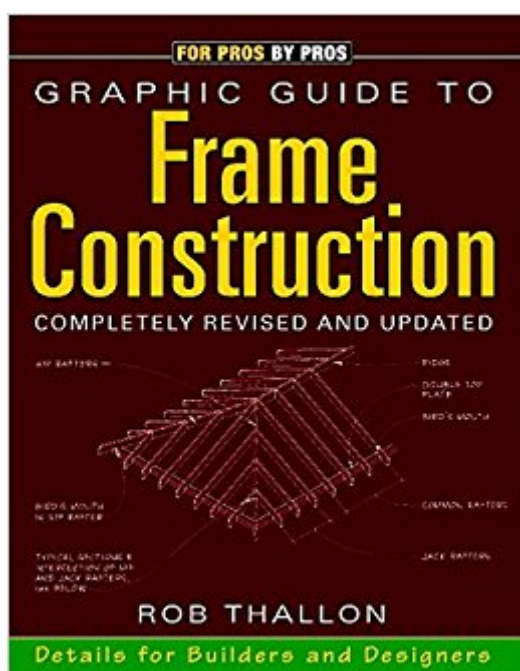


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# Graphic Guide To Frame Construction: Details For Builders And Designers



## Synopsis

A classic reference, the Graphic Guide to Frame Construction is a comprehensive visual handbook filled with hundreds of meticulous drawings showing the framing details you need to understand when building with wood. This revised fourth edition reflects the most recent changes in residential frame construction. It contains more details for engineered wood products, fasteners, and seismic hold-down requirements, as well as the latest IRC code updates. It is well annotated and covers foundations, floors, walls, stairs, and roofs. Because examples are taken from actual job sites by a trusted expert, this book is an invaluable visual aid that can help builders and homeowners alike to tackle a wide range of framing projects.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An invaluable reference for experienced designers and builders; an essential aid for beginners."  
Richard Meyer, National Association of Home Builders"

Rob Thallon, architect and Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Oregon, is the author of the bestselling series of guides: "Graphic Guide to Frame Construction, Graphic Guide to Site Construction, and Graphic Guide to Interior Details." He has more than 30 years of experience in residential design construction and has designed many custom houses and housing complexes.

I am a homeowner and adventurous tinkerer with all things mechanical/technical. I have never swung a hammer for a living, and am fairly clueless when it comes to general construction. (I have installed windows, replaced drywall, repaired plumbing, and run electrical simple lines, never built anything from scratch). I am about to embark on a complete remodel of a previously converted garage, and wanted to do most of the work myself. Armed with a copy of Visio 2002, I planned the layout of the new room (about 20' x 15') which will include moving some interior walls and doors, blocking an exterior window, installing a new interior window, and extensive removal and replacement of siding, sheathing, drywall, stucco, flooring, etc. Well, I needed a book that could augment my basic "sense" of the way things should look with some actual technical information. For example, how exactly do you frame an opening for a new window or door? How do you frame up a new wall segment that joins to an existing wall segment? What the heck is a "king stud" any way? All of this information is laid out very nicely in a textbook-like format, with lots of diagrams. The great thing is the way that the author starts each section with an overview drawing (say of a typical exterior frame of a house), then points to specific features, which are then detailed in subsequent sections. I would liken this to a "Bentley Manual" for automotive repair; it will not tell the complete novice how to build a wall, but for someone who already knows the difference between a 10d hot-dipped box nail and a 8 x 1-1/4" Drywall screw it is a great reference and can add a LOT of clarity to the way that homes are actually constructed using "best practices". (It will also help point out all the shortcomings of the manner in which your 50's era home was built! :-)

My only complaint with the book is that it is very sparse on "method" descriptions. Essentially there are just short paragraphs with brief descriptions that can sometimes be a bit cryptic. These would be very clear to a professional builder, but for someone like me, they require a bit of head scratching and guessing at times. I had great fun looking at the diagrams, then pulling off wall paneling and seeing the relationship between the drawings in the book and the actual construction of my home.

If you dream of building your own home (or contracting it) and want to become familiar with the details of framing, roofs, floors and structural details over windows then THIS IS THE BOOK FOR YOU! It is well organized, clearly written and BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED. This book is about how the structural elements (studs, top plates, trusses, floors, roof decking etc.) are put together, how they are "house wrapped" and all that. Text is pretty brief (but helpful) and pictures are plentiful. This is not a book for professional carpenters (although many would find it useful), but for all the rest of us it is great! It is NOT about plumbing, electrical and all that. As the name indicates, it covers the framing and structure of a building. It is also not a civil engineering book - (it does not talk about how

to compute loads and all that)

I've been building custom homes for almost 10 years. I thought this book would have some valuable techniques and knowledge to make me and my crew more efficient. It was more of a reference and did not dive into any complex aspects of framing. There was very little in the book I wouldn't expect/require a journeyman carpenter to know already. Save your \$.

Graphic Guide to Frame Construction (Paperback) After preparing 8 pages of detailed engineering-size construction drawings for contractors to bid on a two-story addition to our house, I came across this book. Even though I have many years of (mostly remodeling) experience, this book provided lots of great tips on the best ways to do foundations and walls, flashing, roofing and other areas. Those drawings have now been modified to incorporate what I've learned. Lucky I read this book BEFORE starting the project. Change orders, once construction begins, are costly, since you have little leverage with the contractor at that point. Materials and techniques used in frame construction have evolved over the years, and the previous (similar) book I had was substantially obsolete. This one cites the latest materials and approaches, as of the year 2000, and is well worth the cost for anyone contemplating a framing job of almost any size. It's doubtful that any contractor knows the best methods to do everything this book explains, not to mention non-contractors. That makes this book a good resource for any experience level. About half of the book's pages have one or more detailed drawings to show you how to do "it" (see customer images for a sample). The spiral binding is particularly helpful in using it on-the-job, or to photo-copy or scan. The five chapters, foundations, floors, walls, roofs, and stairs, cover virtually every aspect of frame construction, including decks and porches. The book doesn't cover everything. For example, there is no mention of the APA (Wood Engineering Association), Narrow Wall Bracing Method, an important subject when building sunrooms, or other structure with narrow corner walls or walls between window or door openings. Nevertheless, it's a great reference well worth the price.

Used this book to learn to frame a garage. I eventually built a garage by myself. Good resource.

Excellent source of proper framing details. Well illustrated and easy to understand.

ok

I am building a house myself, and of course consuming everything I can from every source. This seems to be the all around most straight forward framing book I have found so far. It obviously does not have everything, but it has all the basics framing details and explanation without dunning it down too much. The author talks to you like an adult, with a little education. More than sufficient to build a house. You might need to fill in some very specialized situations looking at other resources, but for the most part this has the details. I also used the details out of this book, to replace some that were on my plans I did not like. So, I sort of use it as supplement.

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