

Mid-Atlantic TIMBERFRAMES

TIMBER TALK

 Summer 2024

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The Tome Gas House

The historic restoration of this 19th-century gas house created a multiuse facility in Port Deposit, Maryland. See page 4.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Standardization of Connections

As the popularity of timber frame building grows around the world, standardization of certain hardware components has become inevitable. We're seeing large national and international hardware distributors introduce connectors that work for a range of applications to bring increased productivity to the office and the jobsite.

Standardized product lines will become increasingly familiar to engineers, designers, and installers for a wide variety of connection requirements. This will help in efficiencies, as these standard connectors will be planned for from the earliest stages through to the build itself.

Additionally, costs are expected to come down as these connectors are standardized. Progress in timber framing technology benefits every project, whether in time, effort, or budget — standardizing hardware connections promises to improve all three.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Tome Gas House

Architect

Dillow Associates Architects

Builder

Bathon Builders

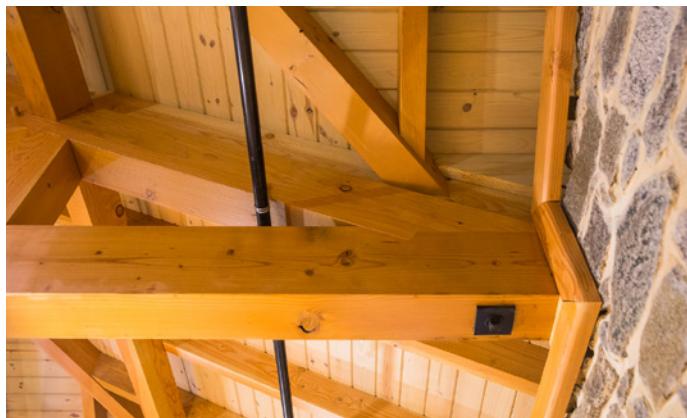
Location

Port Deposit, MD

Points of Interest

- Originally built to provide natural gas for the Jacob Tome Mansion
- Winner of a 2020 Maryland Preservation Award
- Rebuilt with pre-assembled trusses from Mid-Atlantic Timberframes

Built before 1850 of Port Deposit granite, the historic Tome Gas House burned coal to generate natural gas for lights and heat in the nearby Jacob Tome Mansion. It has now been faithfully restored, with the first floor serving as the town's visitor center and the second floor as Towson University's research facility for the study of the endangered northern map turtle. The rafters utilize traditional mortise-and-tenon timber joinery to support the roof and cupola.





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The building was completely taken apart down to the stone walls and then rebuilt.

# INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT

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**John Morgan Thomas | Owner**  
**John Morgan Thomas Landscape Architects**



## **When was your firm started?**

I founded John Morgan Thomas Landscape Architects in 1994. We're a small firm, which allows us to have a very hands-on approach to all of our projects.

## **What services do you offer?**

We offer landscape architectural services for both public and private clients, from residential master planning and garden design to large-scale parks and trail system projects, providing services from concepts through construction documentation and administration. We like to focus on detail-scale design, whether it's in a residential garden, a public park, or a historical landscape. We have had the privilege of working with many skilled craftspeople, including masons, carpenters, and the timber framers at Mid-Atlantic Timberframes.

## **How long have you been working as a landscape architect?**

Over 40 years. After working in plant nurseries and pursuing a degree in environmental studies, I became a landscape architect to apply these interests. Through my time of practice, I have gained an understanding of the region's ecology, landscape materials, and design vernacular. I enjoy specifying regionally appropriate plants and materials so the project will be sustainable and connected to its greater context.

## **What is one of your biggest challenges on projects?**

Sometimes a site has constraints, such as steep slopes or drainage issues, that make it difficult to locate certain landscape elements.

## **Have you won any awards?**

We have received awards for several residential projects from the New Jersey and Pennsylvania-Delaware chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) as well as the Bucks County chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

## **Which project are you most proud of and why?**

I am most proud of the Wharton Memorial Park in New Jersey, a public park that includes a semicircular custom pavilion surrounding a paved plaza to accommodate town events. The park integrates older monuments with new memorials along a winding path in a contemplative garden setting. The town and its veteran community are very happy with the way it turned out.

## **What are your thoughts on designing with timber?**

Designing with timber is often a great solution both aesthetically and environmentally. Using locally sourced timbers and employing skilled craftspeople is sure to produce a high-quality and sustainable structure.

**Want to be our next Industry Highlight?** Email Sam Ebersol | [Sam.Ebersol@MATFLLC.com](mailto:Sam.Ebersol@MATFLLC.com)

# ASK AN EXPERT

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## What are some best practices for integrating timber with other building materials like steel and concrete?

Many projects require early design team collaboration for the detailing of timber connections to concrete, structural steel, and/or conventional lumber, to name a few examples.

At Mid-Atlantic Timberframes, we understand that a host of factors must be taken into consideration when designing connections to various substrate types.

### Understand the Methods and Materials

Examples of some key factors to consider early in the process are varying thermal properties, sequence of construction, deflection criteria, specified installation tolerances, and, of course, aesthetics.

Each of these factors plays an important role in selecting the most efficient approach. Installation tolerances, for example, are something we talk about early and often.

Timber components are prefabricated by CNC to a high degree of accuracy. The required installation tolerances for substrates (e.g., steel, concrete) must be specified and clearly communicated to the trades responsible at the bidding level. In some cases, we can design connections to allow for some adjustment in the field.

A well-designed connection is one that considers the multitude of factors, and accounts for each, while achieving the desired aesthetic.



### Mike Banta | Operations Manager

Mike has been designing timber frame structures for more than 20 years and enjoys sharing his expertise in glued laminated timber, cross-laminated timber, steel-timber hybrid design, and reclaimed or recycled timber. He also has experience in mechanical, restorative, and sustainable design as well as technical drafting and detailing, CNC fabrication, and design optimization.

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## See You at Mass Timber+

Don't forget! Mid-Atlantic Timberframes will be at the Mass Timber+ Offsite Construction Conference in Philadelphia this November, held in conjunction with the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo. We'd love to meet you — come see us at **Booth #342 in Tier 2!**

For more info, visit [MassTimberPlus.com](http://MassTimberPlus.com) and [InformaConnect.com/Greenbuild](http://InformaConnect.com/Greenbuild).

# Mid-Atlantic

TIMBERFRAMES

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**Every project is an opportunity to create  
something extraordinary.**

Mid-Atlantic Timberframes is part of the Baüen Unlimited family of custom-build brands. Together, our single purpose is to create the highest-quality structures, components, and materials for the upscale construction market.

For more information about Mid-Atlantic Timberframes,  
visit **MATFLLC.com**.

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