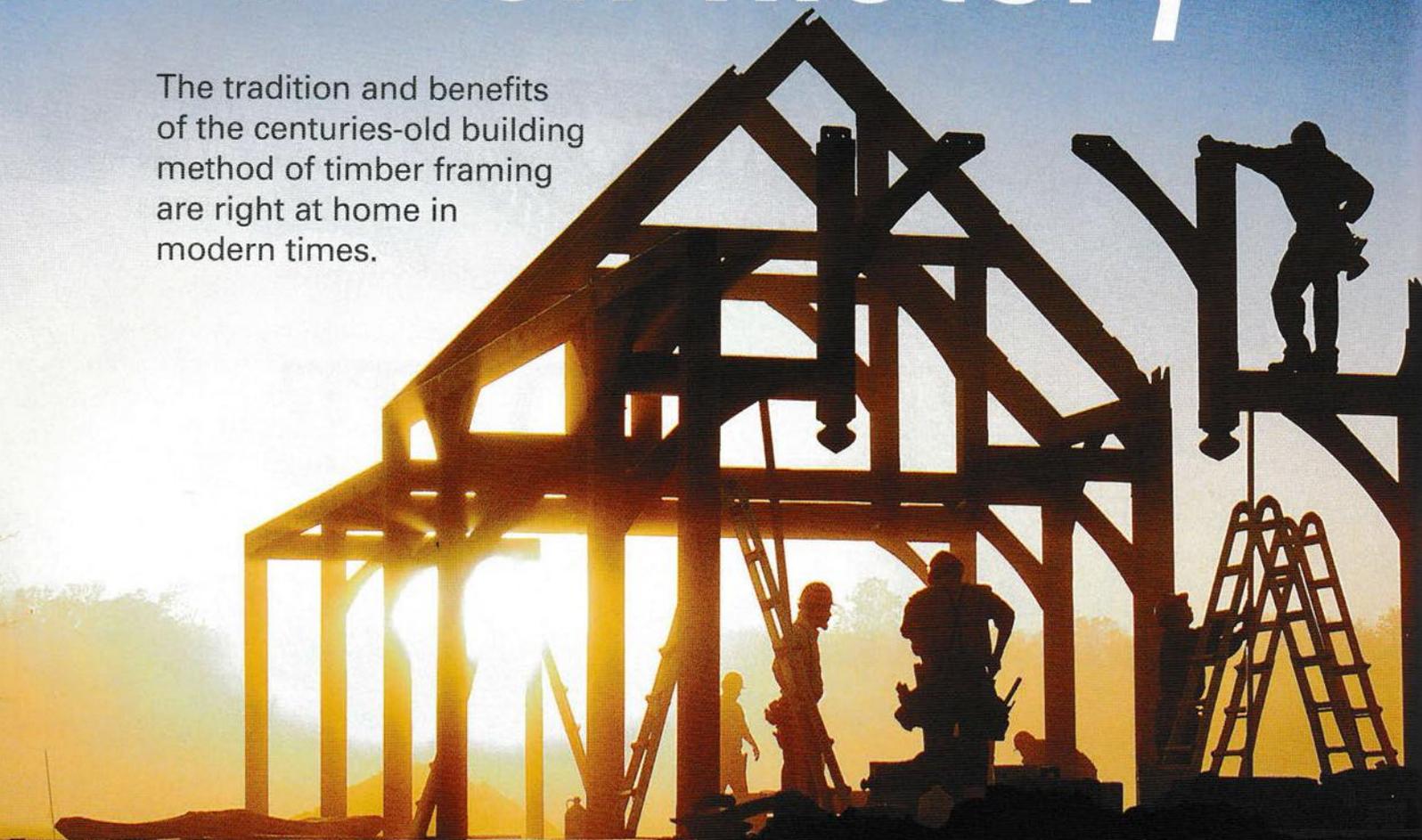


a rich history

The tradition and benefits of the centuries-old building method of timber framing are right at home in modern times.



Warmth and wonder. It's seldom these two words are used together to describe a building, but it's the recurring sentiment evoked by a timber frame home. Modern timber frames embody the ideal of craftsmanship and attention to detail, paired with materials hand-selected to suit the structure and reflect the setting. The men and women of timber framing today follow a rich tradition of knowledge earned through years of training, apprenticeship and hands-on experience.

The tradition of timber framing claims roots around the world, from

Asia to Europe, and utilizes techniques dating back to Neolithic times. However, timber framing has historically been most popular in regions where deciduous hardwoods, like oak, thrive.

Timber framing emigrated from the Old World to the New, continuing the traditions and styles of European structures. After 1750, structures built in the United States tended to be more "American" in response to the local climate and agricultural practices.

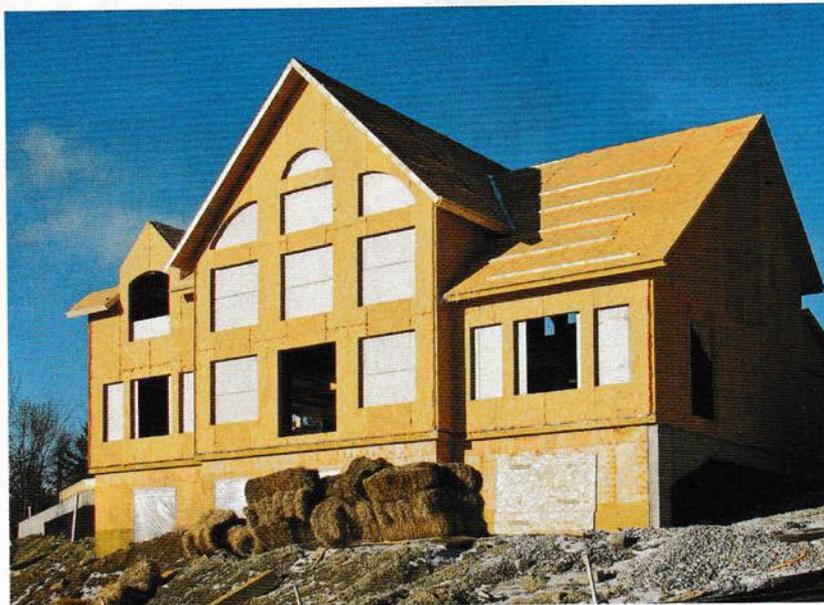
In the mid-1800s, the demand for cheap housing that went up fast pushed the construction industry in a new direction, bringing dimensional lumber to the

Questions to Ask a Timber Producer

- What type of materials package do you offer and what's included in the cost?
- Do you offer in-house design services?
- Do you finish the house to "turnkey" level? If not, can you provide a list of preferred builders?
- Would you provide my builder with technical assistance?
- Once I sign the contract, what's the timetable for fabrication and construction?
- Is there a shipping or delivery charge?
- What wood species do you use?
- Will your homes conform to my local building codes?
- What kind of warranties do you offer?

THE SIPs ADVANTAGE

Structural insulated panels (aka, SIPs) are almost synonymous with timber homes. By far the most common way to enclose a timber frame, SIPs offer a number of advantages. Made of solid-core insulation wrapped in oriented strand board (OSB) the panels offer a nearly uninterrupted thermal envelope that can super-insulate your home. In fact, according to SIP manufacturer Insulspan, basic SIPs can achieve triple the insulating value as fiberglass batts, and enhanced products can add as much as 20 percent more energy efficiency on top of that. The upfront investment for SIPs is higher than batt or even spray-foam insulation, but the long term savings are well worth it.



TIMBER FRAME BUYING OPTIONS

Every timber frame company offers different materials packages (sometimes called "kits") for the homes they sell. Because there's no industry-wide standard, it's important to ask framers you are considering what building materials, other than the timber frame itself, they offer. Some may only supply the timbers; others may provide everything necessary to complete the home. Here's a sample of what timber home companies may offer:

Frame Only: The timber framer will cut and erect the timber frame for you, but provide nothing else.

Frame with Walls & Roof: The framer will erect your frame and install the wall and roof panels.

Weathertight Shell: This package contains the frame, wall and roof panels, windows, doors and all other materials needed to fully enclose the home.

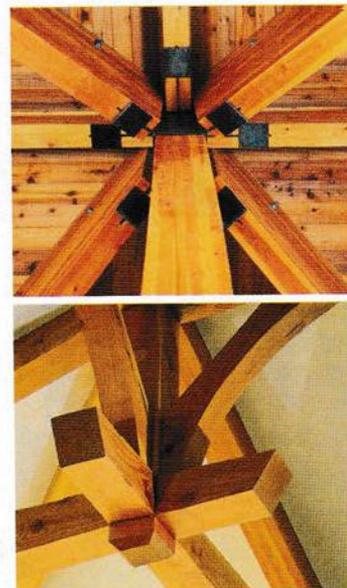
Complete Package: Includes the timber frame, as well as all materials needed to construct the home. It may even include labor to build the house.

Timber Framing vs. Post-and-Beam

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

You'll often hear timber homes referred to as being either timber-framed or post-and-beam. You may think it's the same thing, but actually it's not. The difference has to do with the joinery methods used to attach the timber components together.

A post-and-beam home uses metal fasteners, which can either be hidden or exposed, to fasten the pieces. Timber framing, on the other hand, uses only wood pegs to secure the frame's mortise-and-tenon joinery. No metal fasteners, not even nails, are used at all. Your choice lies in the level of detail, craftsmanship and speed of construction you're looking for.



forefront, where it persists today. However, timber framing in the United States and Canada experienced a revival in the 1970s. People who value strength, beauty and energy efficiency found timber framing well suited to the era's proclivity toward a more "natural" and environmentally conscious way of life.

In 1987, the Timber Framers Guild was founded, with the express purpose of retaining and celebrating the traditional craft of timber framing. Guild members are devoted to the craft and share it with the rest of the world through community building projects that not only serve as

hands-on education for members, but as a lasting public legacy for communities to enjoy.

Today, hundreds of craftspeople are keeping the timber art alive. From small artisans who craft one to two frames per year to major timber home producers, creating scores of homes annually, there's a wide range of options for prospective buyers. In the end, homeowners are the ones who truly benefit from this meticulous preservation of tradition, because they not only get to live in a house they love, they get to live in a true piece of art and history. ■