



# Book Information

## Woodland House

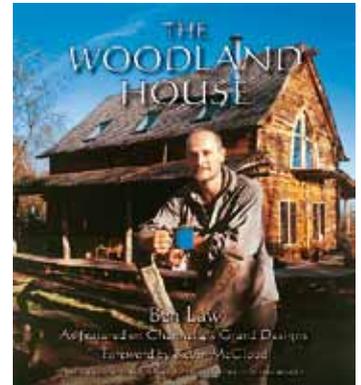
By Ben Law

In 2003 Ben Law captivated the nation by building his woodland house on Channel 4's Grand Designs programme - the home was later voted the most popular Grand Design ever by viewers. The presenter, Kevin McCloud, loved the project so much that he has written the foreword to this book! A Grand Designs Revisited programme was aired on British TV in October 2005.

Full of stunning colour photographs, *The Woodland House* is a visual guide to how Ben built his outstandingly beautiful home in the woods. It is also a practical manual, and the story of a man realising a lifetime's dream to build one of the most sustainable and beautiful homes in Britain.

*The Woodland House* gives details of the evolving design process, the identifying of materials, costings, project management and the actual building. It proves that low cost, low impact and high aesthetics can go hand in hand and that it is possible to build green and affordably.

As the pre-eminent UK example of building with wood and renewable materials this will also appeal to the growing number of people with environmental and green interests, as well as to the building community.



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## What people are saying about THE WOODLAND HOUSE

Ben's approach to building his house started with the materials. He selected the poles he wanted to build with and designed around them. He used no cement, no glues, no plastics, no rockwool, no toxic timber preservatives, no plasterboard, no PVC fascia boards, no polystyrene... This in itself is a hugely important statement at the peak of industrial civilisation. His house is a fusion of the best of the old and the best of the new. Solar panels sit alongside traditionally pegged joints. Highly efficient glazing sits in local timber frames. People sense from this house a connection back through history to a vernacular way of building that feels right. It embodies what Christopher Alexander calls a 'Timeless Way of Building'.

The Woodland House is a gorgeous and glowing testimony to Ben's house. It has enough text to tell you what you need to know, but it lets the colour photos do most of the talking, and the result is a beautifully produced book that you could leave on any coffee table, it would melt the most hostile of hearts. It has an excellent collection of resources and other information, and it does what Permanent Publications books do best, it celebrates its subject, while at the same time passing on the practical tools to allow us to make one ourselves.

*Rob Hopkins, Transition movement*

Devotees of Channel 4's Grand Designs will probably know all about Ben Law and his house, built for less than £30,000, and the envy of most the civilised world. The Woodland House is a fascinating chronicle of a dream and how one's wildest fantasies can be realised with application and support. The clear photography charts Ben's journey and there are enough links and information to kickstart anyone intending to follow his path. You simply can't help warming to the integrity of this woodsman and his life.

*Goodwoodworking*

Ben Law's unforgettable appearance on Channel 4's Grand Designs is captured stunningly in this beautiful record of how Ben built his woodland home. An innovative woodsman, he created one of the most sustainable homes in the country, and here he details his design process, materials and costings, proving that it is possible to go for high aesthetics and low cost and impact. If you're one of the over five million viewers who watched Ben you'll love falling into this amazing book; facts given, knowledge shared and information aside, the photographs of the outcome of the project can't fail but leave you with a deep longing for the spaces created. This is a dream that did come true and is all the more inspirational because of that.

*WAVE magazine*

The quaint wooden house in Prickly Nut Wood is no fairytale concoction - it is an icon of the movement to combine ecology and ethics in design.

*The Guardian*

The Woodland House has all the virtues of his first book, but is more accessible, more focused and more useful — at least useful to anyone who is thinking of building a timber framed house. The book combines sufficient detail so that you could copy his design, with an emotional warmth that lets you know the sort of person Ben is and how much this building means to him. The book includes Engineers calculations, detailed floor plans and a list of resources so that if you live in the UK and own the right kind of plot, you too can build a Woodland House.

*Nick Rosen [www.off-grid.net](http://www.off-grid.net)*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ben has always had a passion for healthy, biodiverse farms and woodlands. He has worked on a smallholding, growing fruit and vegetables and looking after livestock.

Having gained an Advanced National Certificate in Agriculture, he became a shepherd and set up a conservation landscaping business, specialising in ponds and wild flower meadows. Woodlands were a natural progression and after seeking out a few experienced coppice workers, he began work in the woods and in associated coppice crafts.

Ben endured a 10 year struggle to obtain planning permission to build a house in his own woods, made mainly out of materials from the woodland itself.

Ben's appearance on Channel 4's Grand Designs is the most watched in the series' history, is the host's and public's favourite episode and was one of the 25 programmes chosen to represent Channel 4's 25th anniversary. The show, and his Grand Design's Revisited episode, are repeated constantly in the UK and worldwide. Ben has also appeared on the BBC's Countryfile and The Green Team. In America, Ben has featured on The World's Greenest Homes, The World's Most Extreme Homes (HGTV) and Nightline (ABC), and various shows worldwide including Japan's El Mundo (the equivalent of their One Show).

Ben visited the Amazon in the late 1980s looking for positive solutions to deforestation and on his return set up and directed the charity, The Forest Management Foundation, working primarily with community forestry in Papua New Guinea. He has also worked for Oxfam as a permaculture consultant.

Ben was a founding member of the Forest Stewardship Council and has lived and worked at Prickly Nut Woods in West Sussex, UK, for 20 years; training apprentices and running courses on sustainable woodland management, eco-building and permaculture design. He runs a specialist eco-building company The Roundwood Timber Framing Company Limited.

