

Mid-Atlantic
TIMBERFRAMES

TIMBER TALK

////// SPRING 2021

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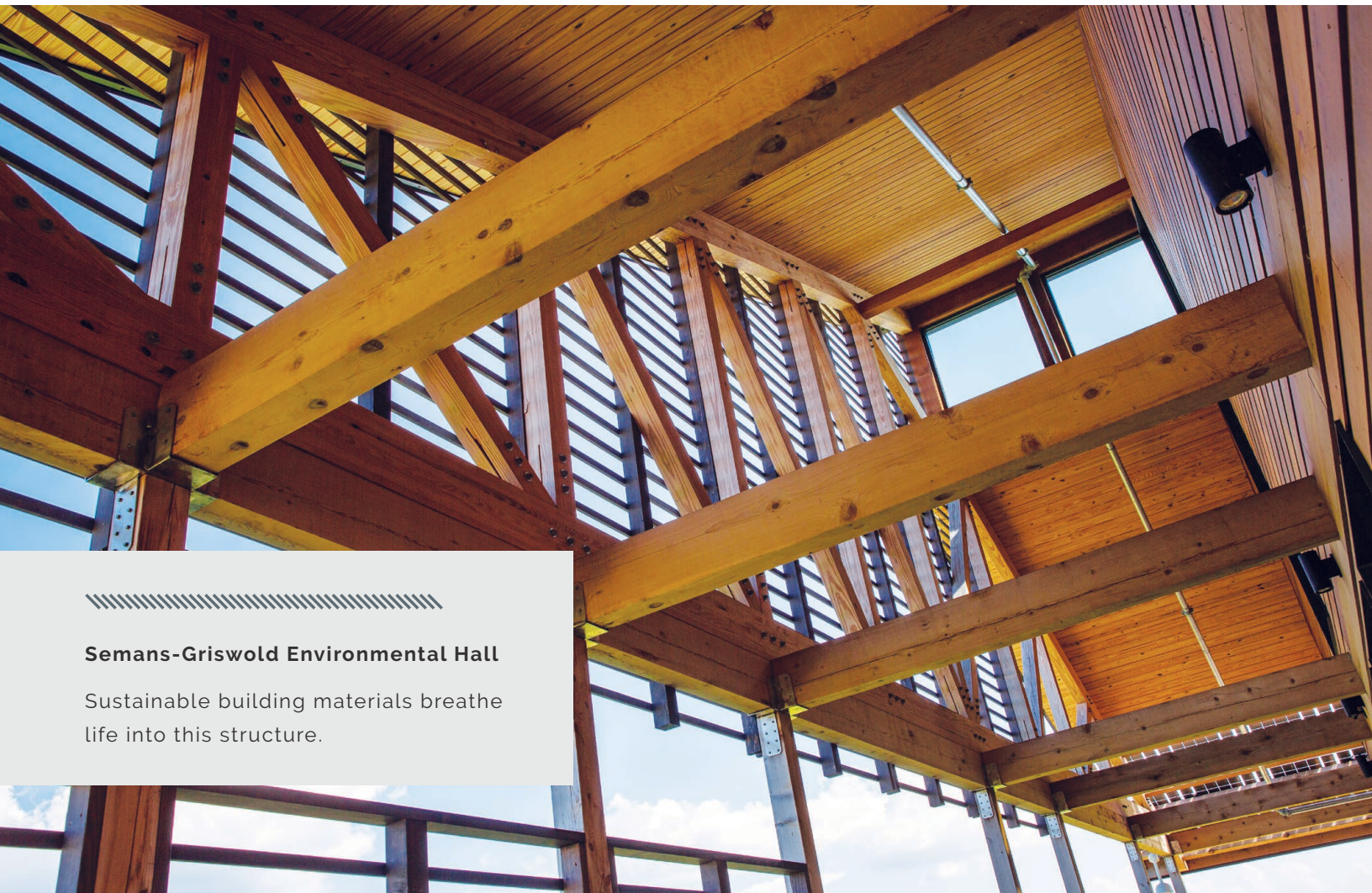
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Semans-Griswold Environmental Hall

Sustainable building materials breathe life into this structure.

INDUSTRY NEWS



The Biophilic Benefits of Wood

People are drawn to the great outdoors. Architects and designers have understood this for centuries, and today we better understand why. A study from ThinkWood.com revealed that living or working in a wood structure can reduce stress, increase productivity, and help people heal. And Laval University found that 17% of shoppers in a supermarket made of wood, versus steel, spent 30 minutes or more in the store.

Simply put, wood is good for business, and good for us humans too.

SIPs Are the Way to Go for Heavy Timber Homes

Structural insulated panels (SIPs) provide maximum energy efficiency and added strength in timber frame homes. These panels consist of three to six inches of polyurethane foam insulation between a half inch of oriented strand board (OSB) on either side. They create a rigid wall panel as strong as, or stronger than, a conventionally framed wall, and form a tight building envelope, which helps to control the flow of air and heat.



Tall Timber in Milwaukee

Ascent, a twenty-five-story mass timber hybrid luxury mixed-use tower, is currently under construction in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Scheduled for completion in July 2022, it will be the tallest mass timber hybrid building in the world. Its wood columns, beams, and floor slabs will be exposed in all living and sleeping areas, making it a truly unique offering. The project was designed by Korb + Associates Architects and is being constructed by a joint venture between Catalyst Construction and C.D. Smith.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Semans-Griswold Environmental Hall at Washington College



Architect	Ayers Saint Gross
Builder	The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Location	Chestertown, Maryland
Background	Built for Washington College's environmental programs
Points of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed to operate at net-positive energy• Exposed wood trusses inside and out

The Semans-Griswold Environmental Hall was built to achieve the Living Building Challenge Certification, an international sustainable building certification that encourages a regenerative built environment. Mid-Atlantic Timberframes enjoyed collaborating with Whiting-Turner and Bruce L. Jones Contractor Company to provide a fully framed package.





Situated on the Chester River, this innovative building was designed to house labs and classroom spaces.

ARCHITECT HIGHLIGHT



Peter J. Helmes, AIA | The Helmes Group

Year Firm Established

1985

Firm Size

11 very loyal, skilled, and dedicated staff members



How many years have you been working as an architect?

40

What is your area of focus or expertise?

My initial focus was designing healthcare facilities. When the Helmes Group was formed, our practice grew to involve all different building types, including residential, municipal, religious, and industrial buildings.

What inspired you to become an architect?

My father was a well-established architect. His office was attached to our house, so not only did he get to see his children grow up, but I was able to learn firsthand about architecture and his business. On weekends, my father would take whoever wanted to go with him for a drive to visit some of his projects that were under construction.

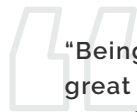
What makes the practice of architecture so interesting is being able to learn about different project types and the specific program requirements for each. Each project is unique and comes with different challenges, most of which begin with property constraints and/or special site features. This, along with the constantly changing technology and building codes, as well as designing environmentally friendly and sustainable buildings, is what I like about the profession.

What project are you most proud of and why?

One that stands out is the Bissell Building in Ridgefield, Connecticut. A roaring fire completely

destroyed this historic Victorian-era building, leaving an empty hole along the heart of Main Street. It was a three-story wood-frame mixed-use structure with a full walk-out basement.

When the project was completed, a local newspaper quoted the First Selectman saying, "It is nice to see a bit of sunshine develop on Main Street," and went on to congratulate the owner and architect "for rebuilding the structure so those who don't know a fire took place there never would guess."

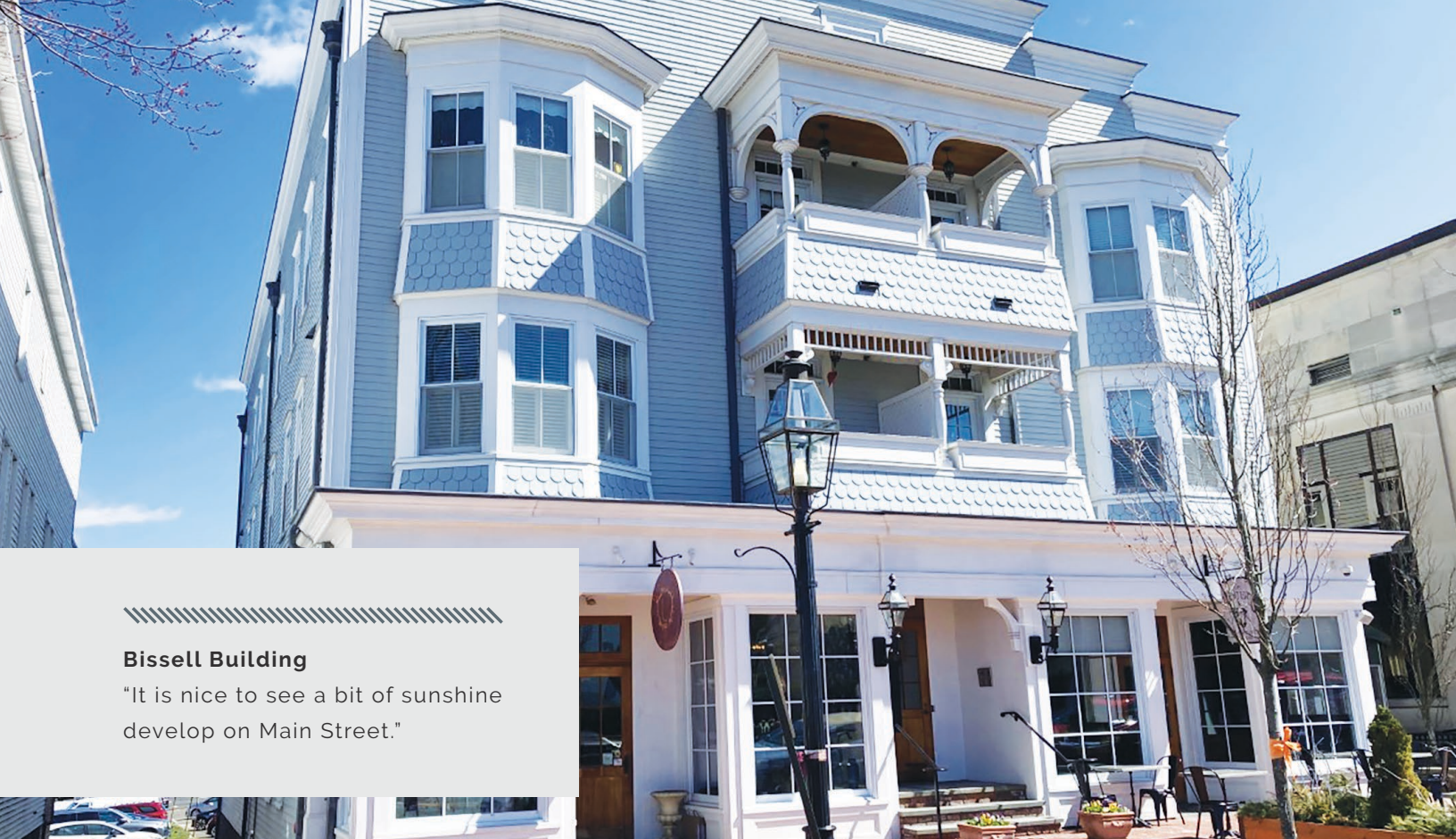


"Being an architect is a real labor of love. It provides great satisfaction, as it allows you to create something that serves a specific need as well as enhances its community. It's like creating a work of art that will be long-lasting and something to be proud of for generations to come."

Where do you find design inspiration?

Everywhere! Whenever I travel, I am always looking at buildings. I also take a lot of photographs of buildings that I admire for future reference. I love to read architectural magazines. I regularly tear out pages and put them in project files when I see something we may want to incorporate into a particular project. There is a lot of talent out there in the architectural world, and I know we can all benefit from each other's work.

Want to be our next Architect Highlight? Email Sam Ebersol | samuel.ebersol@midatlantictimberframes.com



Bissell Building

"It is nice to see a bit of sunshine develop on Main Street."

ASK AN EXPERT



What exactly is mass timber, and what are its benefits?

The term *mass timber* describes a class of engineered wood products that utilize the fundamental strengths of wood coupled with proven innovations in structural engineering.

When used effectively, mass timber helps developers, architects, and builders overcome challenges related to project costs, construction duration, and sustainability goals. Installation often requires less equipment and manpower, which results in a safer jobsite. Construction loan durations are shortened, thereby allowing occupancy to begin sooner when compared to other construction methods.

Environmental sustainability is of vital importance, especially when designing buildings for future generations. When mass timber components are responsibly harvested, the result is a product that is good for our environment and healthy for those who inhabit a mass timber building.



Mike Banta | Design Engineer

Mike has been designing heavy timber structures for 20 years and is eager to share his expertise in CLT, glue-laminated timber, and traditional solid-sawn timber frame design.

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Mid-Atlantic TIMBERFRAMES

Advancing the Art of Timber Construction

Located in the heart of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic Timberframes builds custom legacy homes, open and airy retreats, and one-of-a-kind commercial structures using not only centuries-old traditions of hand-finishing beams and raising structures but also modern technologies and mass timber. Mid-Atlantic Timberframes brings their craft to a high level of precision that results in exceptional structures that deliver beauty and lasting durability.

For more information about Mid-Atlantic Timberframes, visit [**midatlantictimberframes.com**](https://midatlantictimberframes.com).