



Build a Classic Timber-Framed House: Planning & Design/Traditional Materials/Affordable Methods

By Jack A. Sobon

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Build a classic, enduring, and affordable home. With Jack A. Sobon's careful guidance, you can construct your own timber-framed house in the traditional hall-and-parlor style. From felling trees to cutting timbers, and frame construction to door selection, you'll find Sobon's professional advice and hand-drawn illustrations invaluable. Whether you're a first-time builder or a seasoned contractor looking to expand your repertoire, you'll find answers to all your timber-frame questions. Open the front door and walk into the home of your dreams.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Sobon outlines a unique craft that is part conventional furniture building, part home construction. In timber frame construction, there's a minimum of metal fasteners (nails, nuts, bolts, etc.), and wood is joined by many of the basic joints (for example, the mortise and tenon, the dovetail) traditionally used in making furniture. Knowing that one's home is put together by a variety of pins, slots, and notches may not be reassuring to most, but be assured that timber framing is an old technique that produces very solid structures. It does, however, require quite a lot of timber, since main beams, for instance, can be as much as eight-inches square; the various cuts must be made to rather close tolerances; and the way the timbers are harvested and sawn will have great effect on how they (and the building) respond when exposed to moisture and cold. Although the book's sample project and copious illustrations do enlighten the initiate, it's possible to come away feeling that a month-long class on the subject might provide a better education. Still, this is an excellent how-to. *Jon Kartman*

From the Back Cover

The timber-framed home is attractive, affordable, and easily expanded to meet the needs of a growing family. With the step-by-step instructions in this book you can build your own classic timber-framed house -- one that's enduring, and features a level of craftsmanship rare in modern construction. Following the traditional "hall-and-parlor" home design, architect and builder Jack Sobon carefully and clearly explains

- finding the ideal building site
- creating the master plan
- selecting the best tree species
- hewing and milling timbers
- assembling the frame
- installing wall sheathing, windows, and doors
- designing and finishing the interior
- expanding on the plan

One of the best-known and most distinctive figures in the timber-framing revival, Jack Sobon knows how to make home building affordable with economical hand tools, by taking control of the processing of building materials, and through using local inexpensive supplies.

The basic house design of this book is easily adapted to meet different needs. Sobon's practical advice incorporates the latest knowledge on building a healthy house, integrating natural systems, and finding effective home heating solutions.

About the Author

Jack A. Sobon is a self-employed architect and builder of timber-framed structures. He holds a bachelor of architecture degree from the Rhode Island School of design and has worked on barn moving and restoration. Together with Roger Schroeder, Sobon co-wrote *Build a Classic Timber-Framed House*, which is now in its twelfth printing, with nearly 50,000 copies in print.

Users Review

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