

COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAM

TIMBER FRAMERS GUILD

craft :: community :: communication



WE BUILD COMMUNITY

Until fairly recently in human history, when a building was needed, all hands came together to raise it. Everyone had a part, just as they might all have a share in its use. Buildings, besides their nominal function, are monuments to the embodied energy of human effort and ingenuity.

The Timber Framers Guild partners with not-for-profit and community-based organizations to fabricate and install timber frame structures. Our first collaboration was completed in 1989. Since then, we completed 75 projects in the US, Canada, Suriname, and Poland, including bridges, picnic shelters, market pavilions, school buildings, and museum pieces. Projects may be new construction or historical restoration. The Guild completes an average of four projects annually.

HOW WE WORK

We often start with a conceptional design agreement to arrive at a design sufficient for us to provide a budget for our work, and to provide the community with information for their fundraising work. In the next step, we develop a contract for us to design and engineer the timber frame structure, design the workshop plan, and provide the community with a definitive cost for our services. Finally, we enter into an agreement to collaboratively build and raise the timber structure, an event which provides an education and inspiration to both our professional and our novice members, and to the local community at large.

Guild members and volunteers provide the labor. The community provides lodging for instructors, food for the crew, and electrical power and sanitation at the work-site. The community also provides support equipment such as scaffolds and man lifts per the contract we develop together.

Your community will gain a timber frame structure and an event that will create lifelong memories.

*"Through the magic of the frame raising,
community arises every time"*

-Jeff Arvin, TFG Executive Director

ABOUT THE GUILD

The Timber Framers Guild, founded in 1985, is a non-profit educational membership association dedicated to the craft of timber framing. We serve as a center of timber frame information and design for the professional and the general public. We provide national and regional conferences, a certified apprentice program, technical publications, and community building projects.



"The timber framers help perpetuate much more than just old-time architecture. They also build and strengthen community spirit wherever they go."

—Jane Harris, President, Effinger (Virginia) Parent-Teacher Association

Who Participates?

Guild members are teachers at heart. Our instructors are ready and able to work with anyone capable of holding the tools. No experience is necessary. Newcomers will be working alongside seasoned professionals, and both will learn from the other.

Good Questions...

How long does it take to fabricate and raise a timber frame?

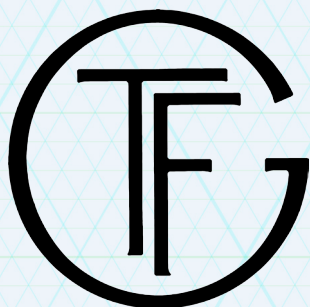
Most of our Community Building Projects are 5-15 days. Duration of the event varies largely with size and complexity of the design. It is also affected by the type of timber employed, and the specific techniques of working the timber.

How much does a project typically cost?

We cannot say without knowing the particulars of the building. The building site and location can have a significant impact on the cost as well. And the same factors that affect the duration of the workshop also affect the cost. With that said, most of our contracts for our scope of work which include preliminary design, final design and engineering and the workshop to fabricate and raise the timber frame range between \$40,000 and \$150,000. Add-ons such as supplying the timber or other materials will add to our cost. Of course, the cost of the completed building could be significantly higher.

What makes timber framing special?

Timber framing is a sustainable, centuries-old building technique that combines a well-developed wood structure-building craft. Modern timber frame buildings are energy efficient, structurally sound, and implemented in a beautiful tradition that is rich in architectural heritage. Both stunning and durable, they make excellent structures, including homes, commercial buildings, barns, pavilions, and bridges.



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