

INTRODUCTION



Master's Guide to Timber Framing and its companion book, Master's Guide to Log Building, share a common method of layout based on the centerline as reference. The virtual layout of the perfect timber hidden within a log is the same method used to produce the exacting joinery required to build our project timber Hammer Bents truss. For over 2000 years all log and timber joinery was referenced from a centerline. Yet until now, timber framing books in the West have primarily focused on layout referenced from an exterior face. Today's exterior face layout methods of mapping and square rule were conceived only 200 years ago during a period when straight exterior clapboard siding was the objective. But face layout doesn't work for log construction, and this necessitates alternating between face (timber) and center (log) referencing. Today's housing designs often include both log and timber structure, joining the two presents layout discrepancies unless both are referenced from a centerline. There are many reasons explored in this book as to why the centerline should be the preferred method for referencing layout.

The Master's Guide to Timber Framing is comprised of two sub-books covering the two forms of traditional timber framing, exemplified by the residential projects Post & Beam and Hammer Bents. Each form involves a real building Project that is broken down into construction chapters. The Plan shows parts, terminology and project views; Joinery Design shows what the joinery looks like and why and where it is used; Shop Drawings show the shape and dimensions of each component piece of the frame including labeling and an itemized spreadsheet; Timber Joinery shows how to layout and cut the joints, including guides, templates, jigs and assembly of the framework; Roof and Wall chapters show how to construct frame/panel roof and wall infill/envelope systems; Appendix section gives tools, wood, structural beam sizing and engineering structural concepts information; and the Table of Contents and Glossary show where to find it all. This book is designed to progress in skills development from simple to the complex. Step-by-step procedures and hundreds of drawings show and explain how it's done, and a color section gives reality to the graphics.

These Master's Guide books have been thirty years in the making, the past fifteen in direct application (and refinement) at the Island School of Building Arts in western Canada. The projects were/are constructed by unskilled, international students using this Master's Guide as their shop manual. The layout and joinery methods explained here are generic and applicable to any design or size structure. The centerline layout shown is simple and allows for extreme accuracy on irregular wood, even logs.