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# NORTH BAY LIVING

A RESOURCE GUIDE SERVING MARIN, NAPA AND SONOMA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

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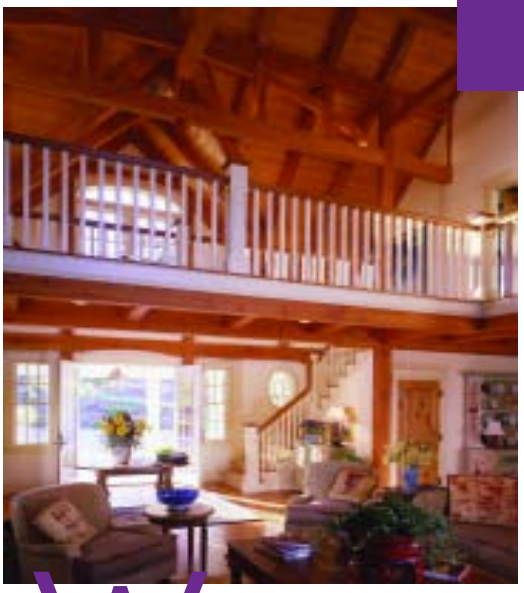
## ON THE COVER

The structure featured on the cover is a terrific example of the traditional building technique of timber framing. The joinery is connected with precision computer-cut joints held together with traditional oak pegs. It's old meets new, and it's sustainable too. The large structural framing posts and beams can provide the homeowner with dramatic open spaces and a minimal number of walls.

For more information about timber framing, you can contact Patrick Hamilton Construction at (707) 584-1700. You can also visit www.PatrickHamiltonConstruction.com or www.Timberpeg.com. See their ad on page XX and article on page XX.

# Timber Framing—
## Construction of the Future



What is timber framing? Some call it exposed beam construction, others call it post and beam. Over the centuries, it has accumulated many names. Spanning across multiple continents and time periods, the building technique has been used in cultures and societies from ancient Japan and medieval Europe to modern day America.

Timber framing is a building style that incorporates the large wooden structural beams that hold a house up into the design elements of the interior. These exposed beams add a warm, natural feel that has had a broad and timeless appeal. Traditionally, the posts and beams are joined using wooden pegs instead of the usual metal connections of nails and screws used in conventional building. Much like a giant three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, the horizontal and vertical timbers fit together to form snug and solid joints. While this precision cutting was once done exclusively by hand, modern day timber frames are cut by advanced computer-controlled machines, allowing for an even greater level of accuracy.

Timber framing differs from conventional construction in several ways. First, the structural supports for the house are exposed inside the building envelope as opposed to being hidden behind the walls or open to the exterior, helping to protect them from the elements. As a result they will generally last for centuries, compared to fewer than 100 years for a typical modern house. Thus, for about the same amount of framing wood, your house will likely last two to three times longer. Second, because the structural support of the home relies primarily on the large posts and beams, the interior spaces created are unencumbered by structural walls, allowing for an open floor plan that can be reconfigured to the occupants' needs and have a tangible feeling that exudes strength, warmth, and security.

This flexibility, durability, and openness are three of the greatest benefits of timber framing. However, timber framing has another benefit of great value to modern-day homeowners—sustainability. Timber frame homes, by nature, are extremely energy-efficient, both in the way they are built and maintained. Because they are prefabricated in a controlled environment offsite, timber frame homes produce less waste on the building site than most conventional construction. The use of structural insulated panels to enclose the timber frame makes it easier for the home to maintain a constant temperature, saving expenses on heating and cooling. Wood is a natural, recyclable, and renewable resource. It grows without using artificial energy, and although it must be harvested and transported, the overall use of nonrenewable energy is less than concrete or steel. Most of all, wood is a durable building material. With sensible protection from the elements, wood buildings have lasted centuries. Many modern-day timber frame companies offer Forest Stewardship Council-certified timbers, meaning the timbers have come from well-managed, sustainable tree farms so homeowners can feel extremely good about their building choice.

Since timber framing is not as common as conventional building, it is important to choose an experienced and knowledgeable builder or architect to learn about using timber framing in a new home or home addition. For more information, you can contact Patrick Hamilton, an Authorized Independent Representative for Timberpeg®, at (707) 584-1700. You can also e-mail info@patrickhamiltonconstruction.com www.patrickhamiltonconstruction.com. www.timberpeg.com