



BC Log Builders & Timber Framers NEWSLETTER



Photos courtesy of Brian Lloyd

Capturing Quality with Professional Photography

Catherine Hansen | bcltbia@gmail.com

Whether you are updating your website, preparing a media package for prospective buyers, marketing your services on social media, or documenting completed projects, professional photography is one of the most valuable investments you can make. In today's visually driven marketplace, first impressions often determine whether a potential client takes the next step, and few tools communicate quality more effectively than exceptional photography.

Recently, lifetime member Brian Lloyd generously shared an extensive collection of photographs captured throughout his years in the field. His work not only showcases remarkable craftsmanship but also demonstrates the skill and artistry required to capture

the perfect image. His photographs serve as a reminder that great craftsmanship deserves to be presented with the same level of excellence with which it was built.

A Bridge Between Craftsmanship and Clients

High-quality photography serves as the bridge between handcrafted work and prospective clients. Custom log and timber frame projects represent significant investments, and professional images help establish credibility, communicate value, and showcase expertise long before a client makes initial contact.

Well-composed photographs immediately convey professionalism and attention to detail. Clear, properly lit images reflect the quality and care invested in every

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BCLTBIA Newsletter

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SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS

Our seasoned Log Builders and Timber Framers all share one thing in common: a true passion and dedication to their craft. They have recognized the benefits of integrating traditional methods with computer-cutting technology and continue to embrace new technologies moving forward.

BCLTBIA Newsletter

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Contributions and advertising DEADLINE
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Ministry of Forests (VASGI) Branch – Wood Manufacturing Survey Link

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On behalf of the Value-Added Regional Specialists from the Ministry of Forests’ Value-Added Sector Growth and Innovation (VASGI) Branch, thank you to the BC Log and Timber Builder’s Association for having us attend and present at your 2026 Conference. This was a great chance to connect with your association and membership - what a fun and interesting bunch of folks you all are. If you didn’t have a chance to fill out the Wood Manufacturer’s Survey at the conference, here is a link to fill it out: **Wood Manufacturers Survey 2025** <https://submit.digital.gov.bc.ca/app/form/submit?f=a7bb40f8-d78f-4e0e-9f89-5b8999c14f22>. The more information we have about the sector, the better we can support you and your business. VASGI is the coordination hub and point of contact for value-added manufacturers within the Ministry of Forests. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions on fibre, funding, connection and supports!

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stage of construction, while poor-quality photographs can unintentionally diminish the perceived value of even the most impressive projects.

Professional photography also captures the natural beauty that defines handcrafted log and timber frame construction. From the richness of wood grain and the texture of hand-worked surfaces to the precision of custom joinery and architectural details, high-quality images reveal craftsmanship that standard snapshots often fail to capture.

A Powerful Marketing and Business Asset

Beyond showcasing craftsmanship, professional photography is one of the most effective marketing tools available to builders, designers, and artisans. Visual platforms such as Instagram, Pinterest, and Houzz rely heavily on compelling imagery, making strong photography essential for attracting attention, increasing engagement, and expanding market reach.

Exceptional images do more than generate interest—they help clients envision themselves within the space. Buyers are not simply purchasing a building; they are investing in a lifestyle, a vision, and a dream. Warm, inviting photographs create an emotional connection that helps transform curiosity into genuine interest.

As projects are completed, photographs become lasting business assets. They form the foundation of professional portfolios, websites, brochures, award submissions, advertising campaigns, and future marketing initiatives. Long after a project has been occupied, the images continue to tell its story.

Showcasing Craftsmanship and Architectural Design

High-definition images reveal the precision and artistry of custom joinery techniques such as dovetail corners, mortise-and-tenon connections, lateral scribing, and precision-fitted timber framing.

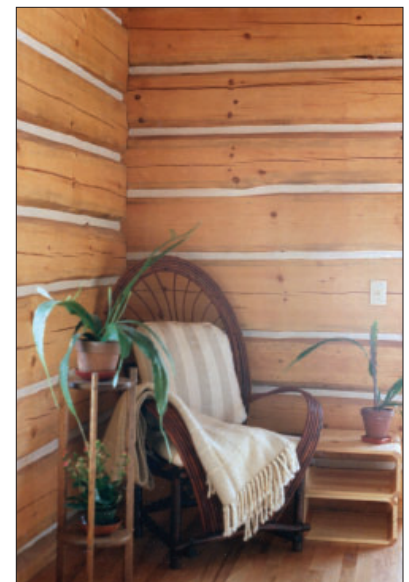
Photography also highlights the architectural features that make each project unique.

Preserving the Story Behind the Structure

Professional photography serves an important role beyond marketing by documenting the construction process itself. Many handcrafted log and timber frame structures are assembled in a building yard before being dismantled and reconstructed on the client's property. As a result, some of the most impressive aspects of the craftsmanship eventually become hidden from view. Photographs provide a permanent record of these critical construction details, including structural joinery, through-bolts, fastening systems, custom electrical chases, and settling mechanisms. This documentation reinforces quality assurance, validates the complexity of the work, and preserves an important historical record of the project.

Capturing a Legacy of Excellence

The handcrafted log and timber frame industry is built upon tradition, skill, and artistry. Professional photography helps preserve that legacy by documenting not only the finished structure but also the craftsmanship, creativity, and dedication behind it.



Post-Insurance Webinar Touch Point

Laurenne Willis | service@cdwbenefits.net

We want to thank all of the members who made the time to attend our recent webinar on “Top Mistakes Business Owners Make When It Come To Insurance” with our partners at WealthLINK. We hope the attendees gained some valuable information and insight into how different types of insurance can protect their livelihoods and families, and/or to help to grow their money tax-free. If anyone would like a free review of their current insurance to ensure they are adequately protected as a business owner, or to look into insurance for the first time, we would be happy to provide this service.

As well, if you would like to look into group benefits for your staff we offer a free market survey. In this process, we discuss with you why you want to put in a group benefit plan and what is important to you, gather quotes from our preferred insurance providers that we believe best fit your company’s demographic, and present you with the best options.

If you ever have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office!

Survey – WorkSafe BC

Kathy Tull | Kathy.Tull@worksafebc.com

WorkSafeBC would like your feedback on the **Rigging and Hoisting Competency Framework**.

We are sharing this framework with you for one specific reason: to identify any safety critical gaps. Please review it and let us know if you see any competency missed that could affect workers’ safety. At this stage, we are not looking for comments on individual competencies or detailed wording suggestions.

The survey will remain open until June 30, 2026, and should take about 10–15 minutes to complete. Please be aware that you cannot save your responses and return later, you will need to complete it all at once.

Complete the Survey Here

https://worksafebc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ekrmlVAoheTtoBU

For any questions or concerns about this survey, contact us at Certification Services at certification@worksafebc.com.



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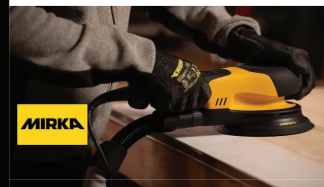
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The Most Important Build

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In the fall of 2023, I had a very small class—just two students. One of them was Pete, a war veteran from Wales who had lost part of his leg during his military service. I didn't know that until he arrived for the course.

Before coming to the school, Pete had spent several weeks travelling around British Columbia. He had been canoeing, hiking, and exploring the province. By the time he showed up ready for class, his fiberglass prosthetic leg was in rough shape. The fiberglass had completely delaminated, and he was literally holding it together with hose clamps.

To make matters worse, the steel-toed boots required for the course had thicker soles than his regular footwear. As a result, his prosthetic leg was effectively too short, causing him to limp and walk unevenly. He mentioned that his back was starting to ache from being out of alignment.

Our first solution was simple. We zip-tied a piece of cedar board to the bottom of his prosthetic leg to make up the height difference. It wasn't elegant, but it worked, and it made him much more comfortable while working.

I also took Pete's prosthetic leg to a friend who owns a bicycle shop to see if we could repair the damaged fiberglass. He tried re-fiberglassing the delaminated sections, but unfortunately the repair didn't hold. So we went back to the tried-and-true solution: more hose clamps.

That's when Nathan, one of the crew members from Peter Arnold Log Homes Ltd.—the company I work with and rent space from—came up with a crazy idea. He suggested that he could build Pete an entirely new leg.

Naturally, everyone laughed.

The next day, however, Nathan showed up with a prototype. He had taken an old chainsaw bar from a processor, bent it into shape, and welded a bicycle saddle receiver to the top to connect to Pete's existing prosthetic attachment. It looked absolutely wild, and we were all stunned.

Even more impressive was that Nathan didn't yet have the exact measurements he needed. Nevertheless, he went back to work and returned

the following day with a finished version that perfectly matched the dimensions of Pete's original leg.

To complete the design, Nathan used an old bicycle tire to create a durable "shoe" that fit over the chainsaw bar, giving Pete traction while walking through the log yard. The new leg fit perfectly into the receiver on Pete's prosthetic. The height was exactly right, and everything worked as intended.

The only noticeable difference was the weight, which Pete said took a little getting used to. Other than that, it performed remarkably well.

Needless to say, Pete was able to finish the course.

The whole experience was a perfect example of the saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way." What started as a serious problem turned into an incredible display of ingenuity, determination, and teamwork. Nathan truly saved the day.

What made the story even more meaningful was that Nathan's father was also a war veteran and had lost the same leg as Pete. Perhaps that personal connection helped him understand the challenge in a way the rest of us couldn't.

Whatever the reason, when Pete needed help, Nathan stepped up—and together we found a way to keep him going. There are moments in life that test you, and then there are moments that define you.

Built Not Broken: A Story from the Log Yard by Pete

During my time training in Canada with Beat at UnBeatable School of Log Construction, I found myself in one of those defining moments. Partway through the course, my prosthetic leg broke. Just like that, I was

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stuck—mid-course, far from home, and in the middle of a hands-on log-building environment where you can't exactly sit on the sidelines.

But what happened next is something I'll never forget. The lads in the yard didn't hesitate. Where most people might have seen a problem, they saw a challenge. And like any good crew of builders, they got to work. Using what they had on hand, they built me a new leg.

An Oregon chainsaw bar became the backbone. They bent it into shape, engineered it to support my weight, and added a bicycle tire for grip and cushioning. To top it off, they mounted a bicycle saddle receiver as the connection point. It was rough. It was unconventional. And it was absolutely brilliant. That makeshift leg carried me through the rest of the course. But more than that, it reminded me of what this craft—and this community—is really about. Log building isn't just about timber and tools. It's

about problem-solving, resilience, and people looking out for one another. It's about finding solutions when the plan falls apart and building something solid anyway.

What could have been the end of my course became one of its most meaningful experiences. In a place where craftsmanship matters, I witnessed something even more important: kindness, ingenuity, and a willingness to help someone in need.

The leg they built wasn't pretty, but it worked. And sometimes that's exactly what matters. It was a testament to the creativity and determination that seem to come naturally to builders. When faced with a challenge, they don't dwell on what's broken—they focus on what can be built.

I'll always be grateful to Beat, Nathan, and everyone who helped make it happen. What started as a setback became one of the stories I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Sometimes, when things break, you don't stop. You build something better.

Advocacy Update: Fighting the 25% Federal Surtax on Structural Fasteners

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Recently, the federal government implemented a 25% surtax on imported steel goods. While the intent was to protect Canadian manufacturing, the policy accidentally caught the highly engineered, certified structural wood screws that our log and timber frame builders rely on every day.

Because there are currently no domestic manufacturers making these specific, load-bearing mass timber fasteners in Canada, this surtax doesn't protect local jobs—it just acts as an unfair 25% penalty on your material costs. It makes our industry less competitive and drives up the cost of building.

What the BCLTBIA is doing about it: We are not letting this slide. Through the extensive groundwork laid by MTC Solutions, your Board of Directors is actively fighting this issue to protect your bottom line. Over the last few weeks, we have:

- **Taken it to the Top:** We formally petitioned the Minister of Finance, echoing the Canadian Wood Council, demanding an immediate exemption for our industry.

- **Provided the Solution:** We didn't just complain about the problem; we did the government's homework for them. We provided Ottawa with the exact technical definitions—based on dimensions, metallurgy, and structural certifications—required to successfully carve out our essential hardware from this surtax.
- **Defended Our Trade:** We made it clear to Ottawa that our specialized structural screws are not commodity hardware-store fasteners, and our builders should not be penalized for a lack of domestic supply.

Our commitment to you: You focus on the craft and the build; your association will handle the bureaucracy. The BCLTBIA is watching these policy shifts closely and will continue advocating aggressively to keep your materials accessible and your businesses competitive.

We will keep you updated as soon as we hear back from Finance Canada on the summer tariff updates.

[See page 7 for a copy of the letter sent out to Minister Champagne from the BCLTBIA addressing these issues.]

Continued from page 6 article "Advocacy Update: Fighting the 25% Federal Surtax on Structural Fasteners."

Letter from BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association (BCLTBIA)

RE: Steel Derivative Goods Surtax – Impacts on BC's Mass Timber and Log Building Sector

Dear Minister Champagne,

We are writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association (BCLTBIA) to urgently bring to your attention a severe, unintended consequence of the 25% Steel Derivative Goods Surtax as it applies to high-performance structural fasteners.

As an association representing the pioneers and backbone of Canada's mass timber, log building, and timber frame construction sectors, our members are heavily impacted by this policy. The certified structural wood screws required for our projects are safety-critical engineering components. They are specifically designed and certified (under CCMC, ICC-ESR, and CSA O86 standards) to transfer significant structural loads in regulated buildings. They are completely distinct from commodity DIY fasteners.

While the recent Remission Order (PC 2026-0145) brought vital relief by exempting mass timber beam hangers, omitting the corresponding structural screws (including HS Codes 7318.12 and 7318.14) creates an unworkable bottleneck. Because we utilize integrated structural systems, exempting a bracket while heavily taxing the specific screw required to install it fails to provide practical relief.

There is currently zero reliable or sufficient domestic supply capable of manufacturing these highly engineered, certified structural fasteners in Canada. Consequently, this 25% surtax acts as a direct penalty on Canadian builders, forcing us to absorb unsustainable cash-flow burdens or lose projects entirely to US competitors who enjoy surtax-free market access. This directly undermines federal and provincial objectives to accelerate housing supply, build sustainably, and lower construction costs.

The BCLTBIA fully supports protecting Canadian manufacturing where viable alternatives exist. However, where there is zero domestic capacity, the surtax only penalizes responsible Canadian employers and halts green building momentum.

We respectfully echo the recommendation of the Canadian Wood Council and call for an immediate, targeted technical carve-out for certified structural fasteners used in mass timber and engineered wood construction. We have already collaborated on a precise, measurable sub-category definition based on dimensions, metallurgy, and certification that would successfully protect commodity manufacturers while freeing our sector.

We urgently request your intervention to implement this adjustment and prevent further layoffs and project cancellations within our industry. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association (BCLTBIA)

Education Committee Update

Maik Gehloff | mgehloff@gehloff-consulting.com
Chair, Education Committee

Every member of this association, wherever in the province you build, knows the problem firsthand. There is no formal North American training pathway for the handcrafted log building and timber framing trades that define so many of our businesses. Red Seal carpentry provides a solid grounding in general wood construction, but was never designed to carry the depth our members' work demands—from scribe precision and traditional joinery to the feel for a moving material that the handcrafted trades depend on. It is equally thin on the mass-timber-specific skills the wider sector is now reaching for. And while BCIT and a growing number of other institutions are launching mass-timber programs—a welcome development for that part of the industry—none of them speaks to the handcrafted segment.

Our trades fall between the two: too specialized for the general ticket and mostly outside the mass-timber wave. For years, the workaround has been to import skilled workers from Central Europe to fill benches that should be filled by people trained here. That avenue is now narrowing. New federal immigration rules and broadly reduced immigration levels have made it noticeably harder to bring in the skilled workers the sector depends on, tightening a labour supply that was never secure to begin with.

The association has been here before. We have invested in training programs and curriculum development in the past, and the Education Committee is now picking up that work again with renewed purpose—but not starting from nothing. BC Wood recently developed genuinely valuable foundational training, notably its Value-Added Wood “Direct to Work” program and Skilled Production Worker curriculum, which give newcomers a real entry point into the sector. But these programs were built for the broad value-added manufacturing industry, and they stop well short of the handcrafted competencies our trades demand. Closing the gap means building on that foundation rather than duplicating it, and adding the advanced craft training that no one currently seems to deliver. Though there

are some courses offered here and there by specific schools, they do not seem to be having the reach and impact the industry needs.

The need is real enough that work is already underway. As project lead for the Cariboo Wood Innovation Training Hub (CWITH) in Williams Lake, I am building exactly that kind of advanced handcrafted training—the layer the existing programs leave out. CWITH is a regional project rather than an association one, but it grew out of the same gap every member here knows. What it produces need not stay regional; it could become a working model and a foundation the association builds on.

Williams Lake is where the project's partners are and where CWITH training is being developed and delivered. Its fairly central position within the province could also be a real advantage. A training home there could serve the wider industry's needs as readily as the region's own.

I lead the education component of the wider project, which is already well underway. Now in its second year, it has reached the point where groundwork gives way to delivery: actual courses taught to build practical skills. The Fraser Basin Council holds and administers the initiative, with funding through the provincial Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, working alongside the City of Williams Lake, the University of British Columbia's Alex Fraser Research Forest, and Thompson Rivers University's facilities in Williams Lake as a potential home for the training. The project has other components as well, but they fall beyond education and beyond this update.

It is the right group of partners: municipal and regional backing paired with a working research forest and post-secondary infrastructure, with industry—and our association members—kept at the centre of what gets taught.

At its core, CWITH is built around a two-tier model, deliberately designed so that the offerings complement rather than duplicate one another.

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The foundational tier — the entry program. This tier is the equalizer. Newcomers come to the industry from very different starting points: forestry-transition workers, employees looking to upskill, and high school graduates weighing the trades. The entry program brings them all to a shared grounding in the fundamentals: workplace health and safety and first aid; the safe use and maintenance of hand and power tools; reading shop drawings; measurement and layout; recognizing wood grades, species, fasteners, and finishes; and workplace communication. It draws on BC Wood's Direct to Work curriculum without simply copying it. From the outset, it folds in foundations specific to our handcrafted trades that the general curriculum leaves out. What it leaves out are job-search materials such as resume writing and interview preparation. Those skills matter, but other programs already teach them well, and this one stays focused on the trade itself.

The advanced tier — the traditional trades intensive. This is the offering that speaks most directly to our membership and the one that addresses the gap I opened with. It draws openly on the German and Central European timber-construction tradition—its standards, its methods, and its insistence on precision, respect for the material, and three-dimensional spatial problem-solving. It is not, and should not be mistaken for, an attempt to reproduce a multi-year European apprenticeship in a fraction of the time. Rather, it borrows its content and rigour and applies them to the core handcraft skills our trades depend on.

Its modules move from trade foundations, wood science, tools, and the language of the craft through structural timber framing, traditional log construction—including scribing, saddle-notch work, and managing settlement in a moving material—and finally to advanced layout and geometry, where two-dimensional plans become precise layouts on timber and complex roof intersections are resolved. It culminates in a hands-on capstone build. The plan is to include site visits as well as, potentially, another practice borrowed from Central European education: keeping a logbook and notes that are reviewed

as part of the course itself. The aim is deliberately straightforward—to begin developing, here at home, the handcraft competence our companies have long had to import.

On June 10, I presented this education component to the Board of the Fraser Basin Council, the key partner and funding holder for the project. I am pleased to report that it was received with considerable optimism. That endorsement matters. It signals that the partnership behind CWITH is aligned with the direction, and it strengthens the case for the sustained support these programs will need to move from design into delivery.

There is real work ahead to operationalize the offerings, confirm cohorts, and secure the facilities and instructors to run them well. But for the first time, the pieces are in place to train log and timber builders here in British Columbia—and, for the CWITH project, specifically in the Cariboo.

This is where I would welcome your help. As the curriculum takes shape, I want to hear from members directly. What should these courses include? Who would make a strong instructor? Which tools and methods ought to be taught? And what else would you want a program like this to get right?

Your experience is exactly what will separate training that looks good on paper from training that produces the craftspeople our businesses actually need. I will keep the membership updated as the work advances.

If you have ideas, instructor suggestions, or anything you would like to see in the program, please contact me directly.



A Passion for Passing on the Art of World-Class Log Construction

Beat Schwaller | info@unbeatableschool.com

The UnBEATable School of Log Construction has become well known in Switzerland, especially after my 12-episode television series *Beat baut* aired there two years ago. The show follows my journey from Switzerland to Canada when I was 20 years old and documents how I learned the craft of handcrafted log construction, eventually building homes and structures for clients around the world.

Today, I combine my passion for building with my passion for teaching. My business concept is simple: I build clients' dream log homes with the help of paying students who attend my school. This unique approach allows me to offer handcrafted log shells at a more affordable price while maintaining the highest standards of quality. Every cut is personally supervised by me, ensuring that the finished product meets the same standards I have upheld throughout my 33-year career.

I build exclusively with Western Red Cedar, which I consider the finest wood species available for high-end log homes. Its durability, natural insulation properties, and resistance to insects make it an exceptional building material. The corner notch I teach is the Diamond Notch, which I believe represents the highest level of craftsmanship in log construction.

To ensure quality and maximize the learning experience, I personally build the first five courses of every home before students join the project. Since

the course lasts only four weeks, it would be impossible to complete an entire log home if students started from the very beginning. The lower portion of a log home is highly repetitive, so during the first week students learn the fundamentals using specially built practice structures that mimic the first rounds of a home.

During this initial training, students learn all essential techniques, including notch cutting, lateral cuts, flats, rough and finish scribing, and proper log fitting. Once they have mastered these skills, we move to the actual house project. Because the structure is already approximately five feet high, students can immediately begin adding rounds and progress through the more advanced stages of construction.

As the course continues, students learn header log installation, window and door openings, beam placement, floor joists, pitch logs, and roof construction. My goal is for every participant to experience and understand the entire building process—from foundation to roof—within four weeks. By the end of the course, they have the knowledge and confidence to return home and build their own small cabin if they choose.

I intentionally simplify certain aspects of the training. For example, students do not peel logs during the course. While peeling is an important skill, it is physically demanding and time-consuming. I prefer that students focus their energy on learning the actual construction techniques rather than becoming exhausted and making avoidable mistakes. If they later



build their own projects, they can easily learn the peeling process.

One of the most rewarding aspects of running the school is watching the transformation that takes place in every student. From day one to day twenty, their confidence, skill level, and understanding grow dramatically. Often, by the end of the course, I wish I could keep them working alongside me.

Many of my students are already trained carpenters, timber framers, or forestry workers. However, I also welcome complete beginners who have never operated a chainsaw before. As long as they are physically fit, motivated, and willing to learn, they can succeed. Over the years, I have taught both men and women of all ages and backgrounds.

I limit each course to only eight participants. This small group size allows me to spend significant one-on-one time with every student and provide personalized instruction throughout the program.

Because Canadian winters are extremely cold and summers can be intensely hot, I hold two four-week courses each year—one in April and one in September. During these courses, we build two homes annually.

One particularly memorable project involved a Swiss family who enrolled in the course to help build their own dream home. The husband, wife, and their autistic son all participated in the construction process here in Canada. After the log shell was completed, it was shipped to Switzerland, where we filmed the assembly. Several former students joined the family to help raise the home, creating an unforgettable

international project that brought together education, craftsmanship, and family involvement.

After more than three decades of building everything from small outhouses to 60,000-square-foot luxury log mansions, what excites me most is no longer simply building homes—it's educating people and passing on the art of world-class log construction. Sharing the latest techniques, maintaining the highest standards, and watching students take pride in their accomplishments is what drives me today.

The reality is that too many people spend their lives staring at computer screens and mobile phones without ever creating something tangible with their own hands. Learning a hands-on trade can be life-changing. It is more than acquiring a skill—it is embracing a lifestyle. At the end of each day, students can look back and see exactly what they have accomplished. That sense of achievement creates confidence, pride, and fulfillment.

By teaching the highest standards of handcrafted log construction, I am also helping strengthen the log home industry. Skilled, educated craftspeople build better homes, preserve traditional techniques, and ensure that log homes continue to be recognized as beautiful, durable, and sustainable structures for future generations.

For me, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing students leave the course with new skills, new confidence, and a deep appreciation for the craft of log construction.



Canadian Mass Timber Wins Big in Global Architizer A+Awards

Stephane Laroye | stephane@slaarchitect.com

Vancouver-based Stephane Laroye Architect Inc. (SLA) is showcasing Canadian mass timber technology and expertise on the global stage, taking home two international prizes for this year's Architizer A+Awards.

Oceanfront Squamish Presentation Centre & Public House (PCPH) in Squamish, B.C. has been selected as the 14th Annual Architizer A+Awards Popular Choice as well as the Jury Winner in the Architecture +Prefab & Modular category.

"I am incredibly honoured that we have been recognized internationally as leaders in pre-fabrication and mass timber design and construction using BC wood," says Stephane Laroye, Principal and Founder of SLA. "I am also proud of what it says about the future of wood technology, pre-fabrication and design.

Thank you to all our partners and suppliers for making this possible."

PCPH was envisioned to be a gathering place and a beacon for the Squamish Oceanfront Community. With its place of prominence adjacent to the 7-acre public park and community plaza, the building aims to engage and inspire.

Wood was featured throughout the building's design with mass timber playing a central role for its modular potential, carbon sequestration and ability to be sourced locally. On the exterior, natural yellow cedar shingles were accented by robust galvanized metal, a nod to the community's industrial heritage.

The Presentation Centre features an open concept to create a strong connection to the Oceanfront Park through expansive glazing, allowing the natural wood interiors to be viewed from outside the building. The Centre provides opportunities to showcase the Oceanfront Squamish site as well as celebrate the greater community and culture of Squamish.

The Public House, Brewery/Restaurant, was designed to create a fun and inviting dining experience with direct views of the Oceanfront Park and Howe Sound. The restaurant can spill out onto two separate patios in the summer and fair weather days while still providing enough indoor seating to remain viable during inclement weather.

The structure also features a two-storey house post, a type of monumental pole, carved by Squamish Nation Master Carver Xwalacktun (Rick Harry). This anchors the

space in Indigenous narrative and tradition.

"Our team collaborated from the outset with Castlegar-based and family-owned Kalesnikoff Mass Timber who provided valuable input on the efficient use of mass timber," notes Laroye. "We also worked closely with North Vancouver's Naikoon Contracting, who used the project as a catalyst for developing their innovative Flying Factory, a mobile pre-fabrication facility that can be sent to remote sites to provide local employment opportunities."

The Architizer A+Awards is the largest awards program focused on promoting and celebrating the year's best architecture. Its mission is to nurture the appreciation of meaningful design in the world and champion its potential for a positive impact on everyday life.

This year's program celebrated 600 projects and firm finalists across 124 categories, selected by Architizer's 250+ member jury from thousands of submissions worldwide.

Jury Winners were chosen by decorated panel of industry experts including Carlo Ratti (Carlo Ratti Associati), Nicole Hollis (Nicole Hollis), Ma Yansong (MAD Architects), Koichi Takada (Koichi Takada Architects), Andre Jacques (OFFPOLINN), and Jerome Byron (Office of BC), as well as luminaries from beyond architecture like Carson Chan (Museum of Modern Art), Lisa Demetrios (Eames Institute), and Miles Smith (Graphisoft).

SLA was selected by the Jury and by the Popular Vote in the Architecture +Prefab & Modular category from the following finalist projects and their firms:

Lahaina Homes - Liv-Connected with DXA studio

Studio House - Ark-Shelter

Red Camp - Idee Architects

Desert Ark - designRESERVE



What's New Down Under

Louis van der Heyden | alpinelogandtimber@gmail.com

Exciting news from Australia, Louis van der Heyden of Alpine Log & Timber Homes shares progress on the largest log home ever built in Australia. Spanning an impressive 930 m² (10,010 ft²), this stunning handcrafted residence is currently being assembled near Nowendoc, in the beautiful Barrington Tops region of New South Wales. Photos showcase the scale and craftsmanship of this remarkable project as it takes shape in its new setting.

The home was meticulously handcrafted in British Columbia, Canada, through the Trans-Pacific Partnership with Shane Kutzer and Colin Ollenberger of Log Homes Canada before being carefully shipped to Australia for construction.

One notable feature is the thoughtfully designed foundation to help conform with the strict National Bushfire Building Code building (AS3959), which incorporates attractive natural stone detailing. Beyond its visual appeal, the rock feature also contributes to enhanced wildfire resilience—an increasingly important consideration for homes built in bushfire-prone regions of Australia. The stone was diligently sourced from the property by the log home owner and laid under the guidance of a Stone Mason. All the stone walls were completed prior to the arrival of the log home structure.

Louis will be sharing more insights on their Signature Style of log home construction in Bushfire prone areas of Australia in a future newsletter issue. They will be sharing their knowledge on how to construct more Bushfire resilient structures through their proactive fire-resistant building concepts, and how innovative design strategies can help create safer homes without compromising beauty or craftsmanship.



The Case for a Unified Reference System

Streamlining Log Building and Timber Framing Practices

James Mitchell | ja.mitch@shaw.ca

The Challenge of Divergent Reference Methods

There are only two ways to measure in the context of log and timber construction: from the center or from the face. Log builders typically use the center as their reference point, owing to the absence of face surfaces in logs. Conversely, timber framers have historically relied on the face reference, a method known as the square rule, which has been in use since 1830. This divide has led to the creation of distinct associations, guilds, schools, and literature, with each teaching either center-referenced log building or face-referenced timber framing.

The Complexity of Combining Systems

When projects merge log building and timber framing, the use of two separate reference systems—center for logs and face for timbers—introduces unnecessary complexity. This separation can cause confusion, reduce efficiency, and increase the likelihood of errors on site. Adopting a shared centerline approach can unify the process, facilitating smoother construction, clearer communication, and enhanced precision for all involved.

Historical Roots of Unified Reference

This unified method is not just practical; it is deeply rooted in global building traditions. The Romans used the Axis Mundi, or Earth's Axis, as a central reference, while ancient Chinese builders followed the Middle Path, a centerline system described in historic manuals. By revisiting these established principles, builders can bridge the gaps between associations and celebrate the shared artistry and heritage integral to both log and timber construction.

Honouring Craftsmanship and Tradition

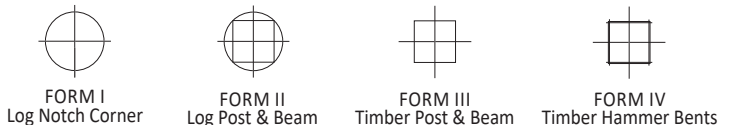
Embracing a unified reference system is both a logical progression and a means of honouring the craftsmanship and traditions that have shaped the industry. Integrating centerline methods encourages greater collaboration, promotes accuracy in every build—whether logs, timbers, or both—simplifies and standardises training, enhances efficiency, and preserves the wisdom handed down through generations.

The Development of the Center Rule

With a lifetime of learning and 27 years of teaching Big Wood at the Island School of Building Arts, James Mitchell combined the historically distinct approaches of log and timber building into a single, seamless system known as the Center Rule. The result is two companion hardcover volumes; *LOG BUILDING, A Masters Guide* and *TIMBER FRAMING, A Masters Guide*, with over 700 pages written to illustrate and explain Center Rule.

Big Wood Center Rule Forms

There are four forms of Big Wood Center Rule, comprising two forms for log building and two forms for timber framing:

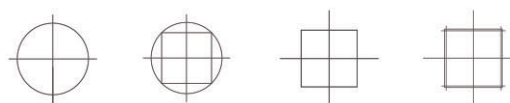
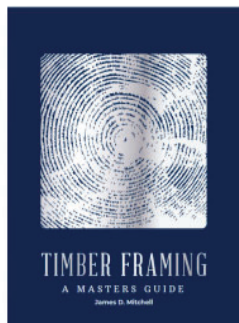


Project Structure

LOG BUILDING, A Masters Guide is divided into two books: Form I, Project Notch Corner and Form II, Project Post & Beam.

TIMBER FRAMING, A Masters Guide is divided into two books: Form III, Project Post & Beam and Form IV, Project Hammer Bents.

Log Building & Timber Framing Unite



Forms of Big Wood Center Rule

First ever companion books based on Center Rule: *Log Building, A Masters Guide*, and *Timber Framing, A Masters Guide*, from author and instructor James Mitchell.

Technically detailed, beautifully laid out, and well constructed. Providing all the information required for wood workers to build, using one common centerline layout.

See sample pages and order at www.isba.ca.



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