



A Bucket of Opportunity: How One Company went from Catastrophic Building Failure to the First Complete CLT Heavy Timber Building, with Wood Fiber Insulation, in NY

Jonathan Orpin

*New Energy Works Timber Frame Homes
Farmington, NY*

Jonathan Orpin will map the voyage from a catastrophic building failure in February 2015 to the first complete CLT building in New York State in May 2017. The goal of this seminar is twofold: to share the business aspects of catastrophe and rebuilding, and to continue the dialogue regarding the opportunity and place for timber framers in the coming tsunami of CLT construction, for those companies so inclined.

One Saturday night in late February 2015, Jonathan's phone started ringing. A late snow had collapsed 10,000 feet of our fine woodworking shop, a post-WWII bow string truss building in western New York. 6,000 square feet remained standing. This seminar is the story of the collapse; the triage to keep going; the design and building with a hybrid of solid timbers, glulams, and cross laminated timbers (CLTs), insulated with wood fiber; and perhaps most importantly, how we used this opportunity to be better.

The first third of our time will be spent on the business end of this journey. We will review the insurance process, including what you should be considering when choosing both insurance and insurers.

The last two thirds of our time will be spent on our new building, into which we are just moving. Decisions on materials, structure, experimentation, and pricing all required deep dives in this relatively new but exciting building methodology. We then will walk through the construction sequencing and installations, using 3-d imagery and site photography for illustration.

Join the journey of: leadership, planning, dealing with insurance, re-configuring production space, designing new space, engineering, building with CLTs and heavy timber, sequencing, and installation.

About the Speaker

Jonathan Orpin

Jonathan Orpin founded New Energy Works Timber Frame Homes, Inc, in the mid-80s, and considers himself a product of the Timber Framers Guild. "Without the camaraderie of Guild friends, and the sharing and learning of skills and information, I truly question whether we would have a viable timber framing industry today," he remarks. Mr. Orpin is Past President of the Guild, Chair of the TFG Companies Committee, and is passionate about the craft of business in the timber frame community. He is also the owner and founder of Pioneer Millworks. Mr. Orpin divides his time between his companies' New York and Oregon facilities.