

TIMBER FRAMERS NEWS

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Habitat Frame Underway

THE HABITAT project, expected to be a significant chapter in the history of the Guild, is moving forward on schedule. With a target date of May 18 for the frame raising at Hanover, Pennsylvania, the framing plans are in their final stages. The mailing to the Guild membership soliciting donations of one or more cut timbers has produced an enthusiastic early response, and the possibility remains strong there may be two frames produced in the end. Shop drawings will be distributed to the volunteers this month.

The schedule for raising day calls tentatively for six bents to be assembled between 8:00 and 10:30 AM, the raising to begin at 11:00 and finish by 12:30. Pre-cut panels will go on next, together with windows, doors and roofing as the paneling proceeds, and the house will be completely closed in by 4:30 PM. Habitat volunteers will then continue working around the clock to finish the house (or houses) by Sunday noon, May 21.

The problems of developing a standard language for layout and checking and achieving standard size for pins and pinholes have presented the Guild's Habitat Committee an intriguing challenge. However, the possibility of a miscut timber has been anticipated—at one corner of the site a supply of spare timbers will be waiting on sawhorses, together with "ten of the fastest timber framers" in the Guild.

'89 Conference Broadens Range

EACH YEAR, the Conference Speakers Committee tries to invite speakers dealing with a healthy mix of topics including business, history, engineering, construction, safety, tools, technique and design. At this year's conference in Millersville, Pa., acoustical engineer Tom Esslinger will speak to us about sound insulation and sound transmission in timber frame houses, and USDA Forest Products Lab Project Leader and *Fine Woodworking* contributor Bill Feist will talk about paints and finishes. Historian Bob Ansminger will join us to describe his work with Pennsylvania forebay barns. Philadelphia architect Alvin Holm will discuss the design and detailing of architectural woodwork (window and door trim, cornice work, panelling, etc.) and other elements strongly influenced by classical architecture.

In France today timber framers are still active, part of an unbroken tradition stretching back through the Middle Ages. The *Compagnons du Devoir*, the French trade guild, measures its age in centuries. Equipped with slides from the guild archives, *Compagnon* Michel Jambon will join us from Toulouse to speak about ancient and modern timber framing in France. We also hope to have on loan from Paris one or two masterpieces—exquisite wooden models produced by French framers at the completion of their formal training.

This year's conference will be closely interwoven with the Habitat for Humanity project, starting with the Habitat raisings on Thursday



Ed Levin / Autocad

Machine perspective drawing of proposed frame designed by the Guild for the Habitat house. An alternate version will use common purlins instead of the common rafters shown here. More drawings appear on page 3.

and ending on Sunday with the dedication of the finished houses. During the conference, York Habitat project coordinator Jean Shipman will speak to us at the opening ceremonies on Friday morning. The designer of the Guild-Habitat house, architect Katherine Cartrette of Minneapolis, will talk about "The Making of a Place," a how-to design seminar offering a basic design philosophy emphasizing simple solutions, exemplified by the Habitat house.

THE FLOW of timber framing across the continent has generally been from East to West. This year we reverse that trend by repeating two workshops first given at the 1988 Guild Western Conference. Adjectives like riveting or inspiring are seldom applied to business seminars, but John Reed's marketing seminar was acclaimed as the best ever by all those who attended. Judith Landau of Port Townsend, Washington will repeat her popular talk tracing the role of timber framing in American vernacular architecture, focusing on the influence of this history on her own work as a designer for Timbercraft Homes.

In addition to John and Judith, the 1989 conference features a number of presentations by Guild members. Doug Nash of Timbercraft will give a hands-on workshop dealing with jigs. Two panel discussions are scheduled. Tools will be the subject of a session titled "State of the Art, What's Missing" and "The Dream Shop" will explore ideal working environments for timber framers.

The remaining four sessions cater to a range of skill and experience levels among our members. For the beginning or intermediate framer, Chris Madigan and Tom Page of the Timber Frame Workshop will cover "The Fundamentals of Timber Framing" and Mack Magee of Riverbend will present an "Introduc-

Call for Nominations

Five director's terms of office will expire this Spring. In accordance with Guild bylaws, a nominating committee has been appointed by the Board to receive nominations in advance of the election at the May conference. Nominations will not be taken from the floor at this year's election. Please therefore submit names promptly to any member of the Committee—Jim Benson, John Libby, Dennis Marcom or John Reed.

tion to Structural Engineering." For old hands, Benson Woodworking's Dennis Marcom will examine creative solutions to difficult joinery problems, while Ben Brungraber and friends take a look at "An Engineer's Worst Fears."

Finally, 1989 marks the start of an exciting new offering at the national conference, the presentation of short, highly specific talks by Guild Members. The Speakers Committee sees this as an excellent way of sharing our knowledge and experience and insuring that the conference program meets the needs of the membership.

—ED LEVIN

Bridge Design Competition Announced

THE STATE of Vermont has opened a design competition for a standardized wooden bridge to be used to replace deteriorated municipal steel and concrete bridges throughout the state.

In announcing the competition Governor Madeline Kunin said she has "long dreamed of creating a contemporary Vermont wooden bridge that would be practical, cost-effective, a tourist attraction and a boon to our wood products industry." The competition is cosponsored by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Council on the Arts, whose director Joanne Winship remarked "we hope to bring out the artist in the engineer."

The design will be limited initially to spans of under 60-ft., though eventually these could be longer. "The Governor wants a prototype design that would signify Vermont," said Mary McDonald of the Agency of Transportation. "Basically we are talking about town bridges at this point."

Specifications for the competition will be published at the end of this month and the winner announced in June. A copy of the specifications may be obtained by writing The Secretary, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Montpelier, VT 05602. The deadline for submission is May 15.