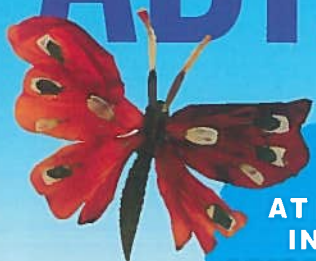


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Envelope, Please

SHANE KOVACS was attracted to the look of timber-framing for the camp he was building near Old Forge. It so happens that the centuries-old construction method is a good choice for creating an energy-efficient home, says architect Carlton Holmes, of Syracuse-based Holmes, King, Kallquist & Associates—especially when paired with a tight building enclosure that fits the frame “like a glove.”

For the Kovacs camp, Holmes partnered with New Energy Works, which specializes in timber-framing and manufacturing high-performance pre-panelized wall and roof systems at its Farmington, New York, plant. Constructing the panels—which have insulation sandwiched inside—in a computer-assisted, climate-controlled environment allows for more precise and efficient production and a quicker build once it’s brought to the site and completed by local tradespeople. And, says Eric Fraser, of New Energy Works, one of the advantages of timber-frames is that “when the structure is expressed on the inside, the walls aren’t so much structure-driven” as providing “a continuous insulation envelope.”

Plus, he adds, wood is a natural, renewable resource—one that looks right at home in the Adirondack woods. ▲





Shane Kovacs's timber-frame camp stays toasty with a high-efficiency combination boiler/hot water heater that reacts to sensors in the floor—but the need for heat is greatly lowered by the tight building enclosure.

