

Builders & Associates

SERVING THE RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDING TRADE IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
4TH ISSUE 2012

magazine



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Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc.

Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. was founded sixteen years ago by Anthony Zaya and Joseph McCarthy both of whom, for a decade before, had worked in the trade for competing companies in southern Lancaster County. Over the years LCTF has grown in terms of team members and physical plant. More importantly, the company has reached the very upper level of the craft in terms



top A Chapel in the Woods: The monks at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina wanted their students to have a tranquil and serene place for prayer and reflection.

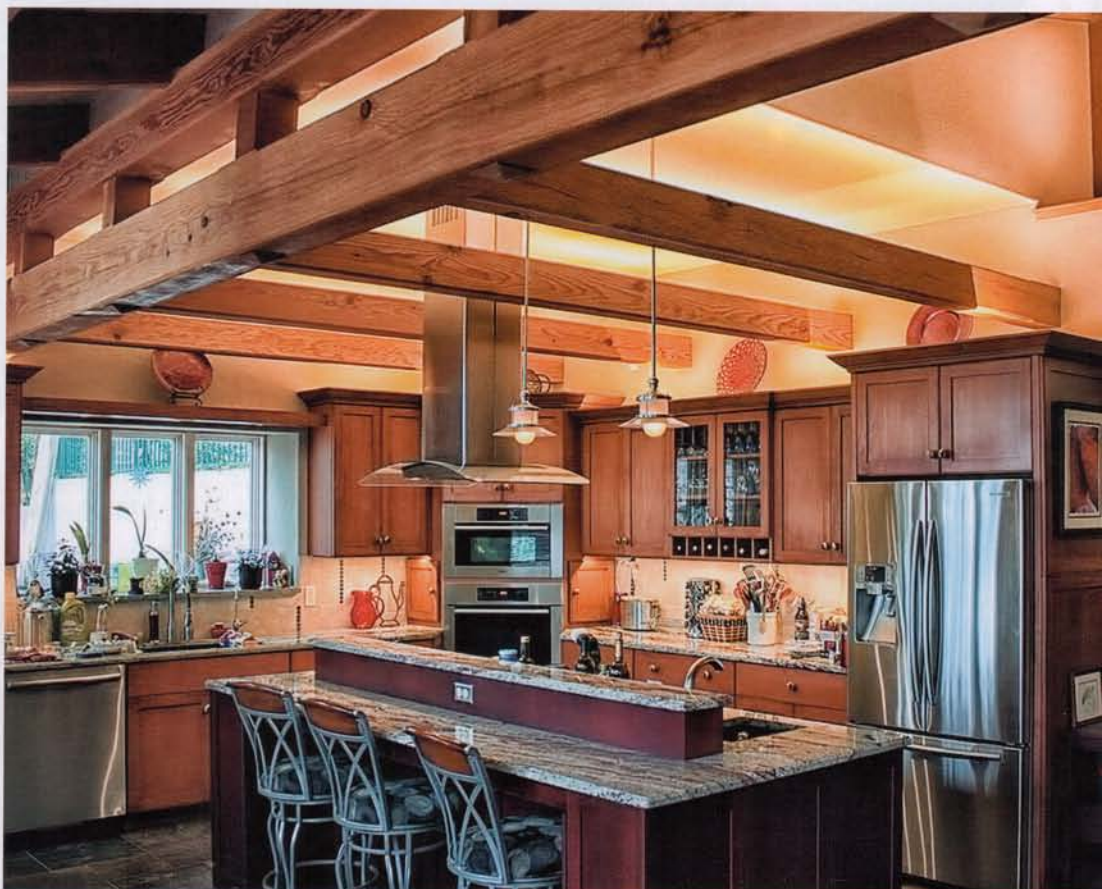
bottom A view of the interior of the chapel.



of reach, influence, capability, quality and reputation. LCTF's work, found across the nation from Massachusetts to New Mexico, has received numerous awards from regional, state, national and international organizations. Twice (2007

top & bottom

The Ember House: This Pennsylvania Gold LEED Certified home is the second for this client. The rear (North) and parts of two sides are earth-bermed while the south-facing front is fully exposed.





and 2009) LCTF was named to the *Inc. 5000* list of the fastest growing privately owned companies in America. Its work has graced the covers of over a dozen publications and one of its projects was featured in a season-long series of "Dream House" on HGTV. LCTF has long been the pioneer in the integration of timber frame construction with conventional construction. Zaya has written a number of articles on that growing field. In 2008 Schiffer Publications LLC published the book *Timber Frame Hybrids* which

top An Historic Farm House in Maryland: This kitchen/breakfast addition is attached to the exterior wall of the stone farmhouse. The finish on the Douglas Fir timbers is clear satin polyurethane.

bottom A Three Season Room: This addition to an existing dining hall at the Gulph Mill Country Club in Philadelphia gave the club not only more space but a more relaxed and informal dining experience.



was written by Zaya and Tim Diener, a designer and principal at LCTF.

Even though LCTF has worked with a number of prominent architects and although they have had as clients some very famous names in the sports, arts, entertainment, science and financial worlds, it is often the modest projects which excite Zaya the most. "Creating beauty when you have little or no monetary constraints is not a difficult task. The challenge is to do so on a very limited budget," Zaya explained.

Besides residential projects LCTF has been involved in commercial and institutional projects. In fact, the Plain & Fancy Country Store in Bird In Hand, PA was the company's first project. Since then, LCTF has completed close to sixty commercial and institutional projects. Notable amongst these are: The Great Harbor Yacht Club on Nantucket, MA;

top A Pair of Visitor Centers: On either side of I-70 in Maryland LCTF erected visitor centers for the state and Kinsley Construction.

bottom right Dining at the Water's Edge: This addition to the historic John Wright Restaurant in Wrightsville, PA, made use of the owner's foundry for the post bottoms (125 lb.) and the braces (65 lb.), both of which are cast iron.

bottom left The arcs on the braces echo those of the nearby art deco bridge which spans the Susquehanna River.





The Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum, Gettysburg, PA; Crossways Church, Millersville, PA; Willow Creek Vineyard, Cape May, NJ; The River Restaurant & Brewery, Radford, VA; Sinnemahoning State Park Visitors

Center, Sinnemahoning, PA, and The Pine Barrens Country Club, Lakehurst, NJ.

In the specialized field of timber framing and heavy timber construction, LCTF is a bit unusual. Advertising is almost non-existent. Nor does LCTF participate in any of the timber frame home shows that many of their competitors rely on for sales leads. LCTF relies instead on repeat business from a number of architects and general contractors in various states, and on word of mouth. Most, if not very close to all, timber frame companies that are of LCTF's production size

rely on large CNC machines to fabricate their frames. The folks at LCTF lay out and carve their frames by hand. Zaya maintains that, while he enjoys and even loves machines, machines do great work with homogeneous materials such as plastics and metals. With an organic material such as timber the skilled hand and the hard eye of a passionate craftsman achieves finer work than does a machine. Unlike many other timber frame companies that either sub out the erection of their frames or put that responsibility onto the shoulders of the general contractor, at LCTF the craftsmen who carve the frames are the ones who erect them.

Other than the most recent hire, who had served an internship at LCTF years ago while earning his B.S. at the

top History Revisited: The recycled Douglas Fir timbers for this home in Potomac Maryland were harvested from the original Marconi factory in Montreal, Canada.

American College of the Building Arts in NC, all members of the LCTF team have been with the company at least six years. Most have been with the company over ten years – this in an industry known for its high turn-over rate. One reason for this high retention rate is that all but the most recent hire hold shares in the company.

Another aspect in which LCTF stands pretty much alone is transparency. On their web site (www.lancotf.com) you will find a complete and unedited list of every builder, general contractor and architect, along with phone numbers. Additionally, LCTF engages an independent third party evaluating organization to survey every client, within six months of project completion, to elicit ratings and comments in sixteen areas of performance. The organization, Guild Quality, publishes the results on their website (www.guildquality.com). LCTF started this practice over three years ago and to date their recommendation rate is 100%, a distinction which has resulted in two awards for LCTF. LCTF is the only timber frame company in the country that allows, and even welcomes, such close scrutiny.

Photos courtesy of Lancaster County Timber Frames.



top The Northern Tier of Pennsylvania: This 9,300 square foot Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park was awarded Silver LEED Certification.

bottom The metal connectors are stainless steel.

