

design details

While many home-design firms like Bonin Architects in New London, New Hampshire, don't have a catalog of stock plans to choose from, they do have an arsenal of fool-proof design elements that work well in any timber home. Principal Partner and Lead Architect Jeremy Bonin, shared a few of his favorite spaces to consider incorporating in your home design.

1. WINE TIME

"While not necessarily typical, a wine cellar is an easy way to splurge a little in your space. Quite often they occupy a corner in the basement where we can use two cool exterior concrete foundation walls to assist in keeping the room at the proper temperature. Many wine rooms require little to no thermal conditioning but this, of course, is subject to the clients' preference for temperature stability, humidity control and the actual location of the room in the basement."



2. OPEN SPACES

"The open great room/dining/kitchen area is a common theme in almost every home we design. The kitchen is the hub of activity in every home, whether it's for a retiring couple who entertain friends and family, or a couple with children. To accommodate this trend, we try to be creative with the structural systems to reduce the amount of interior posts in the home," says Bonin.

For example, in this home the keyed-beam purlins not only span the main gable in their entirety, but they also suspended the loft from the purlins with 1-inch steel rods to reduce the visual disruption of posts in the loft view.



3. SEPARATE BUT EQUAL

Great rooms with open lofts are a good design idea because they partially separate the living space while still maintaining a connection to the main living areas of the home. "In many cases we place home offices or reading spaces within the loft, as they are remote enough to offer the separation needed for concentration yet not completely isolated from the remainder of the home," explains Bonin.

4. CLEAN LINES

"Bath, powder rooms and vanity spaces are becoming smaller, with clean lines, more contemporary finishes, surfaces and cabinetry," says Bonin. "This aesthetic allows them to be easily maintained, as well as giving the smaller space a larger feel thanks to limited accessories and design distractions."

