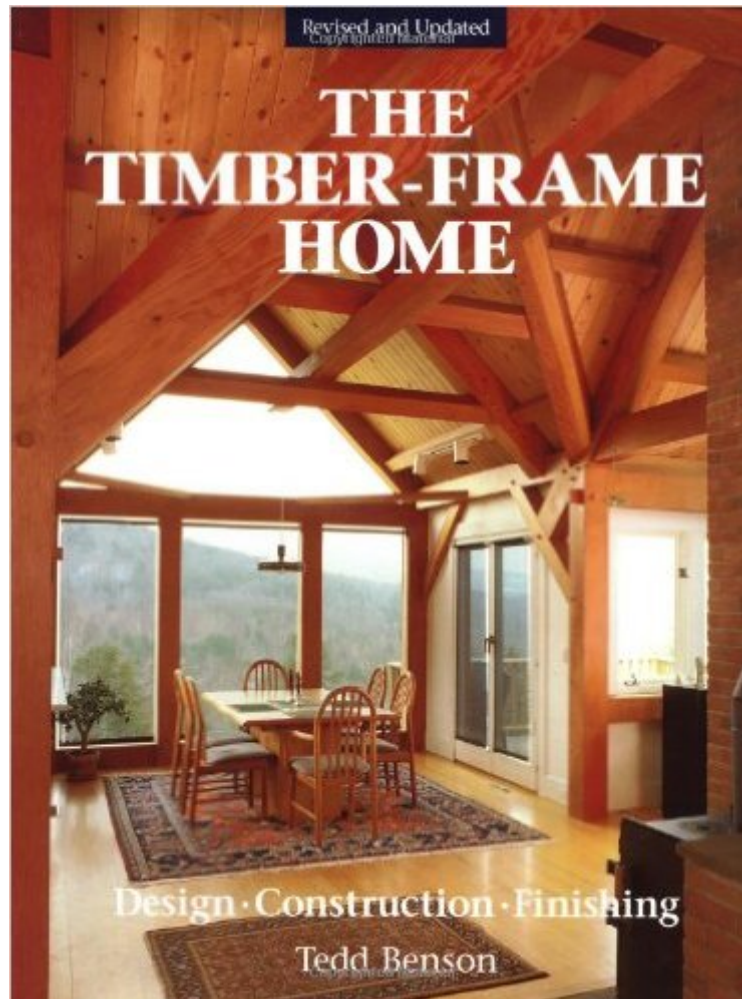


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# The Timber-Frame Home: Design, Construction, Finishing



## Synopsis

Two decades ago, Tedd Benson helped kindle the dramatic rebirth of timber framing in this country. Today Benson and others are combining centuries-old timber-framing techniques with modern building materials to create houses that are as beautiful as they are durable and comfortable. In this book, Benson traces the history of the timber frame and tells how to create a new house in the tradition of old-world craftsmen. Today's timber-frame house presents unique building problems. Where do you put plumbing and wiring if you don't have stud-frame walls? How do you incorporate glass into the framing to create dramatic views? How do you insulate a timber-frame home? How do you ensure that the building meets codes? In this one-of-a-kind book, a master timber framer shares extensive experience solving these problems. This new edition brings the latest advances in timber framing to life with hundreds of full-color photos and rendered drawings -- all the information you need to join the timber-frame revival.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is by far the best of several books I purchased on building timber frame homes. I started with a list of questions about shrinkage, sound proofing, electrical, plumbing, etc. and found clear concise answers to all of them through text, drawings, and photos. I trust experts (like this author) who talk about the mistakes they've made and show me how to avoid them. He presents options and if you decide to pick the lower rated ones, he describes the likely consequences and how to minimize them.

This book is an excellent guide to the craft of timberframing and complete house design and finishing. I have just finished building my own red oak timber framed house in Tedds back yard here in New Hampshire and found many valuable hints and tips throughout this book, especially liked the sections on plumbing and wiring which can be a challenge in a timber frame house. I also agree with another reviewer that the quality of the book is excellent and deserves a place on your coffee table for guests to peruse. To top it all off Tedd is a very honorable and genuine person who espouses the inherent charms of living in a well crafted timber frame house better than any other books or articles I have read on the subject. Every day in my new home is a real delight and I never get tired of viewing the fine joinery throughout the house. Benson Woodworking also has an excellent web site to examine much of the steps in building a timber frame house. Also for those of you who enjoy the photos in this book , Tedd has a brand new book out showing dozens of homes they have built in the past in beautiful photographic form.

Back in 1980 Tedd Benson wrote a book on the same subject. It was more of a "do-it-yourself" book yet I liked it because it was a bit idealistic. In the present case The Timber-Frame Home takes the concept to another level. I liked reading the book for the following reasons: historical perspective and framework, detailed technical discussion of why, how, when and lots of great photo's of the projects being discussed. The historical evolution of the "Timber-Frame Home" gave me a great reference and perspective on the subject discussed by the author. From the discussion in the text it is clear that Mr. Benson has extensive experience in building timber frame homes. Another reason I liked the book was the "philosophical" perspective injected by the author. Mr. Benson takes a "holistic" approach to discussion and building. The synergy and interdependence of the home and the environment are emphasized through the building elements discussed resulting in a total perspective, not a one-dimensional view so often encountered in construction books. Overall my opinion is that this is a well written, well documented, thoroughly researched and pleasant read. I would recommend it to anyone thinking of building a timber-frame home or seeking to learn about this rediscovered building technique. An added benefit is that when your done reading the book you can leave it on the coffee table for others to look over!

Although I had just started my search for Timber Frames when I came across this book, I still am constantly refering to it for insightful information. No other book has, all in one place, all the information a to-be-owner of a timber frame home could want or need. Extremely useful for those

trying to design their own home, this book details the engineering concepts and the art of designing a symbiotic floor plan... all the way through the correct placement and construction techniques of plumbing and wiring with SIPs and other enclosure systems. GREAT photos and illustrations make it an easy book for light reading and a way to get into the lingo of framing. The only thing not covered is how to swing the axe!!!!

Whether you are going to act as general contractor, or hire it all out, this book is a great overview of all of the aspects of building a Timber Frame. While not dwelling in great detail, it has lots of drawings, photos, and descriptions, to acquaint the reader with construction techniques, electrical and plumbing considerations, and room layouts in a typical Timber Frame home. Definitely another fine book from Mr. Benson.

I bought this thinking it would have information for builders but it turned out to be a large and expensive brochure for the author's timber frame company. I kept reading and waiting for information on how to build a frame. I found it vague, full of theory, and sparse on practical information. So, if you would like to hire Mr. Benson to build your frame this book will show you what to expect from him and his company, but skip it if you are inclined to build your own frame and are looking for structural information, span tables for common timber framing species or detailed information on joinery.

This book contains wonderful pictures of homes that are mostly 5,000 sq ft and larger. With one exception it completely ignores fine smaller timberframe homes. I was reminded more of ski lodges than homes by the places featured. But the pictures are nice and if a 5,000 sq ft plus size house is what you're interested in I suppose this book has some interesting ideas.

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