

Mid-Atlantic
TIMBERFRAMES

TIMBER TALK

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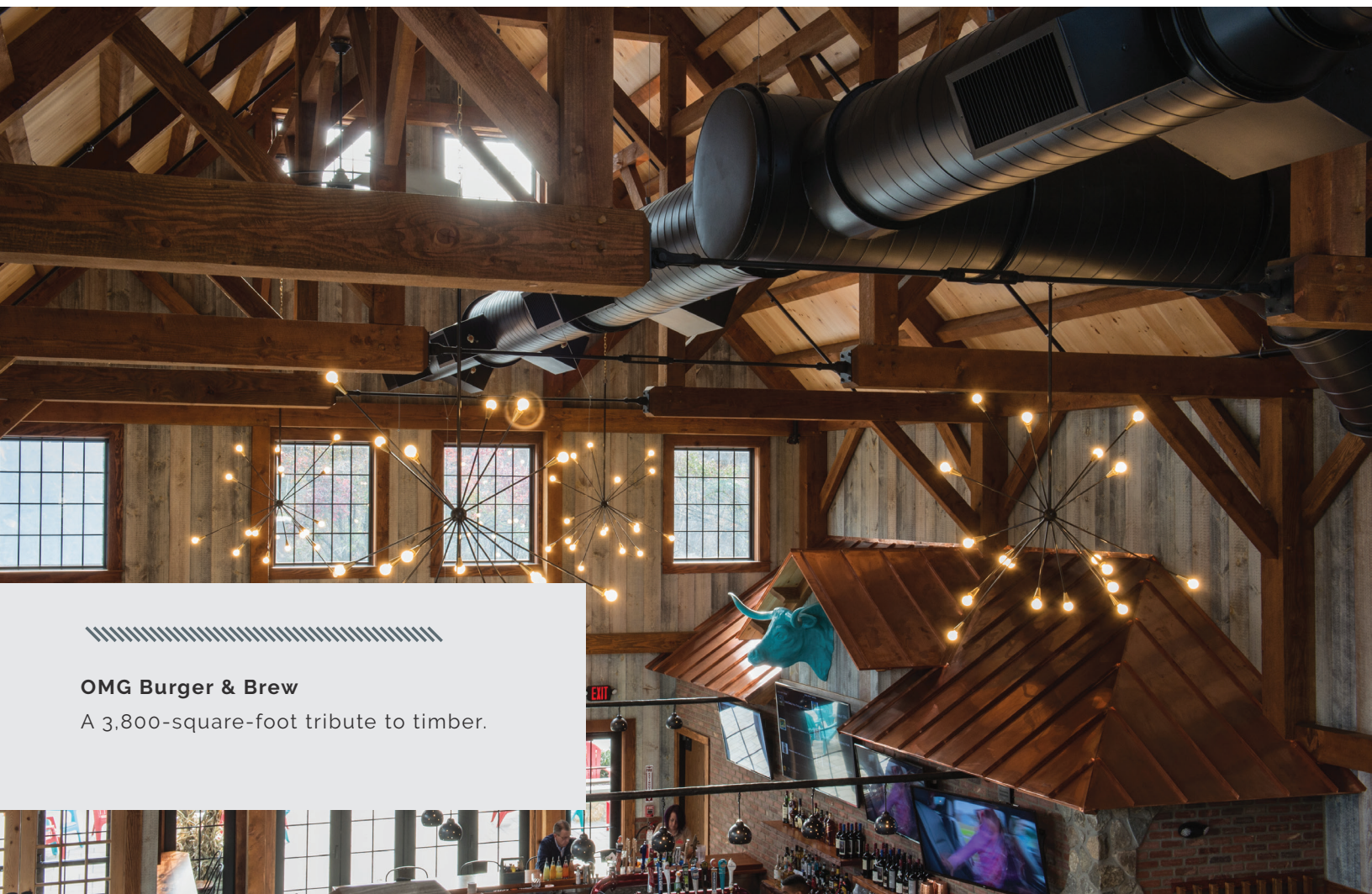
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Are there any new building implications for architects or contractors that came out of this year's International Mass Timber Conference?



OMG Burger & Brew

A 3,800-square-foot tribute to timber.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Photo Credit: Marcus Kauffman | masstimberconference.com



2022 International Mass Timber Conference

The in-person International Mass Timber Conference took place April 12–14 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The largest gathering of mass timber experts in the world, the conference discusses topics such as best practices in raw materials and supply chains and the practical aspects of mass timber design and engineering. A few interesting takeaways about the current — and future — state of mass timber construction included:

Connection Systems

Large-scale hardware and connection suppliers are pushing hard into the mass timber market with their proprietary connection systems. But there's also a push to develop standardized connection systems, with the USDA and Lendlease providing joint funding to further this goal. Software development aimed at automated connection design is also in the works.

Building Codes

Navigating code requirements for a mass timber project can be challenging, especially in the commercial sector. Codes serve as a framework, but they are not one size fits all. Increasingly, designers have been challenging codes — thoughtfully, and backed by data — and are showing that it's possible for new codes to be presented and adopted.

The Rise & Rise of Mass Timber

Government initiatives are encouraging mass timber construction, including programs from the US Army, US Forest Service, and USDA. Many large and prestigious universities are embracing it too, not only including it in their curricula but also using it for their new campus buildings. Some industry pros predict that mass timber will become the preferred building material of many design professionals.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

OMG Burger & Brew, Restaurant



Architect	Mileto-Godsall Associates
Builder	B&D Builders
Location	Long Valley, NJ
Points of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bar made from reclaimed oak• Vaulted timber ceiling

Timber was an obvious choice for OMG Burger & Brew, situated on Schooley's Mountain in a wooded area of New Jersey. The natural look of the timber contrasts with man-made elements such as concrete floors, custom Sputnik chandeliers, and a bright red metal standing seam roof, giving the restaurant a modern feel. The reclaimed oak bar provides plenty of space for customers to enjoy a beer from OMG's own brewery.





Douglas fir timber frames are joined by a timber ceiling and custom reclaimed oak bar.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT



John McMahon | Dewson Construction

John McMahon is the chief operating officer of Dewson Construction, located in Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The firm has specialized in high-end residential construction and renovations for nearly 30 years.

What inspired you to become a general contractor?

I worked construction during summers in high school and enjoyed the entire process. It's incredibly satisfying to work with a team to build something new or make something old look new and function well by today's standards. I still thoroughly enjoy construction, the pace and the interaction with so many talented people on a daily basis — tradesmen and women, design professionals, and our own craftsmen building and renovating beautiful homes.

How long have you been with your firm?

I've been with Dewson Construction since its inception in 1993 and have worked in multiple facets, from field manager to project manager, from estimator to director of operations, and from vice president to chief operating officer.

What is your area of expertise?

As chief operating officer, I oversee day-to-day operations, including project operations, pre-construction, and administration. I am fortunate that I was mentored by our founder and CEO, Tim Dewson, for 29 years and work closely with our chief financial officer, Michaela Bende, who has also been with our company since 1993. I also have very dedicated teams, with project managers, field managers, estimators, and administrative staff who consistently deliver the highest levels of operational excellence and client satisfaction.



Which project are you most proud of?

I'm proud of all of our projects because we build each structure knowing it's someone's home — where people live and raise their families, make memories, and spend their time. It's extremely satisfying looking back at all the homes we've built and/or renovated in the past 29 years knowing that all are crafted with the same level of quality and care.

What's the most challenging request you've received from a client?

One request for a basement stands out. The home was located in a coastal town, not conducive to basements because the water table was two to three feet below the surface, requiring the basement floor elevation to be six feet above. The site had to be de-watered for three weeks, a waterproof barrier of bentonite clay had to be created, and the foundation built within the clay sheets of the barrier — a kind of reverse pool. The client got their finished basement with billiards room, recreation room, and workshop, and our team got the satisfaction of meeting the challenge!

What are your thoughts on working with timber?

We love working with timber and always look forward to projects where it's incorporated into the design. It's the perfect combination of a truly beautiful and natural material that is timeless and versatile in its overall look, and the strength and durability can't be beat.

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

CE-U IN CHICAGO!

Mid-Atlantic Timberframes will be holding meetings at this year's AIA Conference on Architecture in Chicago, June 22–25. On June 22, we'll also be co-sponsoring a boat tour where you'll learn about more than 50 buildings along the Chicago River and enjoy a complimentary dinner and open bar. By attending, you'll also earn 1.5 AIA CEU credits! Space is limited. To learn more, email samuel.ebersol@midatlantictimberframes.com.



ASK AN EXPERT

Are there any new building implications for architects or contractors that came out of this year's International Mass Timber Conference?

The past year has seen an increase in the number of states adopting updated building codes that include new provisions for mass timber. These updated codes allow for the use of mass timber products on a broader scale. Glulam, CLT, and laminated decking are just a few examples of engineered wood products you might find in a mass timber building.

Enthusiasm for innovation continues across many facets of the mass timber industry. Product development teams are collaborating with hardware manufacturers, builders, and tradespeople to design standardized, pre-engineered connection systems. The use of standardized hardware components will contribute to greater efficiencies for all aspects of a project. Additionally, advancements in CNC manufacturing continue to pave the way for these massive structures to be prefabricated at a high level of precision and with minimal waste.



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.

**mike.banta@midatlantictimberframes.com
717.288.2460 ext. 111**



34 S Vintage Road
Paradise, PA 17562



Advancing the Art of Timber Construction

Mid-Atlantic Timberframes builds custom legacy homes and one-of-a-kind academic, agricultural, and commercial structures. Timber frame construction provides versatility that traditional construction methods can't match, for limitless possibilities. We employ innovative computer-aided design and computer numerical control (CNC) machining technology, bringing our craft to a higher level of precision and resulting in exceptional structures that deliver lasting durability and peace of mind.

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