



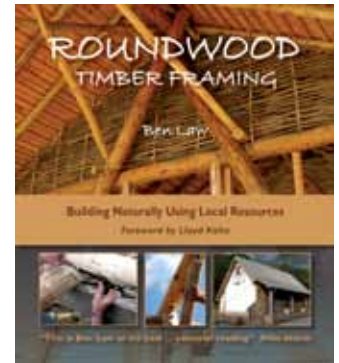
# Book Information

## Roundwood Timber Framing Building Naturally Using Local Resources By Ben Law

Since building his famous Woodland House from his own woodland, author Ben Law has evolved his own style of natural building, now tried and tested on many other builds across England. Ben has built houses, workshops, a classroom, lean-tos, a shop and a store to industrial specifications. Whilst this style's origins can be found in traditional forms of building, Ben has developed an entirely new vernacular using many innovative ideas and techniques.

Filled with detailed colour photographs and drawings, this unique and practical 'how to' book, is unquestionably a benchmark for sustainable building. *Roundwood Timber Framing* encourages communication between woodsmen, planners, architects and builders and helps to close the loop between environmental conservation, use of renewable local resources and the regeneration and evolution of traditional skills to create durable, ecological and beautiful buildings.

Ben is a now a much admired figure. His previous books have sold extremely well and this book, with its highly original and fascinating contribution to design and build, is set to capture the public's imagination and desire to increasingly learn traditional crafts.



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## What people are saying about ROUNDWOOD TIMBER FRAMING

Ben's beautiful book shows that intelligently sourced wood is ultimately the best building material we have: the most sustainable, the most versatile and easily the most pleasant to live with. By taking past traditions of roundwood timber framing and harnessing them successfully to the rigorous demands of modern building, Ben shows that wood is one of the most vital commodities for us to build a sustainable future on this planet.

*Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, TV chef, author and campaigner*

Ben's work is unique... He's a 21st century woodsman, formulating a new building style based on the timber framing methods of his British ancestors, but incorporating new techniques and the realities of the present-day world. He's created a new vernacular, one that he's passing on to future builders via hands-on workshops and books like these.

*Lloyd Kahn, author of Shelter, Homework and Builders of the Pacific Coast*

Ben Law shows us all how it might be possible to live a low carbon, low resource-intensive way of life and he does it by example, bringing his considerable experience as a woodsman, designer and builder to construction challenges. In this thought provoking book Ben shows us how we can construct expediently and with minimum environmental effect.

*Kevin McCloud, TV presenter of Grand Designs and author*

Writing about roundwood timber framing, Ben has described all aspects of what is no less than a new architectural vernacular. He starts with how to choose appropriate trees to fell, explains how to lay the padstone foundations, describes the process of roundwood framing, and the jointing and pegging techniques (which differ from green-oak framing). Then comes the construction of floors, roofs and walls using natural materials like waney edge boards, cob and straw bales; and finally there are examples of seven very different buildings.

*The Ecologist*

Ben Law is a national treasure!

*Felix Dennis, author, publisher*

This is Ben Law at his best – a comprehensive book full of practical information and packed with detailed photos – all underpinned by years of hard won experience and a sound philosophy. This has to be essential reading for the growing number of woodlanders keen to immerse themselves in all that woodlands have to offer.

*Mike Abbott, woodland craftsman and author*

Law and his publisher have grasped the bull by the horns and delivered a real winner by including a good deal more hands-on information.

*Green Building Magazine*

The book is a triumph for incorporating so much technical detail without losing the spirit of building with wood. An inspiring story. A valuable tale of an extraordinary home.

*Smallwoods*

A practical how-to-do-it book for building sustainably using roundwood timber as well as advocating timber-frame buildings as one of the few truly sustainable building methods in a future of dwindling resources. The book has excellent colour photos throughout, illustrating every aspect of the process from tree to building and is highly recommended.

*Martin Crawford, Agroforestry Research Trust*

More practical than his previous books ... a real winner.

*Green Building Magazine*

The book has excellent colour photos throughout, illustrating every aspect of the process from tree to building and is highly recommended.

*Permaculture Works*

The work Ben Law is doing with his roundwood timber framing innovations is fascinating and hugely important. If you still believe that a move towards the increased use of local materials will necessitate people living in hovels, this may be the book to shift your perceptions hugely. By starting his design of buildings with the materials he has around him which, given that he lives in and manages a sweet chestnut coppice in Sussex is round wood poles, he has created a new vernacular which is breathtakingly beautiful. As well as the poles, for which he has pioneered new techniques, he also incorporates strawbales, clay plasters, and other locally sourced materials. A fascinating taster of what construction could be and, on so many levels, needs to be.

*Rob Hopkins, Transitions Network*

A fascinating chronicle of a dream. It's to the point, with clear photography links and information.

*Good Woodworking*

A great read for those interested in the idea of self build projects.

*Design4Design.com*

Superb photos of the building process and finished house accompany the text.

*Building For A Future*

## 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.

