CARIBOU CREEK

# Log & Timber Plan Book

## Our Company – Your Dream

Caribou Creek was started in 1989 as a family business. A business that has its roots 4 generations back in Amish barn building. While some of the tools and styles have changed since then, it is still rooted in the pride of craftsmen working with wood. Handcrafted log and timber homes and the logs they are built with have character – something that sets them apart from most other homes being built today. There is something magical and timeless about a log home that captivates us.

Old fashioned values such as honesty, integrity and treating others as we would like to be treated are core beliefs at Caribou Creek Log & Timber.

We pride ourselves on working with homeowners, architects, designers and contractors to help them achieve their vision of a log or timber structure. No two homes are the same because no two logs are the same.

There are no "rules", and homes are as unique as the individuals we build them for. The team of experts at Caribou Creek works with you to tailor-make a home, totally custom designed, which combines your favorite features with the location and your lifestyle. Caribou Creek never builds the same home twice!

Whether a simple cabin or a commercial structure, we believe that helping the owners achieve their vision and making it real with the very best log craftsmanship is an honor and our privilege.

We want to help you realize your log or timber home dream. The information in this brochure will help you understand a small part of what we put into designing and building your log home. When you are ready, contact us or come see us – we are here to help you get started.

"Caribou Creek [has] more than fulfilled my vision. Their honesty, integrity, truthfulness and state-of-the-art craftsmanship is beyond reproach."
- Richard E. McClellan

"We feel that the handcrafted log home that you have created is something very unique. The finished product is the embodiment of the dream that Lisa and I envisioned as we poured through reams of plans and magazine articles."
-Bob Van Beber

# Our Wood

Being located in the Inland Northwest we are blessed with an abundant supply of timber. Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, Lodge Pole Pine and Engelmann Spruce are all native to our area. Although we build homes using all of these species, we recommend using kiln dried Douglas Fir. Douglas Fir grows tall and straight and is stronger than Pine, Spruce or Cedar.

We start by carefully selecting logs and drying them in our log kilns until the logs or timbers are dried all the way to the heart. Kiln drying has proven to have many advantages. Kiln drying removes moisture from the wood in a controlled environment and minimizes checking (cracking). As the wood dries it shrinks and the pitch in the wood is set, producing a wood that is very stable. This reduces most of the settling and shrinkage issues commonly associated with log construction. Having our own kiln gives us greater control over the quality and moisture content of our wood. We test all the logs at various depths and locations to ensure that they meet our standards.

It's ultimately the humidity of the air that determines the equilibrium between the moisture level in the environment and the moisture content of the logs. In order to reach this balance, air-dried logs need to be stored for up to a year. Kiln-drying accelerates the process achieving optimum log moisture levels in 4 to 5 weeks. While air-drying is less expensive, the homeowner also realizes several other important benefits from kiln-drying. In fact, European quality standards actually require logs and timbers to be kiln dried. Heat from kiln-drying kills the fungi that cause wood decay, as well as any insects or larvae. Properly dried logs will absorb the stain and finish more deeply which will result in a longer lasting home. Dried logs also have a higher insulation value, reducing energy costs and increasing the comfort of your home.

We also have access to dead standing timber which is air dried and has a low moisture content. Whether you choose kiln dried or dead standing, our logs are selected and graded to meet the highest ILBA standards.

At Caribou Creek we use full length logs that run from corner to corner with no unsightly butt splices. Our logs are hand peeled to retain their natural beauty and form. Our standard log package is constructed using 12" diameter logs. This means that a 40' log is approximately 14" at the butt and 10" at the top. On larger homes, 14" to 16" logs give an impressive mass. We have used logs up to 60" in diameter for commercial and other projects that have the scale to feature such large logs. Although larger logs are slightly more expensive some of the cost is offset by having a wall with fewer logs and notches.

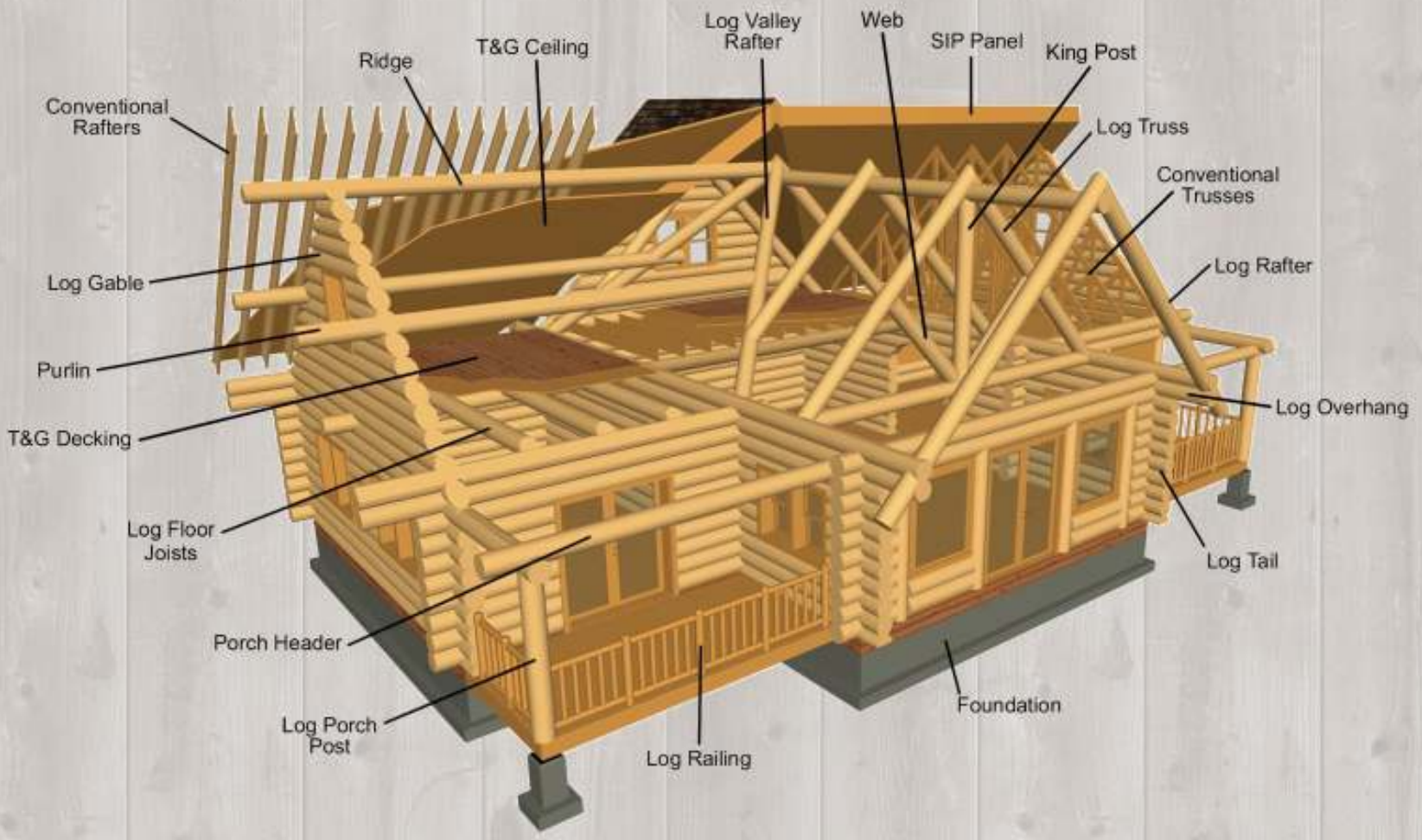
Not only are we geographically located to source great logs, but we have great relationships with our timber suppliers and a reputation for purchasing high quality logs.

## Character Wood

Many of our customers like the look of character wood in their homes. Character wood refers to unique logs that feature knots, inclusions, and other scarring that happens naturally to trees. We also love to work with bent logs, burls, and flared Cedar posts. Artistic carving can often be incorporated, sometimes taking advantage of a unique piece of wood.

If you like character wood, let us know and we will find special logs for your home. From log spiral staircases to mantles and carvings, Caribou Creek likes to bring out the very best in the wood to create a unique part of your home.

# Anatomy of a Handcrafted Log Home



"After my home was erected in 1-3/4 days, I stood that night and could not believe my awesome log home. I am very happy with the size and cuts and fits of the logs. I would recommend Caribou Creek to anyone. Thank you!"
- Al Randolph

## The Construction Process

Quality construction is our highest concern at Caribou Creek. We craft and assemble your home here in our yard in Northern Idaho to ensure that every home we build is of the highest quality.

The logs for your home are hand picked by our experienced craftsmem. The logs are selected so that the walls are full-length logs or timbers without butt splices. Each log is hand peeled to remove the bark, or if your home is a square log dovetail or timber frame, the timbers are prepared by surfacing for a smooth finish, or by hand hewing for a beatiful texture.

Then the logcrafters take the raw logs or timbers and craft your home using tried and true old-fashioned scribing tools, and some not-so-new tools, such as state-of-the-art laser levels to ensure a home that is level and square. This level of craftsmanship takes years to master, and we build every home as if it were our own.

Every Caribou Creek home also includes a structural roof package consisting of a system of ridge and purlins or trusses.

All electrical chases are predrilled and the boxes are cut and beveled, ready for face plates.

All door and window openings are cut according to the windows you select, and the log opening is beveled and buffed.

When your home is complete, we tag it, disassemble it, treat it with a borate preservative, and deliver it to your building site. We then supervise the reassembly of your home on your prepared foundation.

For more, go to www.CaribouCreek.com/our-process

# Handcrafted Chink Style Log Home

Blue Ridge, Georgia

# Handcrafted Chink Style Log Home

"It certainly is our dream home. We love this house more every day... There is something so wholesome, secure and comforting about logs."
- Karen Tucker

## Handcrafted Chink Style

Probably one of the most iconic styles of log home construction, our handcrafted non-settling chink style log homes are crafted with saddle notches at the corners and the spaces between the logs are filled with chinking.

Our optional non-settling system uses a series of lag bolts to secure, or "freeze", the position of each wall log. This proven system has been tested and measured over the course of several years after our homes are finished, and shows no movement in the wall heights. This is a wonderful option for homeowners who want to avoid implementing building methods to allow for settling.

Gone are the days of moss or cement stuffed in the gaps as advanced formulas allow modern chinking to stretch and contract with the logs as they adjusts to seasonal changes in temperature and moisture. Chinking comes in many colors to complement your choice of stain color.

# Handcrafted Full Scribe Log Home

Breckenridge, Colorado

# Scandinavian Full Scribe Log Home

## Full Scribe Style

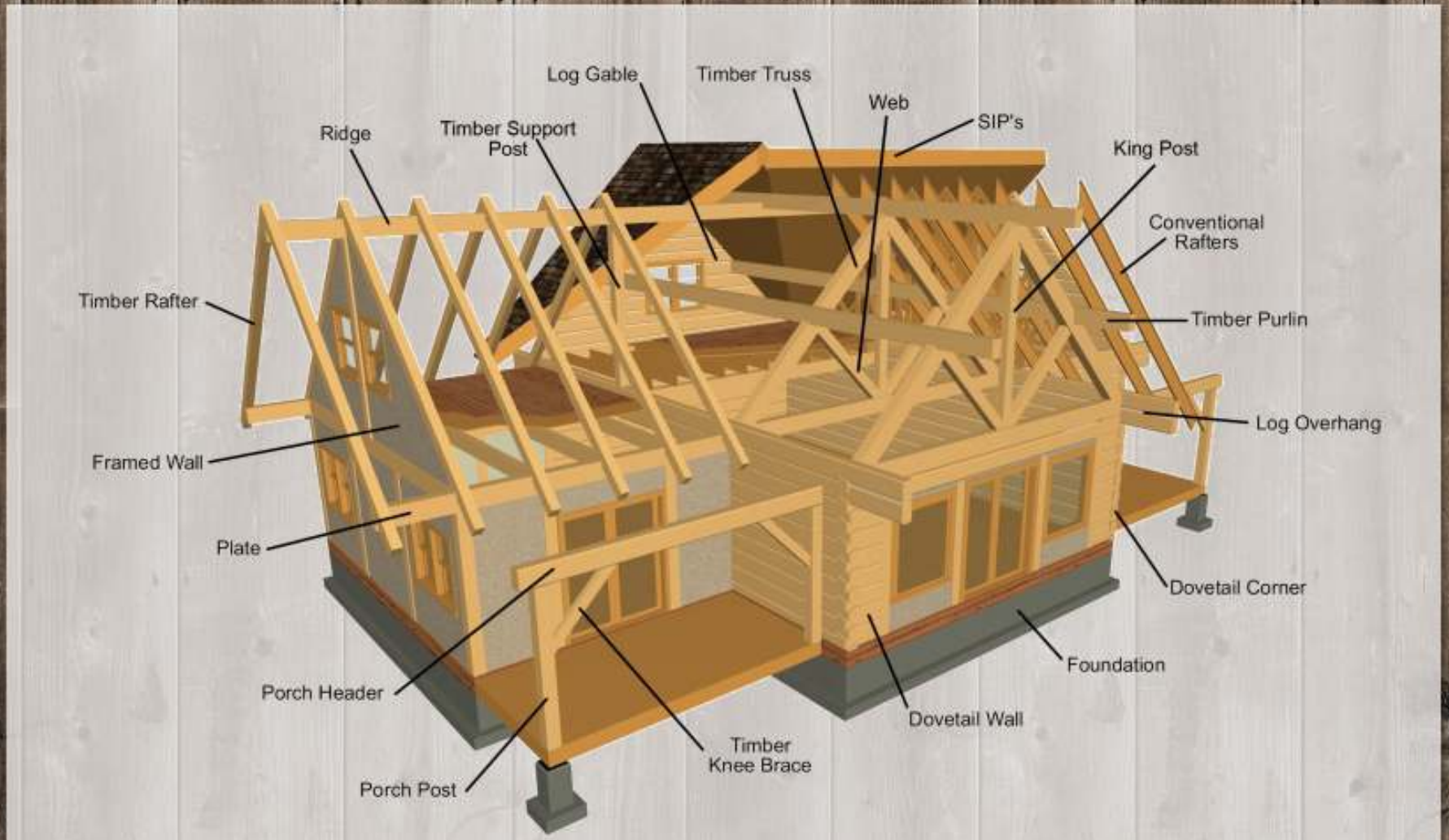
Also known as Swedish Cope, in this construction method our craftsman use a scribing tool to painstakingly transfer the contours of the lower log onto the upper log, and then cut the upper log to fit snugly on top.

When the logs are assembled on your building site, a layer of gasket material is hidden within the lateral joints to prevent any bugs intruding into your home. This style fits together very tightly, and does not require chinking.

As the logs adjust to their final climate, some settling is to be expected; this is normal, and just makes the home even more tight. Our construction techniques take settling into account, and actually work with the natural tendancies of the wood to allow for this movement.

We work with your contractor to help them understand best practices for finishing a home constructed with live material such as this, and are always available for technical support.

# Anatomy of a Square Log Dovetail Home



# Handcrafted Square Log Dovetail Home

## Square Dovetail

Also known as Appalachian style, this method of construction is built out of square timbers with handcrafted dovetail joinery at the corners of the home. The gaps between the timbers are filled with chinking material.

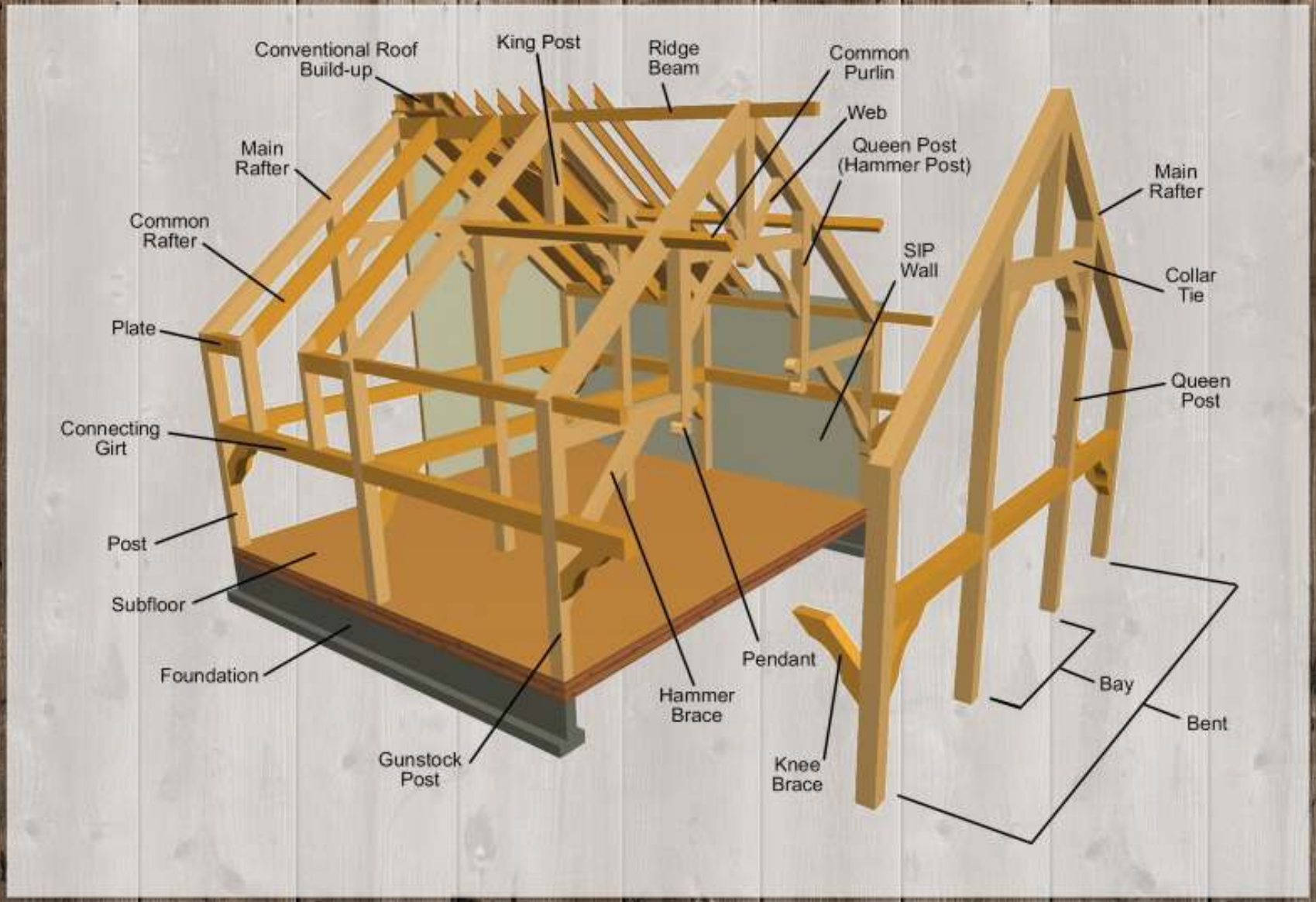
Many homeowners choose the aesthetic of a dovetail log homes because it brings the warmth and beauty of a wood home with flat walls instead of round.

The timbers used for wall logs can be planed smooth, or they can have a hand hewn finish for a rustic, elegant surface.

Dovetail log homes often incorporate timber frame elements, such as trusses, posts or knee braces. This complements the square timbers used in the wall logs.

"With your high level of professionalism and attention to detail, I highly recommend your firm to anyone contemplating building a log structure."
-John D. Hensler

# Anatomy of a Timber Frame Home



# Handcrafted Timber Frame Home

## Timber Frame

One of the oldest and enduring methods of construction, traditional timber framed homes and timber frame hybrid homes (built to look like true timber frames) offer amazing energy efficiency and soaring, open interior spaces. Some buildings created this way have stood for over a thousand years.

Timber frames are just what they sound like: large frames crafted from heavy timbers that form the structural support of the home. Since the roof and walls are self- supporting, this allows for high, open ceilings and large great room spaces. But the beautiful joinery is just as stunning in a cozy, smaller space.

Traditionally, the timber frame is finished by "infill", or framed walls on the exterior of the frame. Prefabricated structural insulated panels (SIPs) are also an excellent option as infill for superior energy efficiency because they create a very tight building envelope.

A special thanks to all of our customers who allowed us to photograph their homes. The pictures in this plan book were shot by Bob Rowan, Tim Murphy, Heidi Long, Benjamin Benschneider, and the staff of Caribou Creek Log & Timber.
Original design by Sara Matthews.
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