



2017 TFG
Conference

The Craft of Business & AIA Certification

Jonathan Orpin & Jeff Arvin

Timber Framers Guild

The Timber Framers Guild Company Committee will be offering a training on the new AIA Timber-framing CEU presentation in this session for TFG Company members and prospective Company members. The unbiased, informational AIA presentation gives timber framers the opportunity to speak with architects at such forums as “Lunch & Learn,” where they can educate local architects on the timber framing craft, the role of timber framers in design and delivery of timber frame structures, their repair and renovation, and more.

To give the AIA-approved slide show, you are required to first go through this informal and reasonably quick training, and to represent the entire industry. Architects who attend your later presentation of this material will receive their needed AIA continuing education units (CEUs). Timber framers may also hand out their own company’s information, of course, and let the audience know of their capabilities and interests. All TFG Company members and staff can get this training in preparation for addressing architects as a benefit of TFG Company membership.

After the AIA training, we will be listening, sharing, and brainstorming as a group about the future of the timber frame industry, and its role within the Guild community. Plans are already in the works to offer regional one day “Business Boot Camps,” develop peer-to-peer networking groups, build a library of business document resources, and more. Please stay to share in this effort, or join the seminar about 30 minutes into the session (for those not interested in AIA presentation training).

This session is also an opportunity for those individuals considering company membership to become pre-certified in delivering the AIA course, as well as learn more about TFG Companies.

About the Speakers

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.

Jeff Arvin

Jeff Arvin is the Executive Director of the Timber Framers Guild. In his own words: “I first learned about timber framing in an article Ed Levin wrote for Fine Woodworking. It was 1978. I thought, “That’s for me.” A year later I stumbled onto books by Tedd Benson and Stewart Elliott. Still another year further down the road I was living in southeast Michigan and heard an electrician talking about wiring a house made of wooden beams with pegs. Finding it nearly impossible to believe that anything as cool as a timber frame house could be growing up in my back yard, I had to check it out. The very next day, after inspecting the frame, I found my way to Blissfield, Michigan, where I met Frank and Brenda Baker and Sandy Bennett, who were in the start-up years of Riverbend Timber Framing. Little did I know that was the start of what is now a 30-plus-year relationship with big wood and the community of people who design and craft it.

“My timber framing experience—as an employee and a business owner; as a hands-on craftsman and as founder and owner of Cascade Joinery; as a member and a director of the Guild and the Timber Frame Business Council—is long and deep. Now, as executive director, I am in awe of the skilled, big hearted, intelligent people who make up the timber frame community, and am inspired to build this extraordinary organization to better serve them.”