



Mbarkk
Classic Log Homes Brochure 2008





Why Mbarkk?

The Mbarkk team has worked within the timber and construction industry throughout their careers. Their knowledge of the timber and log construction market is unsurpassed and their extensive travels have taken them to meet many different suppliers of timber homes around the world. It is only this experience that allows them to negotiate the best possible rates, quality and delivery for clients all over the country.

Mbarkk believe firmly that the UK lags behind the rest of the world in their use of timber homes and buildings. Many countries across the globe consider timber homes to be the homebuilding material of choice. Mbarkk are determined to bring this option to the UK as well as quality, performance and professionalism to the timber home and building market.

For many years there have not been professional importers and managers of timber buildings. Mbarkk are now available to work with customers to redress this balance, and to work closely with every client to provide a cost effective, efficient service.

The Mbarkk service covers:

- The initial consultancy and discussion
- Building plot location.
- Design and development.
- Planning and site negotiation.
- Sourcing.
- Transport and management.
- Build management.
- Furbishment.
- Budget management.

The Design

Mbarkk provide a full design and development service – bringing the benefits of the Nordic, Baltic and Canadian homebuilding skills to the UK.

We can work from supplied drawings or we can work closely with you to develop your perfect solution.

From the initial design brief our Architects and Designers can work up the finished building specification and working drawings for submission to planning authorities.

Prior to submitting any applications it is often better to have informal discussions with the appropriate Authority and we are available to carry out this work for you.

We are able to submit your plans to the planning authorities and gain building regulation approval on your behalf.

Many of our clients have only an outline awareness of what they are looking for and by discussing the myriad of options available with them we can develop a strong design brief that will allow us to develop the house of their dreams.

Our activities present no threat to any tree species or any vulnerable habitats such as tropical rain forests. As members of the Association for Environment Conscious Building we ensure that we source our cabins and houses only from suppliers who work with renewable sustainable forests, this ensures continuity and is essential for this natural resource.



The Build and Management

The Mbarkk team works very closely with all relevant parties on every design and build project. It is only in depth knowledge of the full process and possible pitfalls that has allowed them to develop a system that eradicates problems before they occur.

The management team follows each project through every stage, ensuring strict quality and performance criteria are maintained. The team will monitor every aspect of the process personally and maintains close contact with you to guarantee satisfaction and confidence.

Budget control is a very important aspect of the Mbarkk service and this is controlled by the company project accountant who maximises performance and quality for budget spend. This ensures that projects do not exceed budget - a problem for many other building projects within the UK!

The same monetary consideration is applied whether only one aspect of Mbarkk's service is required or a full turnkey project.



Insulation

All our log cabins and homes can be built to accommodate building regulations if required.

The insulation is mainly taken care of by using the appropriate thickness of log, however extra wall insulation can be used if required. We are also able to insulate below floor and within the roof cavity to avoid heat loss.

Foundations

Depending on the use of the log cabin or home we are able to utilise a variety of foundations. These range from a simple foundation such as flagstones or timber for a small log cabin, up to a conventional concrete raft for a log home.

Roof

The roof can be finished in a variety of different ways including shingles, roof tiles and even a grass roof!!

Treatment of logs

The logs can be treated against fungal and insect attack before leaving the factory. After erection is complete, they can then be treated with a good quality preservative which can also achieve a desired colour.

The inside surface of the log building can be treated with a clear flame retardant if required.

Services

Any service that can be installed in a conventional house can be fitted into a log cabin or home.



Homes and cabins of Distinction FAQ

We are asked the same questions over and over again when people are offered timber or log buildings. These questions and our answers are listed below for you to make up your own mind!

Of course they must be cold and uninviting!?

Our homes have been used for hundreds of years in the coldest places on earth. Think of Siberia, the frozen Russian plains, Sweden, Finland - they all live in timber homes offering the best possible insulation and warmth for harsh environments. Even Father Christmas lives in one!

They are a fire risk aren't they?

Mbarkk timber homes can meet all current building standards and as such are considered to be at no greater risk from fire than a conventional building.

They won't last very long will they?

Timber and log homes in the coldest climates on earth have been known to last for over five hundred years!!!! Timber is one of the most durable, forgiving materials to make a building from. That is why it is one of the most frequently built types of houses anywhere.

They are environmentally unfriendly aren't they?

You're using trees!!!!

Mbarkk buildings are sourced from renewable sustained forests. This means more trees are planted than are cut down. As members of the Association for Environment Conscious Building we work hard to ensure that every aspect of our homes supply is consistent with their policies.

Technical Specifications

Log homes are usually found in the coldest parts of the world – Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Canada etc. The main reason for this being their ability to hold and re-radiate heat – and their ease of construction under difficult conditions!

Wood creates no environmental problems. It improves the climate; gives off oxygen; absorbs carbon dioxide; increases air humidity; filters air; entails no health problems; and can be re-used when it has served its purpose.

Log cabins and homes can be made to a wide variety of specifications depending on the use. Machined square logs start at 70mm wall thickness and can go up to 165mm. Round logs can also be offered from 125mm up to 200mm. It is also possible to build log homes with double walls giving incredible insulation properties.

All logs are dried to 18% moisture content prior to construction, which increases the stability and endurance of the building. This also allows immediate occupation of the house when the building is erected. Movement and settlement of the building takes place after erection due to natural drying out and shrinkage.

This must be accurately calculated and allowed for during construction and requires specialist skill and experience. Without this necessary experience serious structural problems will almost inevitably arise, many that will not be evident until it is too late for any remedial action to be taken.

An allowance is made for log shrinkage that would give approx. 75mm above a door or window, which gives an indication of the movement involved. Wood moves throughout its life, it does not matter if it is kilns dried, air-dried or green, log homes are going to settle. The sensible thing to do is design for this settlement.



The benefits of a log home

Our client list is extremely varied and we have found that once the initial reservations about a log home in general have been overcome, the practical applications for these highly functional and attractive buildings are endless:

- Beautiful homes of distinction
- Low cost starter housing
- Golf and leisure industry
- Office accommodation
- Second homes
- Sauna and swimming pools
- Restaurants
- Sports facilities
- Medical centres
- Workshops
- Home extensions
- Granny Annex
- Cricket pavilions

Etc, etc, etc.....



Log homes and buildings are extremely comfortable and offer a high level of insulation that keeps them warm in winter and cool in summer.

They are low maintenance, highly attractive encompassing all the features of a brick or stone built property. To some customers an additional advantage is that they also offer portability.

Sourcing

Mbarkk do not source their buildings from just one country or supplier. Experience has shown that different projects have different demands. For some the delivery might be tight, for others it might be cost sensitive or quality paramount.

We supply authentic log cabins and homes from various suppliers throughout the Nordic and Baltic countries as well as America and Canada.

Our ongoing relationship with these favoured providers means that we can negotiate improved terms, delivery and quality. It also means that capacity is never a problem and our management team ensures that on-going quality control procedures are maintained at all times.

We are able to supply either functional cabins or stunning homes in a range of wall thickness – determined by the planned use. These can range from 45mm to 200mm and a little knowledge of the intended use will allow our experts to advise you of the best option for your use.

The log homes can be supplied in several different ways to suit the individual customer. We know that every project is unique and as such we have developed options for supply. These include:

- Design only
- Log shell – Source and deliver only – customer to erect.
- Design, source and deliver.
- Design, source, deliver and build



Technical FAQ

What kind of wood do you use?

We use a variety of timbers, the most common being Pine and Spruce. We can however supply Yellow Pine, Western Red Cedar etc.

Do you build log homes from unique plans/projects?

Yes. This is one of our key assets. We will always find a solution for every client. We work with all our customers to provide what they want, almost every project is different. All you need to do is sketch your ideas and we will turn them into reality.

How energy efficient is a log home?

Wood is the best insulation material nature has to offer. That does not mean that by just increasing the thickness of the walls you will have the most energy efficient house. As with every other type of building we have to consider the insulation in floors, ceilings and roof space as well as the windows and doors. When you add a knowledgeable builder to that you have a very energy efficient home.

How much does a log house settle?

Depending on the profile of the logs used, settlement can be approximately 3 to 4 %. The settlement is always taken into account during the design process.

Do log homes place any special demands on services?

No, all traditional solutions work fine with a log home.

Is the size of the log house limited by the length of the logs used?

No, the length of the logs does not dictate the size of the house or any individual rooms.

Does a log house need to be built in the summer months?

No. The really nice thing about log houses is that they can be built anytime.

Planning

Many kinds of buildings and structures can be built in your garden without the need to apply for planning permission. These can include sheds, garages, greenhouses/potting sheds, accommodation for pets and domestic animals, summer houses, swimming pools, ponds, sauna cabins, enclosures (including tennis courts) and many other kinds of structure.

You will need to apply for planning permission if any of the following cases apply:

You want to put up a building or structure, which would be nearer to any highway than the nearest part of the 'original house', unless there would be at least 20 metres between the new building and any highway. The term 'highway' includes public roads, footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Additions or other buildings would cover more than half the area around the 'original house'.

The building or structure is not to be used for domestic purposes, and is to be used instead, for example, for parking a commercial vehicle, running a business or storing goods in connection with a business.

You want to put up a structure that is more than 3m high or 4m if it has a ridged roof.

If your house is a listed building, you want to put up a structure with a volume of more than 10 cubic metres.

Note:

In a terraced house or any house in a Conservation Area, National Park, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Broads, the volume of the original would be increased by more than 10% or 50 cubic metres whichever is the greater.

For any other kind of house, outside those areas, the volume of the original house would be increased by more than 15% or 70 cubic metres (whichever is the greater).

In any case, the volume to the 'original house' would be increased by more than 115 cubic metres. Volume is calculated from external measurements.

If an extension to your house comes within 5m of another building belonging to your, the volume of that building counts against the allowance for additions and extensions.

Any building which has been added to your property and which is more than 10 cubic metres in volume and which is in 5m of your house is treated as an extension of the house and so reduces the allowance for further extensions without planning permission.

Our advice is always to check with your local planning department before starting any building project.



Mbarkk Limited



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Prices

The price of your log home will vary depending on size, internal fittings, quantity etc.

As a guide, allow £600 per square metre of floor area for a shell complete. (Includes all windows, doors and roof)

Example: -

6m x 10m two bed mobile log home 60m²
x £600 = £36,000

To help you work within your budget, we provide help and advice on all the costs relating to your project.

What is the legal definition of a mobile home?

The legal definition of a mobile home is the same as that for a caravan. Broadly speaking, it covers any structure designed or adapted for people to live in which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle so designed or adapted.

This does not include railway stock that is in use, nor tents. It does include twin units separately constructed and designed for assembly on site, provided that the twin unit is physically capable of being moved or transported on a motor vehicle or trailer).

The twin unit must be no more than 65ft (19.812 metres) long, 22ft (6.7056 metres) wide and the living accommodation no more than 10ft (3.096 metres) high.



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