



Transcript of Podcast

Eposide 8: Biggest Mistake I Made While Building my Home

Hello everyone and welcome to Timber Frame Talk Radio. It has been a long time since I've recorded a show. In fact, it was January of last year. So let me first start off by explaining myself to you a little bit.

One of the biggest reasons why I stopped was I was finishing up my home and I was working full-time and finishing my home full-time. So together, that was a huge commitment on my part as far as time. And then of course, I also wanted to be a father and a husband. So I kind of got distracted and pulled away from a couple of things and the show was definitely one of them.

After I finished moving into my home which we were able to move in to on Mother's Day, a gift to my wife, it took me a little while to get back and get my primary design business back running and then what I decided to do was I had wanted to write an eBook on timber framing and just building a timber frame house. And so, I wrote a book called "Creating a Timber Frame House." Which took a bit of time and I was really focused on that for a little while.

And then last spring, I got a really bad case of pneumonia. And that put me down for about a month and a half. And then I had to get kind of called back up after that. So not that I'm trying to make excuses; I've definitely been busy and keeping active. But those are the reasons why I've had this break in the show.

So moving forward, my commitment to you is to get at least one new show every month. They're not going to be as long as some of the other ones. But I'm definitely going to get them out. And a lot of them are going to be based on your questions. So if you have a question that you want answered, give us a call at 888-552-9379. Or drop us a line at info@timberframehq.com

In the meantime, during this gap, I had a couple of really good reviews on iTunes.

One by B. Hodes [SP]. That is "I've been really impressed with what Brice has put together, not only with the shows, but at his website at Timber Frame HQ. I'm a lifelong carpenter and contractor in Seattle wanting to learn timber framing and this has been a godsend. Well

thought-out discussions with professionals that are easy to listen to and seem to benefit professionals and homeowners equally. Well done and I look forward to more."

Thanks a bunch for that review. When I read that, I was really surprised and happy to get it. The other one was by Prowler58. "I love this show. I'm hoping to build a brick ranch timber frame home. I'll be starting next spring in April of 2014," so I hope he has gotten started. "This is great info, I just hope it continues. Looks like nothing has happened here since January, 2013. Thanks, Bob C." And Bob, this show is actually dedicated to you because that really helped motivate me to get going.

So let's get into the meat and potatoes of the show. It's just going to be me today on the show and it is about the biggest mistakes I made when building my timber frame home. And it's not a really crazy house. My house is...it's a 1,300 square-foot footprint. It has a basement, first floor and then a loft that has 600 square feet.

But I made a lot of mistakes and so I'd thought I'd share some of them with you. The first one...and I think this happens to a lot of people, is I did way too much research. There are so many different building methods out there. And once you get online, it can just be the devil. And you start looking and you want this and you want that. And really, you just kind of get away from some of the things that happened.

A couple things in there that really got me was the foundation. There's different foundation methods; the ICF, poured wall, block wall, superior walls, what do you use. The enclosure systems, I went back and forth between sips (?) and conventional framing. And then once I decided on sips, then which foam do you use.

And all this stuff is research. You get online and it just gets crazy. The last one...I was really just pulling my hair out of this one, is the drawer and cabinet pools. I went online and I was looking and then you start to see prices of each one and then you compare prices between all the websites.

It just really gets out of hand. So don't do too much research. Definitely, you have to do research and you have to know what you're doing. But don't go crazy.

And this kind of leads into the second one of overthinking things. When you're building, there's a lot of different ways to do things both in conventional framing and timber framing. And do I want to do it this way or that way? So sometimes, it's better just to stop thinking and just start doing it. That's my recommendation to you.

The third one is that I really overbuilt my home. My foundation is so strong, that it's outrageously overbuilt. And what happens is it costs money. I went with a 12-inch poured

wall. It's got a number...5-inch rebar, 18 inches on center each way, which is really just a strong foundation and it's not needed. The more I build, the more I see. And of course, you learn throughout that whole process. Just watch that on the foundation, it's really easy. I thought concrete did nada, but it certainly does.

The timber frame, you can definitely overbuild on the timber frame as far as timber sizes and things like that. I know I have some 8 by 12's in my house that could easily be 8 by 10's and what have you. These lead to a lot of backache and moving timbers around...material handling because one of those [no audio from 00:06:28 to 00:06:46]. Sometimes with aesthetics, yes. And sometimes, it won't.

The fourth one is I expected too much from my friends and family. I remember a time and my brother came for the weekend and I had put aside a couple of projects that I really wanted to get done that weekend because I was going to have help. And really, what he wanted to do was come and worked on the house some, but also, chill out and hang out. I kind of missed that opportunity a lot.

Had a buddy Kurt do that a lot. He would come and he'd want to help on the weekend. But he just got done working all week. So I kind of expected too much from him. They're just looking for a week off and have fun. So if you have friends and family come over to help, certainly realize that it's their time off, too.

This leads, of course, into number five in that I always didn't ask for help when I needed it. I put my roof on all by myself. And I could have used help on that. That was one thing that...towards the end, I was like "Oh, I'm just going to do it all myself" and I wouldn't even take help lifting the metal roof panels up on the house. I just kind of did it all. That was a mistake.

Number six, high standards. A good friend of mine, a mentor Sandy Cohen [SP] a long time ago said "Brice, your standards are just too high for yourself." And he's dead on right. It's something that I've struggled with for a long time and a good example of this is that you never see the things that are behind the wall. Or in joinery, you don't see inside of a mortise. Once you cut that mortise, put the tenon in there, stick up the timber frame. You never see that and you just don't have to spend that much time nitpicking those details. Get it done, get it up and enjoy it.

It's not to say that your joinery should be sloppy or anything like that.

Number one on high standards is that I expected the same standards I put on myself or my subs. It's not their house. You can't expect that same high of level of standards that you put on yourself. And a lot of times, it's once again, not needed because you don't ever see it.

I'm not saying that I hired bad craftsmen to work on my house. Everyone that worked on my house did a great job. But sometimes after they'd come in, pick him, the drywaller. I'd pick some of the hanging things that he did. But in the end, it just gets covered with mud and it was a beautiful job.

Number seven, I tried to save way too much money along the way. Like the drawer pulls. You can go online and maybe you'll find that one for \$0.10 cheaper. And so, over the course of 40 drawer pulls, you save \$4, but did you really save \$4 with all that time you spent on that? And I'm going to say "Sometimes yes and sometimes no." So it's something to really watch for.

And certainly call around and get different prices. Concrete prices vary between the companies. And that kind of stuff adds up. Try to just watch that and realize that your time is certainly worth money as well.

Number eight, an actual thing that I've actually never told anybody, is that when I was digging up...I was digging a drain line with my backhoe for the HVAC line. Just the condensation line that needs to go out.

As I was digging, I dug right up through a pipe that was my waste line for my kitchen sink. And my washer and dryer line. I've never told anybody about that, not even my wife. It's just one of those small things that I did and I'm finally admitting it to you.

That's it. Short and simple show, but it's out there. And I hope it helps you out. If you have any comments or anything, feel free to drop me a line at info@timberframehq.com. And also, if you like the show and want to see more of them, please leave an iTunes review. It really helps the show out and gets it higher up in the ratings so more people see it. Take care and I'll talk to you soon.