

Mid-Atlantic
TIMBERFRAMES

TIMBER TALK

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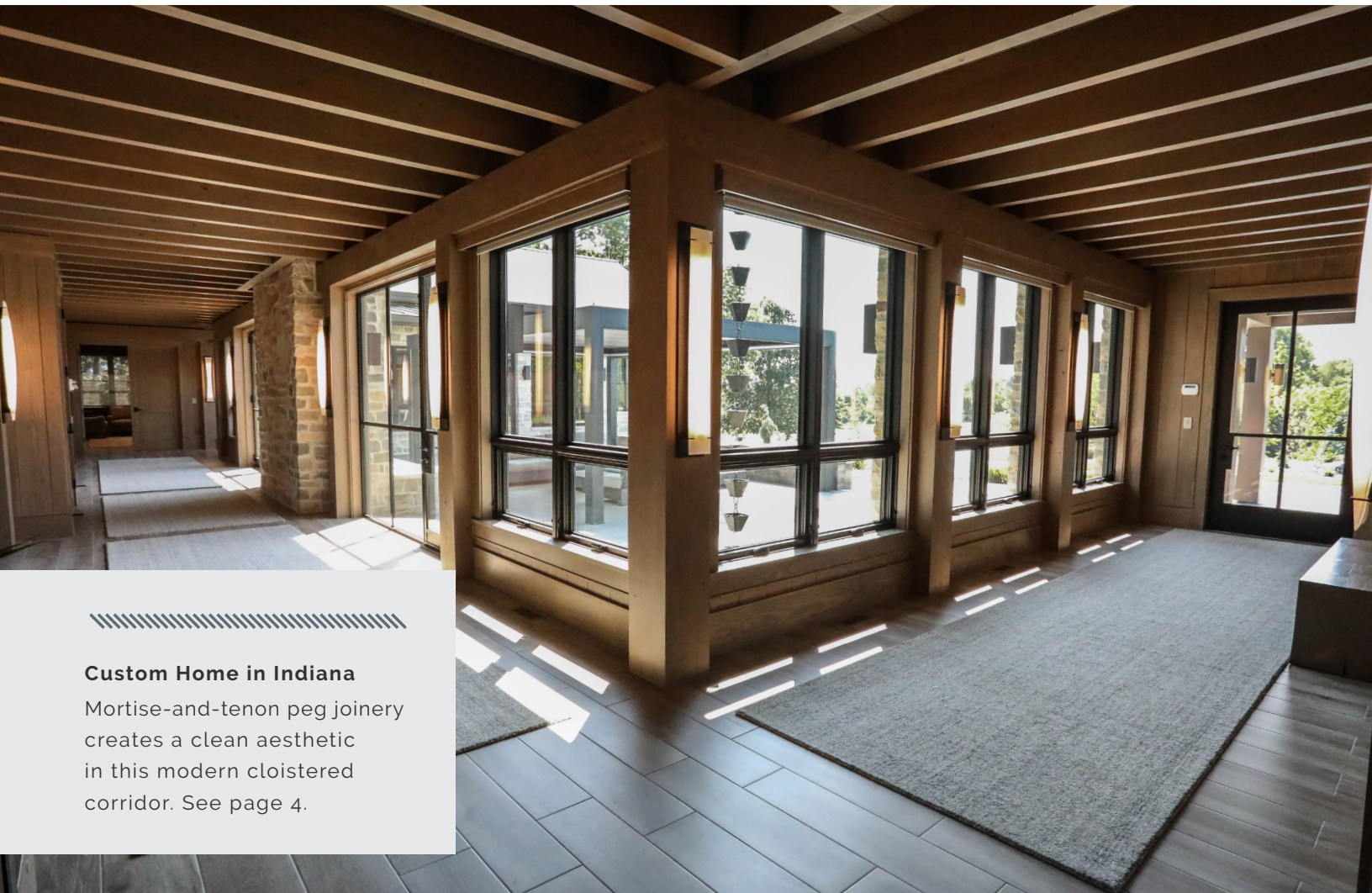
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Custom Home in Indiana

Mortise-and-tenon peg joinery creates a clean aesthetic in this modern cloistered corridor. See page 4.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Takeaways from the 2024 International Mass Timber Conference

This year's International Mass Timber Conference took place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland March 26–28. It was a welcome opportunity to meet with many architects, builders, engineers, suppliers, and industry professionals, and we came away with several important points that we will reference moving forward.

Preparing for the Unknowns

There's been more discussion lately about the importance of early engagement and planning with specialty trade professionals. As more projects integrate mass timber with steel and/or concrete, it's critical that all trades remain in communication with one another during the early stages of design. Decisions made then will set the stage for everything from material procurement lead times to timber fabrication and installation timing. It's never been more important to seek the input of an experienced mass timber fabricator and installer in the early stages of a project.

Job Site Moisture Mitigation

Moisture mitigation on mass timber job sites is vital, but planning and executing it has lagged as the surge in timber construction continues. Careful planning is required to overcome this challenge, so it's imperative for mass timber suppliers to make builders aware of the importance of managing water on the job site.

Navigating Material Lead Times

Scheduling mass timber material purchases, deliveries, and site logistics requires intense attention to detail as well as knowledge of procurement strategies for a variety of timber components. As mentioned above, getting early input from a mass timber fabricator will provide a clearer picture of realistic timetables for a given project.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Custom Home in Middlebury, Indiana



Architect	James S Bates Architect, PLLC
Timber Erector	B&D Builders
Location	Middlebury, IN
Points of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 620 pieces of solid, kiln-dried Douglas fir timber• Total volume of 43,000 board feet• Constructed using mortise-and-tenon peg joinery

Blending modern architecture with traditional timber framing, this beautiful custom home is a marriage of new aesthetics and old-world craftsmanship. B&D Builders erected the kiln-dried, solid Douglas fir timbers, expertly assembling them with mortise-and-tenon peg joinery. The finished product is a marvel of light, natural wood, and simplicity in design.





Clean lines, natural lighting, and a vaulted timber ceiling give this custom home a dramatic yet welcoming atmosphere.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT



Darren P. Mercer | Architect, PLLC



How long have you been an architect?

I began working in architecture at 20, before graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1985. After earning my license in 1987, I worked for various firms for over 20 years, and in 2009 I started doing my own work on the side. I then opened my own shop in 2014, Darren P. Mercer, Architect, PLLC.

My firm is kind of an anomaly in that I work alone (I do my own CAD and design and work with the clients directly). I outsource certain things — field measuring, drafting and construction drawings — but overall, I like being independent and taking full responsibility for my own projects. I do primarily residential projects but have also done commercial.

Which projects are you most proud of?

Two come to mind. First, the Environmental Education Center at Westmoreland Sanctuary in Westchester County, New York. It happened very quickly and methodically, and so far, between its owners and visitors, everyone is very happy with it. Architects and builders were curious about it as well.

And then the Bedford Playhouse, also in Westchester County. This was a very challenging project. It's a 1940s building that also houses apartments as a mixed-use structure. It was a complete gut renovation, turning one large theater into two smaller ones. I get a lot of satisfaction from it because it serves the public as a community center with a lot of events, not just movies.

Where do you find inspiration?

I do a lot of work on older homes, and am a traditionalist, an architectural history person. I get inspiration just driving around seeing older homes and buildings. And I work within the context of the immediate area I work in. For example, a lake property needs a lake vibe that's geared toward getting exposure to water and views.

Which structure in the world do you find most interesting?

Oh, lots of them. There are beautiful public projects in my area, reservoirs with dams built 100 years ago, that are just marvels of civil engineering. I enjoy the buildings along the river in the Hudson Valley, too, also beautiful and inspiring.

What are your thoughts on designing with timber?

Westmoreland Sanctuary was my first timber project — having only done projects to imitate timber previously — and it was very satisfying. It's an old building form, yet it lends itself to modernist structures, to be energy efficient and interpreted in different ways. It's very flexible in function, with more glass and open spaces. You can do so much on so many levels. Plus, everyone who enters that type of building gets a great feeling from it. I hope to do more of these types of projects.

Want to be our next Industry Highlight? Email Sam Ebersol | Sam.Ebersol@MATFLLC.com

Meet Us at Mass Timber+ at Greenbuild

We're thrilled to be exhibiting at the Mass Timber+ Offsite Construction Conference this year, taking place November 12–14 in Philadelphia. Come see us at Booth #342 in Tier 2!

Formerly known as IWBC, Mass Timber+ features educational sessions from experts, innovators, and pioneers on the forefront of mass timber

design and construction. Topics will include offsite manufacturing, labor solutions, reducing embodied carbon, and much more.

Mass Timber+ is being held in conjunction with the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo. For more info, visit MassTimberPlus.com and InformaConnect.com/Greenbuild.

ASK AN EXPERT

When is the right time to first engage a mass timber fabricator about a new project?

At the beginning! The guidance of an experienced mass timber fabricator informs decisions that affect project cost, design, amount of material used, construction pace, and team coordination, so it is crucial for architects and engineers to engage one as soon as possible.

The earlier a mass timber fabricator understands your project — including the site's size, orientation, and zoning; the size and occupancy intentions for the building; its layout, aesthetics, and acoustics; and sustainability goals and carbon impact — the more effective their recommendations will be. One of the most important areas they can weigh in on is occupant safety. Their expertise in adhering to IBC fire-resistance ratings is vital when determining the sprinklers and suppression devices, stairways and exits, and other safeguards needed in a building.

And, as with any type of project, working as a team early on reduces back-and-forth later. Starting with a clear outline of expectations makes a project run more efficiently without the delays of multiple calls to and from the people involved.



Jedd Miller | Sales Manager

In his career, Jedd has worked in construction and as a service advisor in the automotive industry, taking on tough problems while building strong relationships with his clients. He has an appreciation for the fine craftsmanship and care that Mid-Atlantic Timberframes uses to create quality timber framing.

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