

Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness
Of Your
Timber Frame Shop Drawings
By
David R. Hourdequin, PE
Revised October 25, 2012

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Drawings should be
 - a. logically presented
 - b. well organized
 - c. use common drafting "language" without no buzzwords, colloquialisms, industry-unique terms (unless appropriately defined on or near the first few pages (General Notes)
 - d. appropriately referenced from sheet to sheet, drawing to drawing

CHECKLIST FOR REVIEWERS

1. General Contractor/Owner
 - a. verify scope of work
 - b. verify dimensions with plans
 - c. interface with other work
 - c. coordination with other trades with the most current and complete documents
 - d. verify dimensions in field with TFC
 - e. schedule
 - f. verify additional work required, ie, finishes, etc g. temporary bracing
 - h. protection from elements
 - i. Other
2. Architect
 - a. consistency with design intent
 - b. appearance
 - c. size of members (aesthetics vs. structural requirements)
 - d. configuration of frames and trusses
 - e. details/decorative elements (coordination of decorative elements, carvings, etc. - probably not relevant structurally - but could be!)
 - f. accommodation of other materials and finishes
 - g. other
3. SER (Structural Engineer of Record)
 - a. consistency with design intent
 - b. verification of design loads/comps (if any)
 - c. confirmation of grade and species
 - d. deviations from his or architectural drawings
 - e. adequacy of connections
 - f. other

4. Building Official
 - a. signature and seal on plans
 - b. relevance of plans to job
 - c. verify address/name/etc.
 - d. other
5. Sub-Contractor/s - SIP System
 - a. coordinate TF with architectural drawings
 - b. design loads/criteria
 - c. specifications/performance requirements
 - d. structural connections/details
 - e. support of TF structural elements/conflicts
 - f. exchange CAD files to insure complete and full integration of details
6. Sub-Contractor/s - Other
 - a. interface and conflicts
 - b. dimensions/locations
 - c. responsibility for protection of and related finishes
 - d. other

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS/PHASES

1. Arch schematics
 - a. general layout
 - b. concepts for including timber
2. Arch preliminaries
 - a. timber types
 - b. frames
 - c. bent locations
 - d. frame/truss configuration
 - e. key dimensions
3. Arch design development
 - a. preliminary timber sizes
 - b. species
 - c. grades
 - d. connection concepts
 - e. outline specs
4. Arch working drawings
 - a. final drawings and details
 - b. general requirements and detailed specs

- 5. TF shop drawings
 - a. Working model (3d)
 - b. Engineer (SSE vs SER) review to verify sizes and general framing concepts and issues - especially trusses!
 - 1. the more info the better!
 - 2. provide ALL architectural and structural drawings
 - 3. avoid 'picking and choosing' relevant sheets
 - 4. provide arch/SER specs - look for:
 - i. special requirements
 - ii. requirements for calculations and data
 - iii. requirements for special certifications
 - c. Designer/Drafter is in control of engineering costs vis-à-vis:
 - 1. timely/accurate flow of information
 - 2. responsiveness to issues and questions
 - 3. quick turnaround of engineer's review comments
 - 4. general thoroughness of drawings at each stage of review
 - c. Shop Drawings – definitely NOT "One Size Fits All!"
 - 1. See David Sheidler's "Garage" drawings
 - 2. See CTW 8.5x11 Shop Drawings
 - d. General Notes
 - 1. See TFEC Master Timber Frame General Notes on TFEC website.
 - 2. SSE should prepare same for review by Timber Framers
 - 3. General Notes are always project specific.
 - e. See Timber Frame Shop Drawing Checklist

"Together, let us create a Legacy of Excellence"