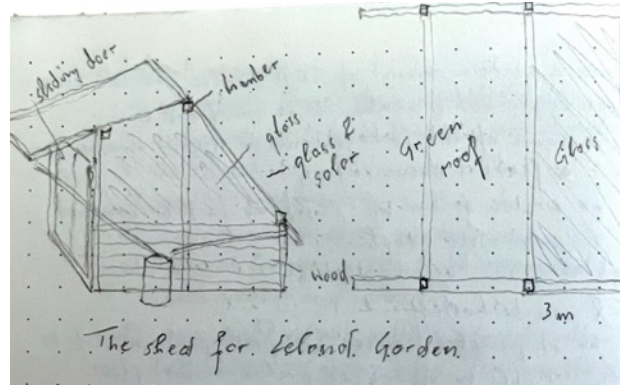


Thanks to all for making a dream come true! The Leland Garden Shed

A 40-foot tall spruce tree that came down during a December storm in 2020 re-sparked the idea of building a proper garden shed for Leland Cooperative Garden – something we had been dreaming of since nearly the first day of the Garden’s existence 39 years prior. 15 years ago two wonderful Leland Garden volunteers built a small shed which enabled us to store some tool and supplies without relying on neighbors basements. But as the Co-op garden and the number of workers grew this small structure had become inadequate.



When the tree came down in Alex’s garden, which abuts Leland Garden, he asked the Arborist to leave the bigger pieces of the trunk in the backyard – he might want to do something with them one day. Alex always wanted to take a Timber Frame Course and maybe this was a sign or opportunity.



Alex kept thinking about what to do with the wood and one morning while having his coffee he drew the first sketch of a potential garden shed. As a passionate follower of Permaculture Design he included a couple of the permaculture principles like ‘value renewable resources’ and ‘stacking functions’ in this first sketch. He thought it can’t ‘just’ be a shed – how about designing it in a way that it could also work to catch rainwater and act as a greenhouse with a big, south facing transparent roof?

Alex presented the shed idea, as well as some thoughts as to how it could be funded, at the monthly Leland Garden Coordination Meeting. He proposed to host a Timber Frame Workshop in the Garden and the cost for the Workshop would be split between the students. We all loved the idea and the thought of finally having a shed got a lot of the us excited. However, since Leland Garden had always lived by the principle that every event should be open to anyone and no one should be turned away due to a lack of funds, it was decided that at least two spots at the workshop should be offered for free.

With this initial support and excitement, the next tasks were to find someone who would teach the workshop, to find out how expensive it would be and then to raise funds through donations and grants so that at least two spots in the workshop could be offered for free.

Finding a timber frame school that was willing to teach a course on-site and not on their own campus/property was not easy. We contacted the [Shelter Institute](#) in Maine and [Yestermorrow](#) in Vermont – both of which offer week-long timber frame courses at their facilities but, due to a number of different reasons were not able to offer on-site workshops. The contact at Yestermorrow, however, suggested we contact the [Timber Framers Guild](#).

When we contacted Mack Magee, the Executive Director of the Timber Framers Guild at the time, he liked the idea of teaching the trade in the community, with the community. Mack was a great ally, talking to the guild's members to support the project and connecting us with Adam Miller a very accomplished timber framer and amazing teacher. Adam was willing to teach the course and work to refine the initial sketch of the shed into a Timber Frame design. Lots of drawing were exchanged between Alex and Adam, with the final design agreed upon about 3 months before the workshop so that the timber could be milled.

Our teacher:

Adam Miller has been a practicing timber framer for more than fifteen years, with a practice ranging from New England's indigenous square rule layout system to double-curvature work in the French tradition and challenging, innovative work in joining round logs.



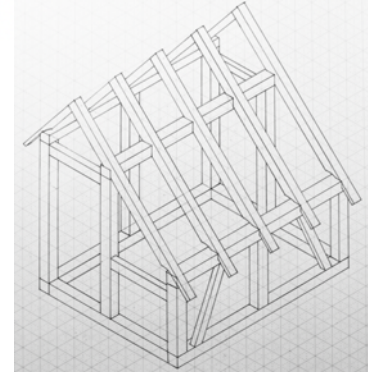
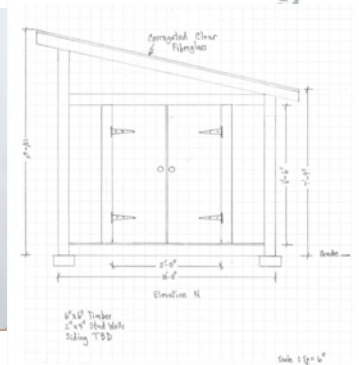
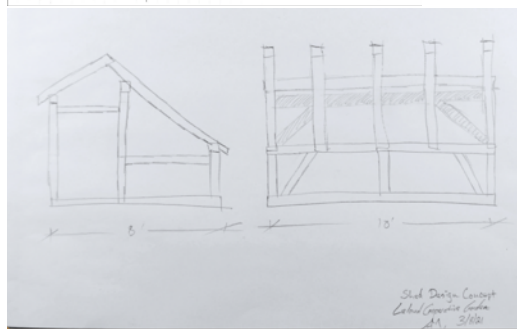
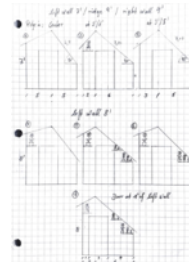
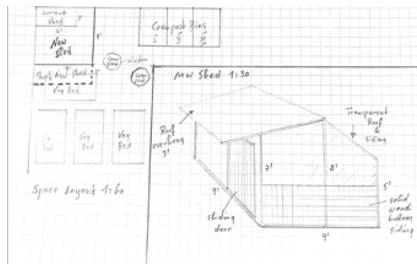
As editor of *Timber Framing*, the technical journal of the Timber Framers Guild (TFG), Adam enjoys informing and inspiring readers with interesting research. He also contributes to *The Mortise and Tenon* (UK) and *Log Building News*.



Adam has benefited from great timber framing mentors and experiences, and enjoys sharing this knowledge of the craft with others. He teaches at the Heartwood School (Washington, Mass.), in the TFG community building workshop program, and is a frequent presenter at TFG conferences in North America and Carpenters Fellowship conferences in the UK.

Adam lives on a 600-acre land cooperative in the hills of Vermont and often travels for interesting projects.

Leland Cooperative Garden, 15 Leland St. #2, Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA 02130



Intermediate Designs

Final Design

Adam also helped assess the site where the shed would be standing via photos we sent to him. Emmett and Alex measured different sizes of sheds for that location and the Garden Community agreed on an 8'x10' footprint for the shed – quite an increase compared to the 1' x 4' existing storage shed.



Before



Planning




After moving the old shed

Mack and Adam offered us a very reasonable rate for a 5-full-day workshop and even included the lumber for the shed at a reduced cost. But before confirming with Adam and the [Timber Framers Guild](#), we needed to make sure our idea of a combination of paying and scholarships students could be arranged.

We started our outreach by contacting members of the community and of allied organizations who we thought might be interested in learning to timber frame, and, at the same time, researching and writing applications to various granting organizations. The uncertainty of whether or not we would receive any grant funding, and how many people would sign up to participate in the workshop (both uncertainties having a direct effect on the potential cost per student), made the outreach to potential students challenging. We could not give anyone a final course price. All we could do was offer full transparency of the total cost of the workshop, and share how much they would need to be willing to pay, if the financial support and overall interest in the workshop were not as we'd hoped.

Quite quickly we had four students who were excited and willing to take the leap of faith to sign up hoping that we would end up with 6-8 students and get at least one grant. Being part of the [Boston Food Forest Coalition](#) helped us a lot as they are a registered 501(c)3 organization, and could act as our fiscal sponsor in our grant writing and fundraising efforts. After about six months of applying for grants and reaching out to our networks, we received positive news from the [New England Grassroots Environmental Fund](#). Through their [Grow Grant](#), we were given \$3000 to “offer at least two scholarship spots at the workshop to youth in disadvantaged communities that are looking for work experience and job opportunities”.

This was the moment we had been waiting for – we were finally confident the project could get off the ground. We were able to confirm the workshop with Adam and the Timber Framers Guild, and, to the four students, and we were able to fix a date for the workshop - 20. – 25. October 2021 – almost one year after the tree fell.



Leland Cooperative Garden

Learn a trade in sustainable building techniques Timber Frame Workshop Opportunity

The Boston Food Forest Coalition, Leland Street Cooperative Garden and the Timber Framers Guild with the support of the Grassroots Fund offers two scholarship spots for a unique Timber Frame Workshop to young people from underserved communities that are looking for work experience and job opportunities.

Taught at Leland Garden the highly accomplished timber framer, Adam Miller will lead 6-7 students to learn one of the oldest woodworking skills and build a long awaited 10' x 8' x 9' high-quality timber frame to be ultimately completed as a Greenhouse / Greenhouse.

The workshop will be taught from 22 - 26 October 2021 and include the following:

- 5 full days of teaching and practicing
- Learning to use hand tools to build a timber frame from scratch (apart from the milled, eastern white pine timbers that Adam will bring)
- Demonstration of modern power tools being used nowadays for timber framing
- Provide insight into types of jobs available in the timber frame industry
- Adam will also present some of his work and travels in slideshows

We are looking for young people (18-35 years old) that like to learn a trade in sustainable building techniques and could picture themselves building on the acquired skills to find job opportunities in the trade - the Timber Frame Guild will help.

Anybody interested please send us an e-mail giving us some information about yourself and explaining why you want to take part in the workshop and how you can imagine implementing the acquired skills. If you want to attach any references, examples of jobs done in the past, etc. please feel free to do so and send everything by latest 3 September 2021 to Alexander Klosterkemper (a.kloster@imac.com). Should you have any questions please call him at 201 312 4479.

Through various affiliated organizations, we launched an application process for young people (18-35 years old) who could use timber framing skills in some way in their line of work or who would be interested in pursuing a career in timber framing.

Out of five applications the selection committee, consisting of various members of Leland Garden, the Boston Food Forest Coalition and the Timber Framers Guild, selected the two winners of the scholarship spots.

Luckily, two of the other scholarship applicants were able to raise their own funds for the workshop, and we ended up with a group of eight, excited students ready to learn timber framing!

In preparation for the workshop Adam and Alex sent pre-information to all the students and ordered the timber – no Adam did not want to use the wood of the fallen tree – mainly because of the uncertainty of the quality of the wood and the challenge of milling it on-site.



GRANT AGREEMENT LETTER
GROW SPRING2021
23 June 2021

Alexander Klosterkemper
Leland Street Cooperative Garden
24 Washington St., Apt. 3
Boston, MA 02130

Dear Alexander,

We are pleased to award a GROW Grant to Leland Street Cooperative Garden in the amount of \$3,000.00 ("Grant Funds") for the purpose(s) stated here:

To offer at least two scholarship spots at the workshop to youth in disadvantaged communities that are looking for work experience and job opportunities.

These funds may be used during the period commencing on June 21, 2021 and ending on June 21, 2022 ("Grant Period"). The funds shall be spent for the purpose stated above and within the budget submitted by LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN. If there are unexpended funds at the end of the Grant Period, the group shall contact Grassroots Fund (the "Fund") staff to determine next steps.

Under the terms of the Fund's status as a public charity under section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, we must maintain records that indicate whether or not you are a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3). LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN shall make such records available to the Fund upon request. The Fund must also maintain records on the use of distributed funds. A final report on the outcomes of your project and the use of the Grant Funds is required 60 days after completion of the grant or at the end of the Grant Period. You can find the grant reporting requirements including the grant report form at: <https://www.grassrootsfund.org/grant-reporting-form-2018-01-01.pdf>.

LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN agrees to maintain adequate financial records documenting the use of the Grant Funds. These records must be maintained by LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN for at least three (3) years after the end of the Grant Period and shall be made available to the Fund upon request. The Fund may monitor and evaluate LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN's use of Grant Funds and operation to ensure compliance with this agreement letter and the attached Partnership Agreement (the "Partnership Agreement").

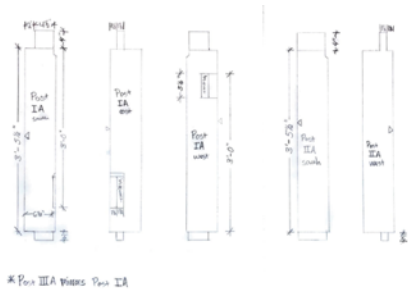
LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN shall not engage in any activity using the grant that jeopardizes the Fund's status as a nonprofit, public charity qualified to receive tax-deductible contributions under section 501(c)(3). No part of any grant may be used for lobbying, a political campaign, or to support attempts to influence legislation of any governmental body other than through making available the results of non-partisan analysis, study, and research. LELAND STREET COOPERATIVE GARDEN is to disclose about whether a certain activity may constitute lobbying or otherwise violate the above prohibitions, the Fund welcomes questions and is happy to provide



Alex met Adam once before the workshop at the SepTimberfest in Brattleboro, VT. At that event Alex also met Mike Wenger, a retired math teacher and passionate timber framer himself. He was also interested in the workshop and offered to support Adam with the teaching – which proved incredibly beneficial in many ways.

On Thursday before the Workshop, Adam and Mike arrived in a mini-van, a truck and a trailer, carrying sawhorses, lots of equipment, a tent and the freshly cut white pine timber from Burlington, VT.

A tent was set-up in the Garden and 12 sawhorses were assembled – everything was ready for the next morning – except that Adam and Alex still needed to make copies of the plans for the students.



The next five days were intense – Students were feeling like they were drinking from a firehose – learning how to read plans, thinking three-dimensionally, using tools they never used before. There was a lot of head-scratching and ‘Ah-ha’-moments... and then on top of all the learning challenges the last three days were cold and very rainy. While

the idea was to build the shed using only hand-tools, like chisels, mallets, saws, and hand borers, by day four Adam realized in order to meet our deadline, he would need to introduce some power tools. The group learned how to use a number of impressive tools, including chain mortisers and gigantic circular saws – and he helped ‘whip up’ some timbers himself - at the speed of lighting (especially in comparison to the students).





Day five arrived and almost all timbers were prepared – some little fixes here and there, but the goal was to raise the shed around lunchtime, as the forecast predicted a heavy Nor'easter for the afternoon.

To the students and a lot of community member who came out to watch the 'Shed-raising' it seemed like magic how all the pieces of prepared lumber came together – almost like LEGOs – just sticking them together in the right order.

Participants from left to right: (Koko Li, Mike Wenger, Tim Bilodeau, Jonathan Fremerman, Pampi Aparna Das, Emmett Schaefer, Alex Klosterkemper, Adam Miller, Jabari Rezende, Roland Fuoco)

Adam led the group with precise orders and everyone needed to be in sync to raise each part of the shed. Some minor fixes needed to be done, and Adam had solutions for each one. At about 2pm – on time for a late lunch provided by the community members - the shed was up! The group celebrated the raising with the fixing of the Whetting Bush - a traditional celebration where an evergreen bough is fixed to the peak of the raised timber frame.



The shed was up, but some clean up still needed to be done before the Nor'easter arrived. The hard work of the group and the weather certainly left a mark on the gathering lawn of Leland Garden. By 4pm everything was packed up and Adam and Mike left as it started to rain. One hour later the winds were howling, rain was flying sideways but nobody needed to worry that the shed could collapse – it's probably one of the sturdiest 8 x 10 sheds ever built. Adam wanted to teach the group traditional square rule timber framing with 1 1/2" mortices and tenons and for that the sills and beams needed to be 7x7 timbers – sturdy enough for a two-story house.



The timber frame of the shed was standing. However, as the name states, it was just the frame. Now we needed to figure out how to put up siding and a roof, and how to prepare the ground in and around the shed.

We knew that we would have to raise some money for the finishing of the shed; however after seeing the beauty of the frame, we wanted to match the quality and craftsmanship with the finishing. In addition to this, we had the idea of the greenhouse feature, and realized that a good roof is fairly expensive.

Ultimately, our amazing network pulled through, and some of our beloved community members made generous donations again. [The Trustees](#) were able to contribute some of their annual garden budget and we made successful outreach for a number of value-in-kind donations. [Lowes](#) gave us a gift-card for nails, screws, and other

hardware, [Hyde Park Masonry and Landscape](#) donated and delivered all the gravel for the floor in the shed and the area around the shed and, after much searching and comparing of generous discounted quotes, we settled on the company [ePlast](#) for the triple walled greenhouse roof. Lastly, one of the board members of the [Timber Framers Guild](#), Autumn Peterson who is also the owner of [Heritage Natural Finishes](#) donated the natural oil and resin based finish that will be applied to the exterior wood siding of the shed.

But what wood siding? With the limited funds and high lumber prices, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we needed to be creative in finding wood for the siding. Alex still had not done anything with the felled tree in his garden, which had sparked the whole idea. As fate would have it, Mike, our co-teacher of the timber frame workshop, owns a mobile mill! So, the decision was made to mill the felled tree and use that as siding for the shed.



The milling day on Barlow Street across from a baseball field was a big attraction for the neighborhood and, after a long day, with the last boards being milled under floodlights, we had lots of stacks of planks in all length and width. Now we just needed to figure out how to use them.



Larry VandeVenter, a retired engineer and the beekeeper of Leland Garden (and many other spaces in and around Boston), proved to be an incredible help. Not only did he help with his engineering skills during the concept drawing phase, he also proved to be a very experienced carpenter.

Mike, Larry and Alex researched how to best use 'green/fresh wood' for siding. The challenge with green wood is that it will still shrink after being fixed to the frame while it dries. The only way to use it for siding is either as 'board & batten' or as 'live edge overlap' - so we decided to go with both!

From November 2021 until June 2022, Larry, Mike, Alex, the most passionate and reliable graduate of the timber frame workshop, Emmett, and many community volunteers (including Dino a 94-year-old founding member of the garden) spent many days putting up siding, hauling gravel, creating windows and erecting the roof. Each day they thought was just going to take a couple of hours and in the end they spent the whole day on just one wall or project, but everyone had so much fun seeing the shed slowly come together.



As we were almost finished with the siding, we ran out of wood for the door. As fate would have it, a neighbor approached us having seen the shed, and heard the story of the wood siding being milled from one of the felled neighborhood trees. They also just had a large maple tree come down in their back yard, which required them to



take down two other maples. They approached Kathleen Robinson, another founding member of the Garden, who had supported the project all along the way by offering praise, support and sustenance, if she could connect them with Mike and the mobile mill. Mike gladly came out, and members of the garden volunteered their time to help with milling in exchange for some of the wood to complete the shed siding and door.



We all realized the difference between spruce wood and maple wood as we carried and stacked the boards. The maple is true hard-wood - much heavier and sturdier. In the end, the shed door is probably just as heavy and as sturdy as the timber-frame!

It's been such an incredible journey for the garden, the students and the community learning new skills, working together with new friends and seeing this shed come together! Especially during the unprecedented times of the Covid pandemic when many were struggling with social isolation, financial challenges, and general stagnation we tried to navigate and found great fun in working and growing together and building something long-lasting for the community.

We want to thank the generous donors, grantees and supporters from the bottom of our hearts. You made a 39-year-long dream come true for Leland Garden, supported keen students to expand their horizons, and provided a safe and meaningful way for the community to gather. Thank you so much!!

