



Celebrating 25 years of building and designing extraordinary homes and buildings

NEWS FROM THE CASCADE JOINERY

March 2015

The Cascade Joinery is turning 25!

As the Northwest's oldest timber frame specialty company, we're proud to have been a key team member on many residential, commercial, and design/build projects. Thank you for letting us help bring your vision to life.

As part of our commitment to excellence in the art and science of building with timber, we're always keeping an eye out for industry updates and design trends. We're pleased to share some of what we're discovering with you! ***Here's what we're into this month.***

Tall Wooden Buildings

Are Timber Towers the Green Buildings or the Future?

"Wood is the most significant building material we use today that is grown by the sun. When harvested responsibly, wood is arguably one of the best tools architects and engineers have for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing carbon in our buildings."

-Michael C. Green



In a 2013 feasibility study, *The Case for Tall Wood Buildings*, Green argues convincingly for timber towers up to 20 stories tall, assuaging concerns around issues of rot and flammability and sharing plan details, structural assessments, and examples of mass timber in use. Wood is renewable, resilient, and made by nature. Innovations in engineering have made wood a serious competitor against concrete and steel in the design of tall buildings: one which meets contemporary needs for green technology, urban housing, carbon neutrality, and sustainable building design.

If you'd like to learn more, we recommend:

TED Talk: [Michael Green on why we should build wooden skyscrapers](#)

Excerpt: [The Case for Tall Wood Buildings](#)

Website: [Mass Timber, by reThink Wood](#)

Tool: [The Wood Use Matrix](#)

pictured: artist's rendering of a Michael C. Green concept building

Moisture Content of Timber

Design Requirements and Considerations

"Failure to allow for shrinkage and swelling of timbers is the most common cause of failed connections."

-Jim DeStefano

We can't overstate the importance of understanding and designing for moisture content and associated fluctuations. Even glulams can experience dimensional change during changes in humidity between seasons. Some excellent resources are available to guide in the selection of timbers and the design of connections which safely accommodate shrinkage.



To learn more, read [Detailing Timber Connections: Dimensional Change Considerations](#), and [Drying and Control of Moisture Content](#).

pictured: a Protimeter Timbermaster Wood Moisture Meter

Timber Framers Guild Apprenticeship Program

The Responsibilities and Benefits of Supporting the ATC

"The TFG Apprenticeship Program is a three-year combination of study and on-the-job training, approved by and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, for people employed in timber framing. Its purpose is to provide a planned comprehensive education, including the necessary training materials, for the professional timber frame carpenter."



-www.tfguild.org

The Cascade Joinery is proud to be the only West Coast company which fully participates in the Timber Framers Guild's national Apprenticeship program. Our Journeyworkers-Craig Aument, Phil Kneisley, John Miller, and Ryan Misiolek-say the program has cultivated greater expertise among the crew. Two of our apprentices graduated last year, and we are currently working with one apprentice, Willis Rozycki.

Our participation in the program helps prepare our own framers, as well as supporting curriculum development to educate timber framers throughout the nation.

To learn more about the program, visit [the Guild's webpage](#). Then, read [the Apprenticeship blog](#).



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