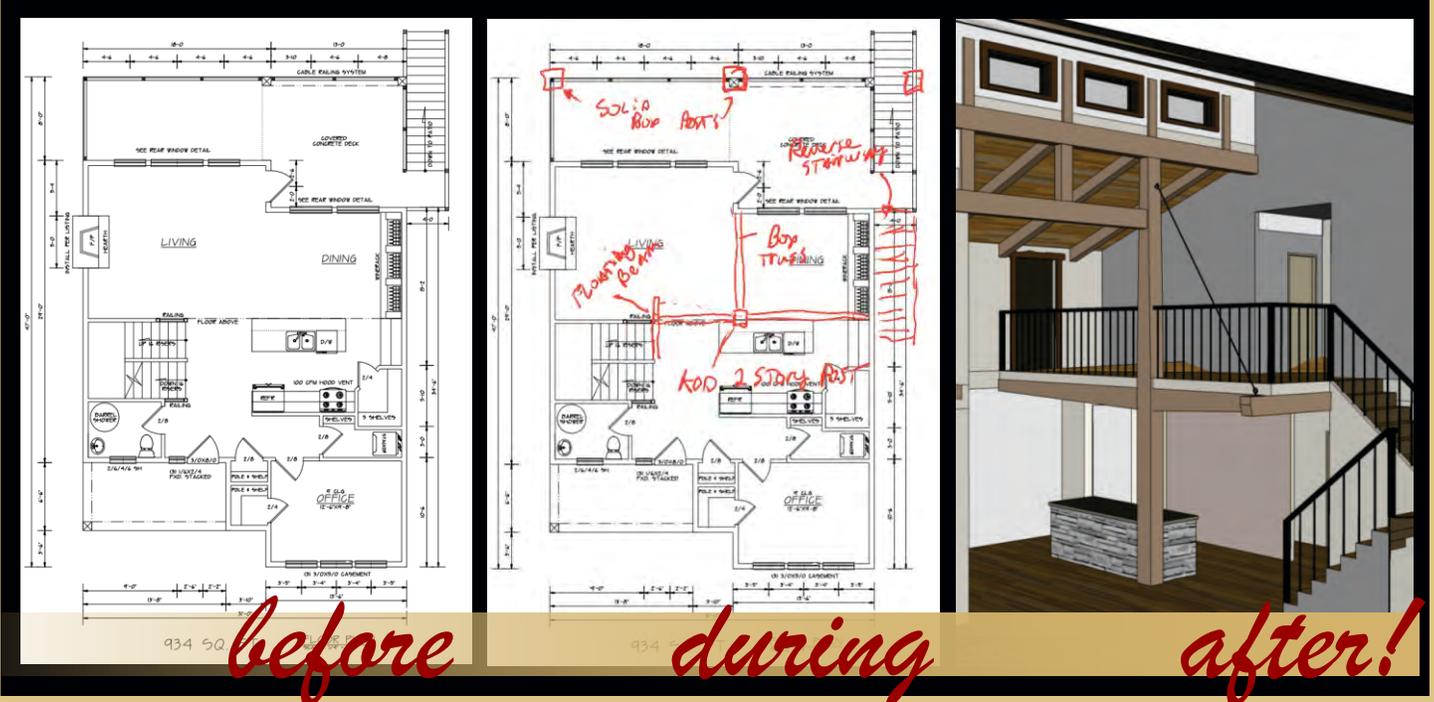
Based on the information gathered in the initial brainstorm with the client, we looked at the front with the question: "How can we get a warmer, more inviting entry?" The clerestory on the main body of the home made reversing the entry porch roof slope a natural extension, which shows off the warmth of the timbers. Also, we opted for smaller timbers spaced more frequently, for a lighter modern style. The natural stone is one element that is always appreciated and works with almost any style.



## Interior Floor Plan

The interior design unfolded slowly. Often, we experience a gratifying "Aha!" moment where everything falls into place. It simply never happened on this project. Completing the design with the look our client wanted was the result of dogged tenacity.

The space was too narrow to orient trusses spanning from side to side, so we used a main post with a box truss to support the clerestory. Working within this space, we decided to lower the main roof 12 inches. This made for more pleasing interior proportions in the great room, as well as adjusting exterior proportions. Things were still a bit heavy, so we tapered the main post and lower supporting beams. This gives a sense of upward energy, while maintaining enough visual mass to get a solid feel. Floating beams supported by a steel rod extend the open, energetic feel to the stairway.



## Rear Elevation

Using the same roof style for the back patio was of course very obvious. The idea to get the stairway out of the main picture was not quite so obvious. But it made for easier, less expensive building and allowed for a wider footprint. This helped the proportions immensely and allowed for a clean lines without the distraction of the stairway. The solid box posts with siding was an inexpensive way to get good visual mass and incorporate with a modern style of deck rail.



When you begin to dream about your timber living design, it's often because you have seen and love the warmth and beauty of post and beam construction. Sometimes it's hard to pinpoint the exact style you want, or choose what design fits your current situation. That's where the design team at Arrow Timber Framing comes in! We specialize in making sure you get a design that fits your personal style. Schedule a 30-90 minute brainstorm because you will give yourself an easy boost forward!

On behalf of the ATF Team

Bert Sarkkinen

Owner and Chief Designer

## THE SMILE EXPRESS

### Happiness Is...



**At ATF, we work hard  
to listen to our customers.**

I admit it. I'm slow to catch on. How else can you explain my presence at a parenting class when four of our five children are adults? But those principles apply to relationships in general. I had considered myself a fair listener prior to attending the these classes with my wife. Wow! Was I ever wrong!

Currently, I'm working on habits to master the art of listening. It can be incredibly tough with close family or with sensitive topics, especially if I'm tired or hungry. But when good listening habits kick in, it brings control, understanding, and happiness!

**...Good Listening Skills!**

### Your Referrals Speak Volumes!

...and are GREATLY appreciated. When you refer friends and acquaintances to ATF, **make sure they mention your name!** They get to skip the screening process... and yes, we screen clients. You are the cream of the crop! Plus, we want to know where to send thanks... do you prefer coffee or sweets?



## BRANDENBURG PROJECT

Our Clients, Architects and Builders all bring different ideas, values, and tastes to the table. Which in turn produces challenges, inspiration and synergy. Barry and Leatha Brandenburg are no different. Their wish list included an entry with good curb appeal - something to set the tone. They also wanted the ability to see all the way through to the back view, as well as a big, strong wood presence at the back patio.

I would like to call your attention to the front entry. It has three hidden "control knobs" which can be adjusted to fit a wide range of styles. First are the two inside posts. They give us more visual mass, and trick our eye into seeing proportions closer to the golden ratio.

The short beams pointing inward are second. These beams can be raised or lowered to help the truss look right. It is especially important where a truss could otherwise look out of proportion.

The third "control knob" is the base. Adjusting height and visual weight at the base is especially helpful when things feel too tall and spindly. This is also a place to influence style by choosing veneer treatments such as brick, stone, cement or siding.

Adjusting these three factors gives every ATF project a well-balanced feel. The most important factor, though, is always the client!



**PERFECT BALANCE  
REQUIRES PAINSTAKING  
ADJUSTMENTS AND  
ATTENTION TO DETAIL.**



For more pictures of this beautiful project, visit our Gallery at [www.ArrowTimber.com](http://www.ArrowTimber.com) 5



## MEMORY LANE

As a young carpenter, I remember grinding through rafter calculation problems late one night. Using only the primitive method of similar triangles combined with the Pythagorean theorem, I was preparing for the next day's work.

It was a relatively simple hip and valley roof. We cut the rafters first thing in the morning and had the roof stacked before noon. It felt like a major victory!

### WANTED

Three volunteers with blueprints and ideas for a **live-produced, on-the-spot post and beam makeover!**



You will simply fill out the ATF Mini Style Quiz ahead of time and show up with your plans, pictures, notes and ideas. With a metaphorical gun to our head, we will produce ideas sketches as you help us with your suggestions! Do not let us cheat! The only thing we want to see ahead of time is your mini style quiz results. For effective audience participation and visibility, attendance is limited to 15 people.

The post and beam makeover seminar will this be scheduled this fall.

Call 360-687-1868 to submit your entry - or reserve your spot in the audience! We will allow a limited number of audience seats to watch the process.

**360 687 1868**

## Getting to Know Matt Duvall

### Dynamite in an Unassuming Package



**Matt Duvall, our Sales Dog**

If Matt were an animal he would be a bulldog, although he wouldn't slobber since he's such a neatnik! Just like a bulldog, Matt is stocky, calm, reflective, friendly, and single-minded in purpose.

As a customer, you get a natural listener who will capture all of your concerns and ideas. Matt is great at steady, open communication, so you know where your project is from brainstorm to completion. Also, you will benefit from ideas and insights. As an outsider, Matt has a sense of

perspective unencumbered by entrenched methodology.

#### Getting to know Matt Duvall

**Q:** What is something about your past you would like people to know?

**A:** I've always wanted to fly. As a kid I wanted to be an astronaut, but to settle for the next best thing (other than being a Timber Framer) I'm going to get my pilot's license.

**Q:** Where is someplace you would like to visit?

**A:** I was adopted from India when I was 3 years old. Growing up, I had little interest in ever going back, but after learning some of the history I think it would be a fun place to go with my family.

**Q:** How do you like to spend your free time?

**A:** I have six kids so I'm not really sure what the definition of free time is. Hanging out with my family is number one, but if I had the opportunity to fly every weekend, you'd probably find me in the sky.

**Q:** What would have to happen in the next three years to make you feel like you are moving forward?

**A:** To continue growing with the Arrow Timber Family and helping the company in any way that I can. I'll also be watching my oldest graduate from high school and my youngest go into kindergarten.

# Our Philosophy



**People want things which reflect their personality.**  
**People want an enjoyable process with a mutual exchange.**  
**People want teamwork, transparency, and creative solutions.**

I experience this over and over in the course of a year, not only when clients view albums or 3-D models in my office, but especially so immediately after the completion of their timber structure. Appreciative head nods and slow smiles have almost become a trademark!

I fell in love with the timber framing craft in 2002 and I still feel just as privileged and enthused. Many, many, personalized structures have been created since then. In fact, my passion, artistry, and repertoire of creative solutions have all grown dramatically... I sometimes wonder if it is simply something to do with rising to challenges and building upon success.

You probably agree that exposed beams provide geometric beauty and resonate deep within our psyche... The style brings to mind durability, longevity, safety, laughter, smiles, and home to many warm feelings.

## **The question: What is the best way for you to acquire your personalized timber living?**

Not too much, not too little. Not too high, not too low. Just the right mix of timber presence and style... How to find that sweet spot which you can enjoy for years and pass on to your heirs. It's really about enriching the lives of those around you and sharing your unique personality and viewpoints with them.

## **The answer: Arrow Timber's guaranteed pain-free timber living acquisition process**

I think the culture of mass-produced, one-size-fits-all merchandise is a happiness drain for far too many people. It is better to have a targeted life with purpose, than acquiring a lot of mediocre things for the sake of having them. Too much waste, clutter and frustration, I say. It is much better to emphasize and display your values with purposeful choices. And if you can acquire those choices and avoid the taint of painful experiences, consider yourself a winner! Which is why I guarantee not only the personalized artistry we create, but also the process by which it is created!

Seek out and choose, therefore, things that will evoke head nods and slow smiles. Things which resonate with your personality. Things that do not grow old or boring with the passage of time. You will not regret it.

To your goals, momentum, and happiness,

Bert Sarkkinen, Owner

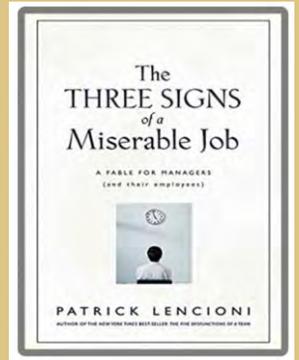


## Recommended Reading

from the Arrow Team

### The Three Signs of a Miserable Job by Patrick Lencioni

Patrick tells a story which shows the reader the three things we all need every day to have a meaningful job. You will see pragmatic, common-sense ways to address happiness gaps



in your life. These can be applied to more than just the roles of employees and employers - think parents, students, retirees, etc. **Grade A**

### A Pattern Language by Chris Alexander



You've probably heard of it. An encyclopedia of the human relationship to space and community, it's an unequalled masterpiece. It's also a delight to browse through.

With chapters like "Children's Realm," "Sequence of Sitting Spaces," and "Connection to the Hearth," it's more full of heart than any architectural book I've ever read. **Grade: A**

