

# Timberdale, Bensonwood team up

Timberdale Homes has established an exclusive associate builder relationship with Bensonwood Homes of Walpole, N.H. Timberdale, an award-winning builder of new and renovated homes, is owned by Stewart Lade of Redding.

Bensonwood is a nationally acclaimed builder of timber frame, hybrid and other high performance homes. The construction of a Bensonwood home was featured in the fall 2008 *This Old House* television series "The Weston House."

Bensonwood's origins are in the design and construction of very high quality timber frame and hybrid homes. More than 30 years ago Bensonwood's owner, Tedd Benson, pioneered the revival of timber framing and has written numerous books and articles on the subject.

Today, Bensonwood has broadened its scope to include the design and construction of very high performance, energy efficient buildings. The company was recently featured in a *New York Times* article for its role in building a zero-energy Passive House in Vermont.

Bensonwood has developed many home-building innovations including its super high performance OBPlusWall, which has been selected as one of BuildingGreen's Top-10 products of the year by the editors of *Environmental Building News* and *GreenSpec*. The OBPlusWall is R-35 rated, with advanced gaskets, fastening and other elements that create a tighter thermal envelope and is a standard feature on all Bensonwood homes in demanding climates where high performance is required.

As a Bensonwood associate builder, Timberdale has the exclusive right to market and sell the Bensonwood products and services in western Connecticut. When a client decides to build a home, Bensonwood will provide design, engineering and off-site fabrication of all building shell components. Timberdale will be the overall project manager and coordinate local construction activities with Bensonwood.

In its role as the project's general contractor, Timberdale will provide clients with all of the on-site construction services required to complete the project. Timberdale will also provide long-term warranty service on the home.

The partnership with Bensonwood "substantially improves Timberdale's ability to provide clients with a comprehensive design and build service and to deliver a



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state-of-the-art, high performance, energy-efficient, green home," said Mr. Lade.

"Timberdale will continue to offer its traditional, award-winning site-based new home and large-scale remodeling construction services. This core offer will be augmented by the addition of Bensonwood's innovative off-site construction designs, methods and building components," he said. This innovative approach has been featured in *Fine Homebuilding Magazine* and recently profiled in *USA Today*.

"Fabricating the building shell off site has big advantages. First of all, the building panels are made while site work is underway. The panels are then delivered to the site and erected in a few weeks, cutting substantial time (months) off the construction schedule and minimizing exposure of the structure to damaging weather conditions — a major source of potential mold problems," said Mr. Lade.

"Secondly, the fully insulated and gasketed panels are made using computer and machine tool accuracy and controlled production methods resulting in assemblies that are far superior and more durable than site-built assemblies. Virtually all problems with residential construction emanate from poor building shell construction — we eliminate those potential problems through very tight engineering and quality controls.

"Finally, there are numerous green benefits, including minimizing construction waste and rigorous materials recycling, the careful selection and incorporation of high-performance green materials and the assembly of an incredibly air tight and durable building. Bensonwood homes are engineered using the latest, cutting-edge building sciences and consistently outperform a typical EnergyStar-rated home."

Mr. Lade said the relationship provides Timberdale clients with the option of working with Bensonwood's in-house, locally licensed architectural and engineering staff or working with their own outside architect.

"Our homes are fully customized and designed with the site and owner's personal preferences in mind. Both Bensonwood and Timberdale are known for their finish detailing and quality and home owners can have virtually any style and finish level incorporated into their homes, including timber frame elements," Mr. Lade said.

Currently Timberdale is constructing a new 5,000-square-foot Bensonwood custom home in Weston, scheduled for a spring 2011 completion.

Timberdale's Web site is [www.timberdalehomes.com](http://www.timberdalehomes.com) and Bensonwood's Web site is [www.bensonwood.com](http://www.bensonwood.com).