



2017 TFG
Conference

Timber Frame Design Using SketchUp

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Minneapolis, MN

Sketchup is a 3D CAD program available for free, and is very well-suited for modeling timber frame designs in 3D. These are great for demonstrating the design to clients, and for estimating costs. But it's also flexible and accurate enough to use for joinery design and creating shop drawings directly from your whole-frame models. Using custom extensions for Sketchup designed specifically for timber framers (by the presenter), you can create timber frame models that can be used to automatically generate precise shop drawings.

Both timbers and joints are represented as Sketchup components. Successful use of this system will require the user to build up a library of these components that represent the user's own joinery style. In this session, we will use the presenter's library to build a sample timber frame, including joinery. We will also demonstrate how to make your own timbers from scratch using existing joinery components, and finally, creating joinery components from scratch.

The custom extensions also create timber lists for the models, which can be used to derive material lists and project checklists, for example. The timber frame-specific extensions are available at no charge from the presenter. A 20-page color manual is also available from the TFG (proceeds go to the Guild).

About the Speaker

Clark Bremer

Clark Bremer is a former professional timber framer from Minneapolis. He currently makes his living writing software, but finds time to lead and participate in timber framing workshops. He also teaches timber framing at North House Folk School, in Grand Marais, Minnesota. He enjoys inventing new tools for timber framing, both hardware and software.