

Big Timberworks, Inc.

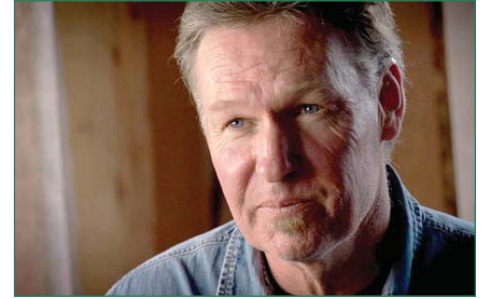
Located in Gallatin Gateway, Montana

Featured Member
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The Big Timberworks, Inc. (BT) legacy began in 1979 as a business that was informally known as “a coalition of log building Gypsies.” Simply put, they built log buildings, learning and honoring a traditional building method based on humble materials used to build personalized and functional structures.

In the learning process, late owner Merle Adams and his partner were building nomads, moving around the country for the sake of mastering woodworking techniques. After gaining valuable skills, they moved back to the Bozeman, Montana area, and by 1983, they transitioned to timber framing; what they considered to be “a very honest form of construction, in which everything shows.”



Big Timberworks Founder, Merle Adams.



The Clock Tower is an iconic landmark at Big Timberworks.

In search of dry timber, the BT team came across a load of reclaimed lumber from an old industrial building on the West Coast. By 1995, BT was the largest end user of reclaimed timber in the U.S., starting a trend in sustainable building materials. At the same time, BT grew to incorporate a design team, including architects and general contractors, allowing them to build homes from scratch. Shortly after, BT began infusing metal and stone into many projects, enjoying the challenge and design aspects offered by different materials.

In 1999, Big Timberworks became a worker’s cooperative, giving each employee owner a vested interest in the quality of their products, while ensuring that the spirit of creation lives on. The company currently has 13 member-owners who share in the governance and profits that BT earns.

Today, BT has evolved and expanded to include timber design, timber framing, wood furniture, custom metalwork, and the reclaimed lumber sawmill. Clinging to its roots as passionate craftsmen, it operates as a coalition of designers and builders focused on sustainable building materials and personalized designs with character and soul. BT’s goal



Dramatic craftsmanship is detailed in the porch and interior of this project in North Carolina.

is to always be moving ahead and trying new techniques, without losing sight of age-old traditions.

BT houses four shops that work together: Timber Frame, Sawmill, Custom Metal Shop and Wood Furniture manufacturing.

BT is a specialized subcontractor, shipping and erecting one-of-a-kind reclaimed timber projects across the United States. From truss packages to box beams to entryways, BT custom fabricates every detail in its shop. Each joint – whether it is wood or steel connected – is cut and carefully pre-fit to meet building specifications.

BT is a Box Beam Manufacturer with a creative difference. For interior and exterior applications, box beams give the illusion of solid timber beams and also conceal elements of construction such as steel beams, electrical wiring, and structural timbers.

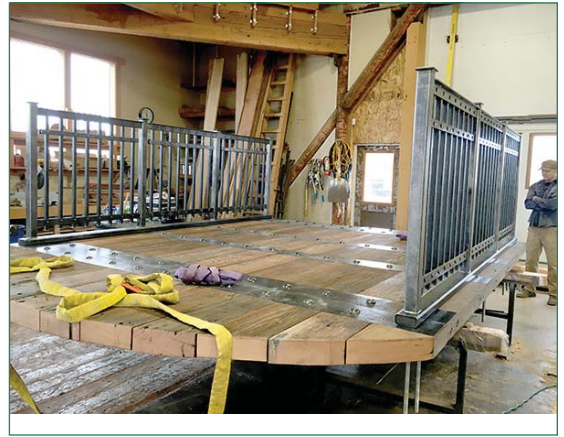
The sawmill is busy filling timber packages, as well as milling reclaimed wood into flooring, paneling and siding, for use in homes and commercial buildings. BT brings over 30 years of sawmill experience to their clients – builder, architect and homeowner – to ensure the outcome meets the vision.



Continued from page 8

BT artisans pull from a vast inventory of reclaimed wood that is kept on-hand, which it continues to source and restock year round. Reclaimed wood often has old nail holes or variations in color that add natural warmth not found in new wood products. BT prefers to work with reclaimed wood materials, not only for their beauty, but because they tend to be more stable. Where new wood can shrink, move, and twist, reclaimed lumber stays strong, sturdy, and reliable.

The large sawmill facility houses numerous pieces of machinery, allowing BT to provide a wide range of milled products. The molder, for instance, not only produces shiplap siding and tongue and groove flooring, but also mills planks up to 12 inches. The BT team has extensive knowledge and experience working with engineers to guarantee form meets function for structural custom metalwork – metal components, such as framing, beams or staircases. Architectural metal is anything aesthetically pleasing that is also functional, which makes it the perfect medium to use in place of traditional materials, adding character and ambiance. Metal can be used to make an intricate stairwell rail, a hanging system to hold copper pots and pans, even barn door or truss connections. By using heat to forge and manipulate metal, BT carefully crafts ideas into functional works of art that are also architecturally pleasing.



Working with large reclaimed timber and the metal shop, the BT craftsman created a drawbridge to be installed at one of their projects.



The metal shop can create the perfect accent for the fireplace or a complete staircase. Combining the wood, metal and stone gives each project a complimentary finish.



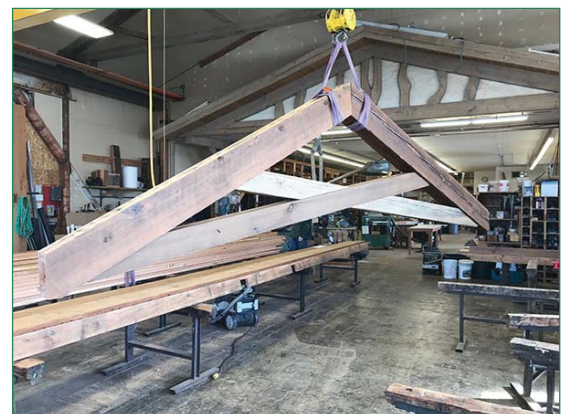
BT furniture concepts are based on needs, space, and style. The team combines years of craftsmanship with extraordinary materials to make wood furniture – live edge wood tables, custom reclaimed beds, or a one-of-a-kind entryway door. BT builds one piece at a time giving full attention to quality and detail. When designing a project, attention to design style; contemporary and modern, rustic and natural, or somewhere in between, is very important.

BT's inventory of live edge slabs and bases mixes clean lines with the raw appeal of wood's natural exterior shape. The unaltered grooves and curves remain while the smooth cross section of the tree reveals its age giving clues to its time on earth. BT carefully chooses its slabs and inventory by sourcing pieces with one-of-a-kind designs in mind, both big and small. Designing furniture and accent pieces with live edge slabs often means using a single piece of wood. The inventory selection sizes vary from 2 to 20 feet long, 1 to 5 feet wide, and from 2 to 4 inches thick making the possibilities endless. A live edge bar top (yep, all one piece) is just as doable as an entryway bench. The wood species is just as vast as the dimensions that are stocked. The inventory includes native softwoods, sourced hardwoods, and burls from various parts of the United States and British Columbia.

At BT, every project produced embodies creativity, ethics and commitment to its clients.



Live edge furnishings like the large dining table above are made as one-of-a kind treasures.



BT designs and builds trusses that can be shipped directly to the site for installation.

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