



ALEX SKARSHELG

Independent Timber Architecture Practitioner

AUTHOR PORTFOLIO

PROFILE

Alex Skarshelg is a carpenter. He has been building in timber since 2010 and founded his own practice in 2012, working design-and-build. More than forty bespoke timber buildings have been delivered, each carrying his own structural detailing.

He trained under the master log-builder Ottar Romtveit at Rauland in Norway in 2014, and he cuts the corners of his log walls with specialist axes forged for him by the Norwegian master smith Øyvind Klausen. Every building is carried through in a single, uninterrupted authorship — from the first idea and architectural concept, through structural design, load calculation, fabrication and on-site assembly, to the finished interior in every detail, including furniture, tableware and textiles.

The work below has been built, taught, planted or made. Nothing here is a proposal.

2010	Building in timber
2012	Own practice founded, working design-and-build
40+	Completed timber buildings, each carrying his own structural detailing
700+ m²	Flagship house, 2021 to 2023, in bespoke 250 × 350 mm timber
≈1,000 m²	Enclosed production facility, run by a team of about ten specialists
25+	Carpenters trained at his own school since 2019
170	Pine trees planted by hand
7	Crafted dispatches with hand-calligraphed letters, delivered winter 2025 to 2026

SELECTED BUILT WORK

Each house is led in single authorship, from concept, structural decisions and drawings, through fabrication and on-site assembly of the log structure, to the finished, inhabited interior.

Flagship house

The house exceeds 700 m² and is built from bespoke 250 × 350 mm special-order timber, with a project value of more than €2.5 million. It carries a complex multi-level roof of roughly 800 m² of tiling, living spaces with ceilings of up to six metres, a ridge above nine metres and full-height panoramic glazing. It was set out across eighteen structural axes on a 32.2-metre frontage, and the architectural elevation, the ground-floor plan and the rafter-structure plan were all authored before fabrication began.



Stavlaft house, 2024

A post-and-beam frame house on carved posts, with full-height gable glazing. It is the second Norwegian building system in the practice. The living and dining space is a vaulted, exposed-timber structure with hand-fitted joinery and a bespoke soapstone hearth.



Carved-post veranda, completed



Winter elevation



Entrance elevation in winter



Completed timber house, winter exterior

Earlier houses, 2014 to 2020

Eight further houses of 40 to 170 m² were designed and delivered in these years, among them a cedar bathhouse completed in 2018.



A completed house of the earlier group



A completed house, finished and painted

INTERIORS

Structure stays visible and spans stay legible. The interior is carried through by the same hand, down to the furniture, the tableware and the textiles.



Living space with six-metre ceilings and panoramic glazing



Dining room — timber, stone and firelight



Handcrafted kitchen with island and integrated sink



The main room under the vaulted timber structure



Bedroom — craft-led joinery and timber finishing



Exposed roof structure over a finished room

CARPENTRY SCHOOL

An authored school of Norwegian log construction, founded and led by him since 2019, teaching the structural principles, the joint geometry and the hand techniques of dry-laft construction. Two-day masterclasses are held at the in-house production facility, where participants work premium kiln-dried timber entirely by hand, using finely sharpened axes. More than twenty-five participants have been trained to date.



Two-day masterclass at the practice's own facility



Participants working premium kiln-dried timber by hand

THE WOOD

One hundred and seventy pine trees have been planted by hand, to give the practice a timber source of its own. A carpenter who takes timber out of a forest for fifteen years has a plain obligation to put timber back.



A pine set into the ground by hand

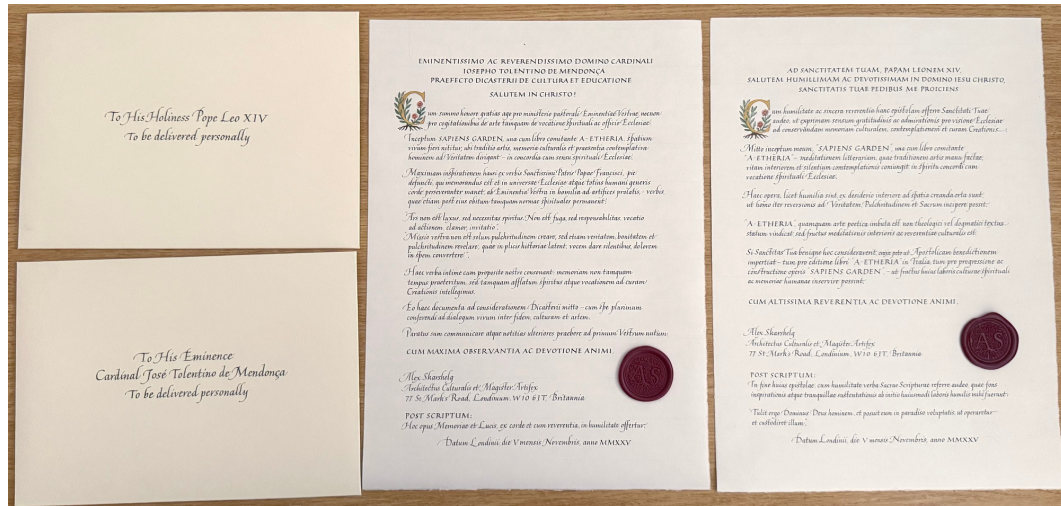


Seedlings in hand before planting

THE SAPIENS DISPATCH

Seven handcrafted dispatches, made of handmade deckle-edged paper, with hand-calligraphed letters carrying illuminated initials, wax monogram seals, embroidered silk bands, and a trace of pine oil released as the box is opened. The letters were written in London and dated 5 November 2025, two of them in church Latin and one in English, and the dispatches were delivered by tracked, signed-for courier in December 2025 and January 2026.

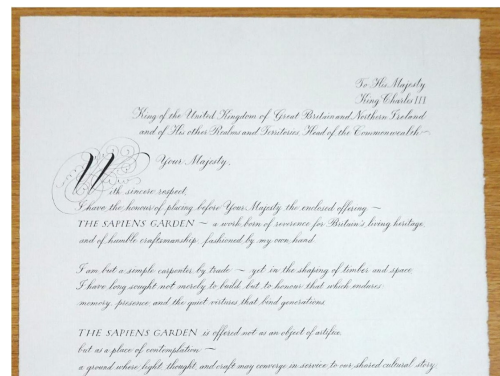
THE SAPIENS DISPATCH is an authored work of international scale — an architectural method applied to institutional communication: designed sequence, material harmony and an encounter staged so that the idea is met as a lived experience.



The letters in church Latin to Pope Leo XIV and to Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, with their addressed envelopes



The authored dispatch set



A hand-calligraphed letter for His Majesty The King

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free.