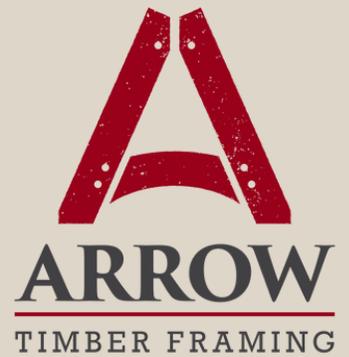


INSPIRATION REPORT

WINTER 2022
ISSUE 31



A BRIEF HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF **MODERN** **TIMBER** **FRAMING**

HOW ENTERTAIN A
THREE YEAR OLD
CHILD.
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OCCASIONALLY
NATURE CONSPIRES
TO BRING OUR
WORLD TO A
SCREECHING HALT!
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HOW TO MAKE BEING
WRONG FEEL GOOD!
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RECOMMENDED READING

Complex helical curves
without math!?!

Also: How to put win-win
thinking on steroids!
PG 9

"OH, HONEY YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE!"
special valentine's day offer

PG 8



A BRIEF HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF MODERN TIMBER FRAMING

by bert sarkkinen

A broad, simplified definition of hybrid timber framing might be: “Using old exposed beam construction with today’s building methods.” I suppose this loose description serves as a cold, dry Webster’s style of definition. A more meaningful description of hybrid timber framing can be taken directly from the mouths of timber frame enthusiasts: **“Say what you want, but the timbers make our home.”** Or warm and inviting... Or, **“With hybrid, we could capture our unique style and control the investment.”**

back in time...

Let’s talk briefly about the basics of timber framing and its evolution from the past. Many thousands of years ago, when people needed shelter and a place to live, wood was usually the building material of choice—although timber frame styles were affected by wood scarcity in the Middle Ages due to the over-harvesting of trees. But in general, wood has been a renewable resource and readily available throughout the ages. Another thing builders of old liked about wood was its relative lightness. It is also effortless to work with, as opposed to stone or steel. Wood is a cinch to shape, carve, and mold. Wood also has high insulation value, great load-bearing capacity, and helps with acoustics. Compared to a carpet, wood is loud, but compared to a concrete vault, wood is as quiet as a church mouse!

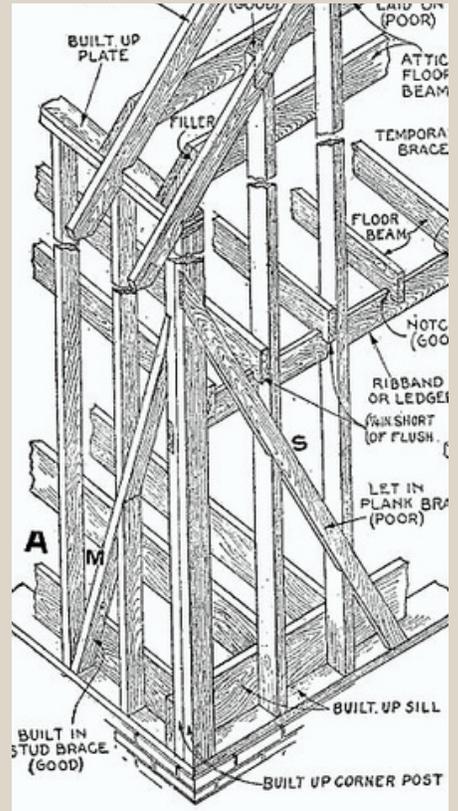


Answer on next page.

Trivia Question! When builders of old could get their hands on nails, where do you suppose they used them?

Despite wood's inherent weaknesses, such as vulnerability to rot and fire, it was still the building material of choice for most early builders. When you consider all trade-offs, from convenience to speed to longevity and investment cost, wood was an easy choice. Until the Industrial Revolution, metal fasteners and nails were expensive and

hard to come by. As building know-how moved from crude tepee/lean-to type structures to joined wood structures, crafty builders devised wooden pegs to hold these structures together. They came up with many timber joining variations using wooden pegs to build better structures. These commonplace joints, such as the mortise and tenon, are now celebrated by builders and owners alike with the revival of timber framing. Early settlers to America brought the timber frame styles and methodologies of their home country with them. History experts within the timber frame industry can identify the historical origin of a frame by its unique joinery, layout, markings, and architecture.



the decline of timber framing

Trivia time!

What three things during the Industrial Revolution caused the decline in timber framing as the building method of choice? Three of the options below allowed for fast expansion of the Wild West.

- a. Electricity
- b. 2x4's
- c. Railroads
- d. Telegraph
- e. Nails

Nails, 2X4's, and railroads were the perfect building trifecta to change the building industry dramatically.



the birth of hybrid timber framing



The mass production of wire nails and steam-powered sawmills made stick framing a fast, affordable building method. Nor did this building method require highly skilled labor. And the railroad provided abundant economical transport. So, faced with all these economic disadvantages, **timber framing became a lost art.**



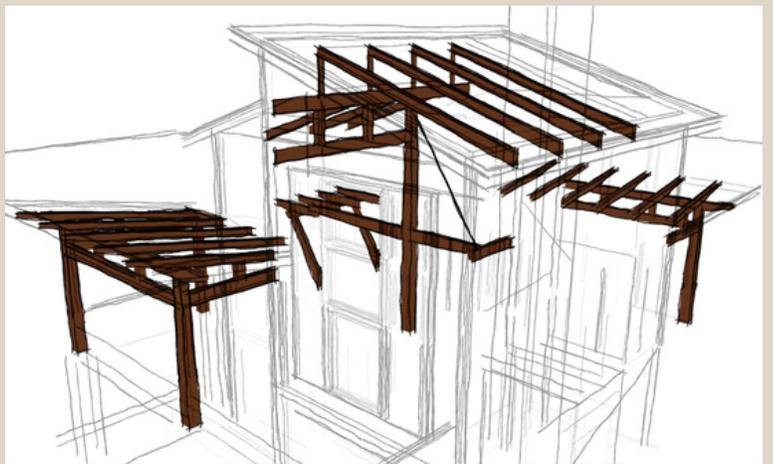
Thanks to early practitioners such as Jack Sobon and Ted Benson, timber framing experienced a revival beginning in the 1970s. As you might expect, well-to-do clientele funded this passionate resurgence. Great detail went into replicating old joinery; these early adopters tended to be purists. As the timber frame revival gathered steam, **economics and practicality entered the conversation** builders and clients were having. It did not take long for the majority of timber frame projects to implement some form of hybrid timber framing. Some purists might view this as sacrilegious and use derisive terms such as “timber framing” or refer to metal connectors as training wheels. (Timber Framing refers to the use of non-structural timbers used to capture a specific look. A heavy piece of trim, if you will.) Despite its detractors, economics and logistics can make this a practical choice in many situations.

I myself had trouble with “timber framing” in my early days of post and beam construction. But when I thought about how pragmatic the builders of old were, I realized that my desire to be a purist was founded on a slippery ideological slope. The purist mindset simply could not withstand the logic and benefits hybrid timber framing brings to the table. I like to think that the pragmatic timber

framers of old smile from their graves in agreement. I also believe builders of today are every bit as ingenious and crafty as builders of old. **What we see being built around us today doesn't evoke the same sense of awe** as the old structures built with old tools and primitive building methods do; in part, this is because building improvements are commonplace and all around us. Another reason it is hard to value today's craftsmen is the human tendency to allow frustrating things we experience with the building industry to overshadow the good. From time to time, ever since I was young, I have heard carping about how *“They don't build like they used to.”* I find this an irritating knock-off of the exasperated statement consistent with older generations throughout the ages: *“Kids these days! Harumph!”*



Answer: The front door! Back in the day, nails were a sign of wealth. So the front door was an obvious choice to make a profound first impression.



Today, some professionals are hack artists and simply don't care—just as there were in the old days, but we have a choice to focus on what is good. All around us, owners, architects, and builders are figuring out more effective and creative ways to build better and smarter to get what they want. Trade magazines, blogs, and other building news resources of every stripe are a testament to the drive and ingenuity of people in today's building industry. The Timber Framers Guild has been extraordinarily prolific in documenting and sharing information to help the Timber Framing craft. I feel a sense of thankfulness to the timber framers of bygone years, to the

timber framers of today, and to clients who are attracted to timber framing. This loose, informal community of timber frame enthusiasts has given us what we know today as Hybrid Timber Framing. This community also gives us motivation, helps us find enjoyment in our daily work, and furthers our sense of purpose. If you have just stumbled across Timber Framing, I invite you to join this loose, informal community. You have a whole new world of discovery in front of you!

On behalf of the ATF team,

Bert Sarkkinen



**Rustic
and
Refined**



WHAT?!

FOR SALE

"I admit it. I was wrong about painting the corbels white..."

THERE! I said it. **ARE YOU HAPPY NOW!?** I suppose your last mistake was back in 2007!?! All kidding aside, I've come to perk up my ears when accused of being wrong. It represents an opportunity to learn. **AND,** I know I will have to admit being wrong again and again in the future for both trivial and not so trivial reasons. So I might as well embrace it and try to minimize the pain.

But isn't it striking how the memory of being wrong jumps out at me when I reflect on this project? During the design or building, there was a debate about whether to paint or stain the exterior corbels. When asked for my opinion, I expressed concern about looking tawdry and wasting the beauty of the timbers. But the owner Sarah and the interior designer, Kara, decided to go with white paint. And it achieved their desired defect. Of course, it would have also looked good if the corbels had been stained, but the look would have slanted more rustic. And perhaps even been a bit awkward if forced on the refined rustic balance choices Sarah and Kara we're making.

The shape and presence of corbels are inherently more rustic. Here, the arches and paint added refining touches. This allowed the stained timbers at the entry and garage to really shine with just the right amount of "POP." In the interior, their choices continue to strengthen this refined/rustic balance. The timber sizing and locations. The arches and detailing. The green walls and brown timber stain were harmonized. Balance was struck with the high great room ceiling by neither painting nor staining the wood ceiling. A light grey whitewash was used. This mix allowed for a refined look while still retaining the warmth of the wood. In the end, this sizable home still felt like a cozy craftsman bungalow. It is very warm and inviting. And speaking of inviting, I would like to invite you to consider purchasing this home- if you are in the market for a new home, that is. Peter and Sarah have enjoyed but many years in their timber frame home. But as you know, life always moves on. Nothing stays the same. Question: Will the next chapter in your life play well with this timber frame beauty? I realize one can't give an immediate, resounding YES to that question. There are a lot of factors to consider. To get a handle on relevant factors, please call **Springbrook Properties at 360-772-1993.**





GETTING TO KNOW BYRON TAPPLY

Byron Tapply... what a TOOL! No, I don't mean that in the derogatory way that I have facetiously implied. I have found it useful to view myself and others as tools. Yes, tools. Adopting this viewpoint makes me focus on optimizing the inherent strengths that I and others have, rather than trying to learn, teach, train, and force big change. For kicks and giggles, let's say Byron is a belt sander. This is fitting because Byron is very conscientious, detail-oriented, methodical in thinking and action, as well as being quite pleased to patiently apply finishing touches. Asking Byron to become say a sledgehammer, generating driving productive force to bring things together, while possible, would be an uphill battle. So comparing Byron to a belt sander is a fitting metaphor... Although sanders are ABRASIVE and Byron is anything but an abrasive person! He seems to have a perpetual smile and is always eager to help! Let's just say Byron is a belt sander with fine-grit sand paper? ;) Thanks for your help Byron!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAST?

I grew up in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, for 18 years. I moved five times in the same town growing up. Early in my life, my mother passed away, leaving my father to raise three sons with the help of our extended family. My father is the hardest working man I know, and I thank him for raising me and my brothers with such love and compassion. The first time I visited Washington was in the summer of 2020 to stand in my cousin's wedding. I was hooked after being here a little over a week and seeing the church community.

WHERE IS A PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT?

I have always wanted to see the country of Finland. This is because I am Finnish in origin and have always been interested in the culture. Also, many people from my church live in or are from Finland, so it would be a fun trip to get friends and family together to visit.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?

I like to spend a lot of my free time in the gym working out, rock climbing, or doing jujitsu. If I'm not doing those three big items, you might find me hiking, swimming, or fishing.

WHAT WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS TO MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE MOVING FORWARD?

I enjoy making things; whether it be blacksmithing or carpentry, I have always loved working with my hands. I spend a lot of time with friends and family, reading and studying God's word.

MEMORY LANE

I remember the world coming to a screeching halt in my early years of being married. We had a period of heavy snow. And as you know, snow generally brings things to a temporary stop in the Northwest, as snow generally melts in a few days. (It just doesn't make sense to get geared up to fight a few days of snowy weather.) But not this time. The weather conspired to give everyone a forced extended vacation.

Snow and freezing rain followed by long periods of cold temperatures, left the roads under thick sheets of slippery ice. After about two weeks, we were "saved" by a torrential downpour of warm rain which did a great job making the snow quickly disappear... into swollen rivers which caused massive flooding! For a short period of time, small talk was both easy and interesting!



ATTENTION GUYS!

A Special Day is Just Around the Corner...

When was the last time you heard squeals of delight from your better half?

Wouldn't you give an eyetooth to hit a guaranteed home run with her?

What is it that makes your sweetheart tick anyway?

You have a daunting task in front of you! What are you going to do? You are expected to be original, to get something she likes and **without asking her** of course. You've been together long enough that it is a given. And you are expected to surprise her and show your sensitivity with how you prepare a bundle and present your gift to her. (Guys, I know this seems unfair, but it seems to be an immutable reality for the foreseeable future... Sure we could whine about cultural conditioning, but smart money says to simply man up!)

But regardless of how we got here, roses, chocolate, and jewelry are predictable and are only enjoyed for a short time or fade into oblivion with the passage of time. Sure, these kinds of gifts will keep you out of the dog house, and I realize they are necessary, as every year cannot be an over-the-top surprise. **But, maybe this Valentine's Day is right for a memorable gift?** Can you imagine a gift that will put you on easy street for many years to come? Can you imagine her telling her friends "Oh yes, (your name) had this timber entry remodel done for me in 2022 for a special Valentine's Day gift? (What she really means: "See how much he loves me!") If you and your Honey Bunches have even a mild interest in the Post and Beam look-hearken! Perk up thine ears to this offer!

The good news is that you will not be required to pony up big wads of cash to explore the possibility of Timber Framing as a Valentine's Day gift. Between now and Valentine's Day 2022 we will collect the names of the people who respond to this offer. **The 1st place winner** will get the hardcover 2nd edition book, The Art of Hybrid Timber Framing, The Planning Guide Companion Workbook, and all the creative labor it takes our design team to test multiple ideas and build a 3-D model of your project! **The 2nd place winner** will receive the books, a romantic dinner, and a night's stay at Timberline Lodge!

GET YOUR NAME THROWN IN THE HAT!

CALL: (833) 212-0202

OR

EMAIL: MATT@ARROWTIMBER.COM

All other respondents get a choice of their runner-up prize. 1) A signed hardcover book for only \$20. (Normally \$47.) You can make it a couples date and come by our facility to pick up your book. You might get a tour as well! 2) Or, if time and/or distance cause a hassle, just add \$7 for shipping. (Total \$27)

1st Place



2nd Place





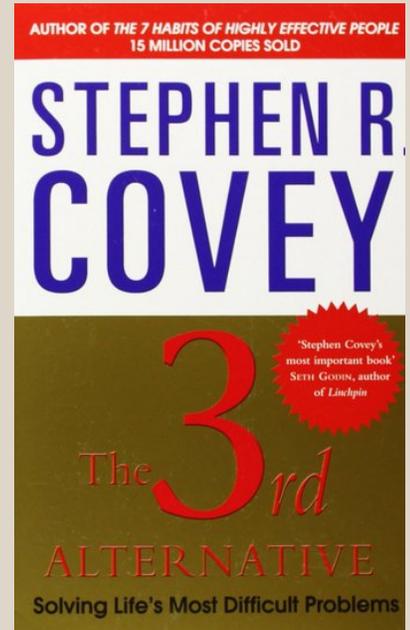
WHAT TO WATCH AND READ



"THE 3RD ALTERNATIVE"

by Stephen Covey

Please excuse me while I touch on forbidden topics. Stephen Covey's last book, *The 3rd alternative*, is a must-read to preserve your sanity in a world that is crazy and seems to be getting crazier- from world events, politics, work stress, and even to the selfish black-and-white thinking which invades our perceptions. Stephen's voice of peaceful reasoning will ask you first to listen and understand. (Do you ever get tired of people trotting out LISTENING as THE solution? Me too, but listening is a skill that gets dull really, really fast!) Second, state your "opponent's" side of the issue to their satisfaction. And third, expect to find a solution neither you nor your "opponent" has ever thought about. In short, it is about listening, communicating (in a civil manner), and getting creative solutions. Adopting even a portion of this approach will help you avoid the black-and-white, "kill the enemy at all costs" fearful mindset permeating our world today. But it comes at a cost... you will have to shed your comfortable, secure identity as the righteous hero, get curious and embrace (ugh!) uncertainty... **Warning: Not for the thin-skinned or faint of heart!**



"STEREOTOMY"

by Patrick Moore



[Ster-ee-ot-uh-me] The technique of cutting solids such as stone and wood using geometry to calculate angles, dimensions, and shapes. Builders of old used simple common sense to solve complex building calculations. As a carpenter and timber framer who has predominantly used trigonometry to calculate needed construction angles and lengths, these two videos brought a smile to my face- even though I have known about, and even used some of these stereotomy techniques in the past. Patrick knows his information cold and delivers it in a pleasing down-to-earth manner. It truly is a refreshing blast from the past! Patrick has inspired me to learn more... so now I'm a solution looking for a problem! Does anyone out there need any curved, three-dimensional timbers crafted for their project? ;)

HAPPINESS IS...

I remember regaling my youngest daughter again and again, (at her request) with a real-life story that had happened on a timber frame install. The story involved a dog who teased and tormented a free-range chicken. One morning, after the chicken made multiple attempts to escape with lots of squawking, one of my workers intervened, picked the hen up, and placed it safely inside a stack of tires located by the garage so the dog could no longer get at it.

Adding sound effects and drama, I had my three year old daughter's rapt attention. "Again!" She would say every time the story closed with the safe, satisfying ending. The suspense and righteous relief she expressed while listening never diminished even after hearing it over 50 times!! (No exaggeration.) But I suppose I shouldn't have been so surprised. Here I am at age 50, and I have not yet tired of hearing about the triumph over perils and hardships- even hearing the same old storylines, over and over again. Hmmm.... I haven't really evolved very far, have I?

... A SAFE ENDING

THE ARROW TIMBER 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. **How do you intend to achieve this? How will you determine a good fit with service providers?**

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

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