



**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

## DESIGN QUESTIONNAIRE

We ask our clients to consider these questions to help focus in on some of things that are important in making your house a home for you. It is not a test so don't feel you have to answer every question, they are conversation starters and there are no wrong or right answers. Enjoy the exercise, and humor is welcomed!

Name(s): Phone #: Email:

Name(s): Phone #: Email:

Mailing Address:

Mailing Address:

### THE PROJECT

1. What will you primarily use this project for?

Primary residence    Vacation home    Rental    |    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What inspired the area? Is this flexible?

3. Do you have a name selected for the project?

4. Should expansion flexibility be a consideration?

5. What is the anticipated timeline for starting construction / moving in?

6. What do you think the total square footage of the required living areas is? \_\_\_\_\_ SqFt





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

7. What is your approximate, maximum construction budget, excluding land and landscaping?  
\$
8. Do you have an idea of a per square foot cost you are aiming for? \$\_\_\_\_\_/SqFt

### THE RESIDENTS

1. Who are the anticipated residents?
2. Will there be any pets and/or livestock? Any special considerations?
3. What is the length of occupancy of each resident?
4. List any health related, allergy related, or other circumstances that may affect design decisions?
5. Are there any additional needs/considerations for accessibility (wheelchair, mobility or otherwise)?
6. Are you familiar with ERVs or HRVs (or any other ventilating equipment)?

### THE PLANET

1. What is your perception of your current energy use and cost? (high, low, just right)
2. How do you currently monitor/control your home's energy use? Do you require more control/monitoring?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

3. Would you be interested in an in-depth energy model as part of the design process for an additional cost?
4. Are there any specific energy-use, high performance or sustainability goals we should be aware of?
5. Are there any “green” technologies or alternative materials we should be considering? (cork, green roof, etc)
6. Will there be solar panels any where on the property? If not, should it be solar ready for future?

## **THE VEHICLES**

1. How many transportation vehicles require enclosed shelter?
2. Are there any shelter requirements for recreation vehicles, construction equipment, farm/lawn/garden equipment? Is this shared with the transportation vehicles or separate?
3. Do you have a vehicle that will not fit under an 8-foot-tall door opening?
4. Is there a need for an electric car charging station?

## **THE SITE AND UTILITIES**

1. Do you have areas selected on the site for locating the building(s)? Are you open to other areas?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

2. How would you describe the areas where the building(s) will be placed?
  - Relatively Flat   • Gentle Slope   • Steep Slope   • Other:\_\_\_\_\_
3. Is topography information available?
4. Will a driveway need to be constructed? If so, approximately how long?
5. Will we use a septic system or is a municipal sewage hookup available?
6. What is the source of domestic water?
7. Is electricity readily available?
8. What alternative energy production/storage systems should be considered?

## **THE HEARTH**

1. Is a hearth desired? If so, what type of hearth?
  - Fireplace   |   • Stove   |   • Masonry Heater   |   • None
2. In what locations would the hearth be important?
3. Should the hearth(s) be fueled by wood, gas or other?
4. For any fireplaces, is the hearth open or enclosed? Raised hearth or flush?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

## CONDITIONING THE HOME

1. Do you require air conditioning?
2. For whole-house heating, what heat-fuel sources do you prefer?
  - Natural Gas | • Propane | • Geothermal | • Wood | • Heat Pump
3. What should the heat distribution system be?
  - Hydronic | • Ductwork | • Thermal Massing

## YOUR VISION OF THE HOME

1. Which best describes your vision as you approach the house from the road?
  - Grand | • One with the landscaping | • Bold | • Artistic | • Hidden
2. What are your thoughts on symmetry vs asymmetry in plan and elevation?
3. What attributes of the structure create “the look” you are after? (circle ideas)
  - a. Refined Contemporary—clean lines with a polished finish
  - b. Earthy & Simple—grounding materials in a simple palette
  - c. Rugged Modern—create contrast with clean lines and rough materials
  - d. Mountain Relaxed—lodge style with timbers and some charm
  - e. Traditional—old world style & richness in character
  - f. Zen—light tones, light and airy, little ornament, focus on nature and light
  - g. Island—open concepts with movable walls
  - h. Primal Design—getting back to the native vernacular





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

4. Should the design be formal or casual in nature?
5. Should the design allow level changes, or is single level living preferred?
6. Should there be a formal main entry? Please describe the experience, and who would use it.
7. Is there to be a secondary or social entry? What spaces would it open into? Who will use it?
8. Is there a porte cochere, or carport?
9. Interstitial space (the space in-between) Where should outdoor living engage the home?
10. What types of outdoor living spaces are ideal?
  - Wood Deck | • Stone Patio | • Screened Porch | • Pool | • BBQ
  - Covered Porch | • Garden Sitting | • Dining | • Lounge
11. Is the landscape formal, casual or natural?
12. How much of the house do you envision being timber framed?
13. Do you have any preferences for above grade wall types? (ICFs, SIPs, double stud, cont insulation, etc)
14. Do you have any preferences for below grade wall types? (ICFs, CMU, precast, wood, post and pier, etc)





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

15. Do you prefer simple or more complex rooflines?
  
16. Do you have any preferences in terms of natural light? (skylights, specific orientations for certain rooms, etc)
  
17. What textures and colors do you like?
  
18. Any preference on exterior materials?
  
19. Please add any additional info you find pertinent to describe your vision.
  - a. Feel free to attach images of homes you like / don't like. Try to describe what you specifically like or don't like about each image if you can.
  
  - b. Also create folders within Pinterest and Houzz to highlight and share ideas if you wish.

## **ROOMS GENERAL**

1. Which rooms have access to the outdoors?
  
2. Which rooms want view corridors and access to sunlight?
  
3. What flooring material do you envision in each room?
  
4. What ceiling finish do you envision in each room?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

5. Which rooms have vaulted ceilings and which rooms have flat ceilings?
6. Are there wall finishes other than drywall that we should consider for certain rooms?
7. Which rooms, if any, should have ceiling fans?
8. Which rooms do you envision having timber frame elements?
9. Which areas do you spend the most time in?
10. Are there specific, important adjacencies between certain rooms? (dining/kitchen, mudroom/laundry, etc)

## **THE LIVING AREAS**

---

1. What activities take place in the living area(s)?
2. How many people should it accommodate?
3. Should it have partitions and doors? Should it be separate from the rest of the house?
4. What time of day is it used the most?
5. Are there particular views or natural features of your site with which you want to interact from the inside?







**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

6. Is there a need for separate living areas? What floor are they on? What other rooms need to be next to/connected to them?

## **THE KITCHEN**

1. What times of the day and to what extent do you use the kitchen?
2. Do you want a desk in the kitchen? A TV? Other non-kitchen items?
3. Should the kitchen be separated from the rest of the house or be open to other areas?
4. Is the cooking responsibility shared or mostly one person?
5. How many people should be able to use the kitchen at the same time?
6. Do you cook with gas? Are you open to using induction instead of gas?
7. Will the kitchen be used for eating as well as for cooking?
8. Should the kitchen be able to accommodate people gathering in it?
9. What appliances are necessary?
10. Is there an arrangement of appliances and work spaces that suits you best?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

11. Are there particular size requirements for appliances?
12. Do you like to be able to look out of the window while working in the kitchen?
13. Do you like a bright or sunlit kitchen?
14. How do you deal with waste and garbage?
15. Where and how would you like to store your non-perishable foods?
16. Any special considerations for perishable items?
17. How much cabinet, drawer and counter space do you need? (in approximate linear feet)
18. Do you like kitchen utensils, pots and pans to be visible or hidden?
19. Do you wish to have any open shelving instead of upper cabinets?
20. What non-food items do you store in the kitchen?

## **THE DINING EXPERIENCE**

1. What sort of feeling should the dining area have?
2. Is the dining area a single or multi-purpose place?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

3. Does a formal dining area need to be separate from the normal family dining area?
4. Is the dining space open to the kitchen? Open to the living area?
5. Should there be physical access to the outside from this room?
6. How many people should the dining area accommodate?
7. When entertaining, is everyone eating at the same table?
8. What furniture or storage requirements do you have for this room?

## **THE PRIMARY BEDROOM**

1. Do you like to wake up in a bright and or sunlit room?
2. Do you like to be able to look outside when lying in bed?
3. What is the size of the bed?
4. What are the privacy requirements of the bedroom from the outside and from the rest of the house?
5. What floor level is preferred?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

6. What are the storage requirements?
7. Will dressers, chests of drawers and armoires be used for non-hanging clothes storage or will this type of storage be built in?
8. Do you like a separate dressing area?
9. Does the bedroom also need to function as a study, TV room, or sitting room?

## **THE PRIMARY BATHROOM**

1. What are the special qualities you like in a bathroom?
2. Does it need to be especially bright or roomy?
3. How private should the bathroom be from the rest of the house and from the outside?
4. Do you require the primary bathroom to be privately connected to the primary bedroom?
5. Do you like to be able to see outside of a window while showering, washing, or using the toilet?
6. Do you use the bathroom in hurried or leisurely manner?
7. Would you like room for more than one in the tub and/or shower?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

8. Do you use the bathroom to dress or undress?
9. What requirements do you have for mirrors?
10. Do you prefer a linen closet in the bathroom?
11. What are your other storage requirements?
12. Do you like acrylic shower/tub units, solid surfacing or ceramic tiled shower walls?
13. Would you desire a separate toilet room?

## **THE BEDROOMS**

1. How many bedrooms beside the primary do you require? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the privacy requirements of these bedrooms from the outside and from the rest of the house?
3. What are the storage requirements?
4. Will dressers, chests or drawers and armoires be free standing furniture or will these be built in?
5. Do you like a separate dressing area?    Yes    No
6. Does the bedroom also need to function as a study, TV room, or sitting room?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

7. What sleeping accommodations will be necessary for other family members in the future?

## **THE BATHROOMS**

1. How many full bathrooms beside the primary do you require? Who primarily uses each of these?
2. Do you require a bathtub? Separate from the shower? If so, what style of tub?
3. How many powder rooms (half baths) do you require? Who primarily uses each of these?
4. Would there be a bathroom attached to one or more of these bedrooms?
5. How private should the other bathrooms/powder rooms be from the rest of the house and from the outside?
6. Do you need a bathroom/powder room easily accessible from the outside?
7. Do you need a bathroom/powder room easily assessable from the entry?
8. What are your storage requirements? Linen closets within the bathrooms?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

## **MUDROOM / LAUNDRY / UTILITY**

1. Do you require a mudroom? Separate from laundry or combined?
2. Which other spaces, interior or exterior, does the mudroom connect to?
3. Should the mudroom be separate from the main entry?
4. What are your mudroom storage requirements?
5. Should there be a utility sink and/or utility shower in the mudroom?
6. Any special pet considerations?
7. What floor is the laundry on?
8. Are you open to stackable washer/dryer or do you require side-by-side?
9. What are your laundry room storage requirements?
10. Do you require a sink in the laundry room?





**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

## OTHER

1. What kind of guest accommodations should be planned for?
2. What additional rooms or activity areas do you require? (den, library, flex, play, sunroom, loft, office, etc)
3. What levels are those additional areas on?
4. Any additional storage requirements?
5. Is there a basement or attic? What configuration?
6. Are you considering a central vacuum system?
7. What smart home technologies should be planned for?
8. What home security systems/measures should be considered?
9. How many TVs, phones and computers do you require and in what locations?
10. Are there any considerations relating to lake or water access? (boat house, dock, water-side living, etc)







**NEW ENERGY WORKS**  
design • build • timberframing • woodworks

11. List the things that you can't do in your present environment that you would like to do in your new one:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Have you worked with an architect before?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Have you built a home?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Has this survey been helpful?

