



OKANAGAN
TIMBER
FRAME

HEAD OFFICE & MANUFACTURING PLANT
5391 – 48th Ave. S.E., Salmon Arm, BC, Canada V1E 1X2
Telephone (250) 832-4577 Fax (250) 832-4575
www.oktimber.com

Design Questionnaire

“All architecture is shelter, all great architecture is the design of space that contains, cuddles, exalts, or stimulates the persons in that space.”

- Philip Johnson, architect

If you are still in the design phase of your home construction project, and have yet to ‘nail down’ a floor plan and elevation drawings... This is the document for you. A design questionnaire attempts to ask you many of the relevant questions that inspire the design of your home. We try to use your answers to design a home which will not only fulfill your needs, but nurture the way in which you want to live.

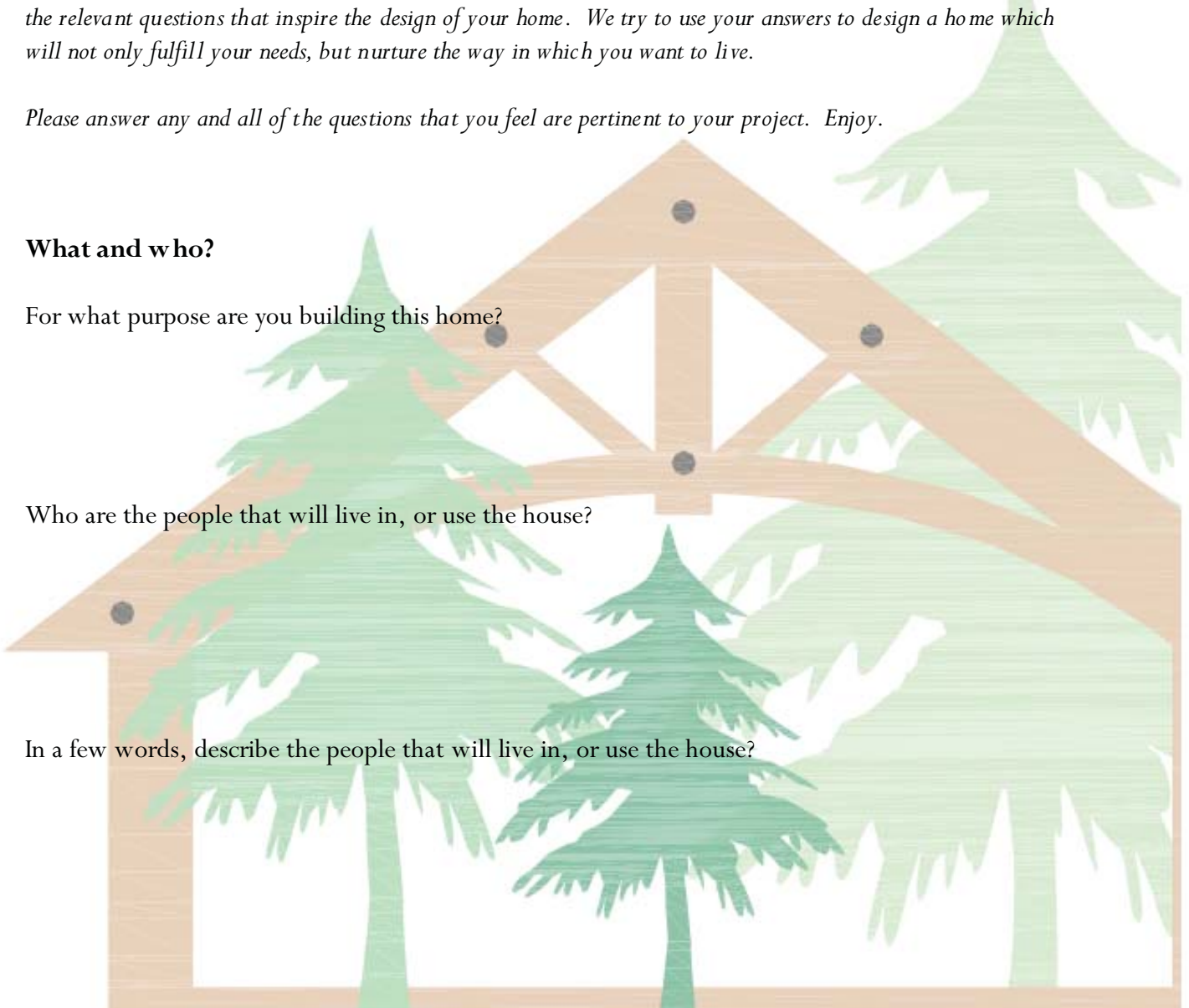
Please answer any and all of the questions that you feel are pertinent to your project. Enjoy.

What and who?

For what purpose are you building this home?

Who are the people that will live in, or use the house?

In a few words, describe the people that will live in, or use the house?



The Place

Do you have a topographical survey of your site? Is your building site flat, sloped, or steeply sloped?

What views are available from your site? How do you feel about the views that are present?

As the heating and cooling of your home is directly related to the placement of your home in relation to the sun's path, in which direction are your favoured views?

What image would you like your home to project when first viewed from the entrance to the property?

Site Data

If you do not have the following information, don't worry, we can access it for you. However, it is important to note that the following points are essential to the design of your home.

What is the local ground snow load (lbs/sqft)?

What is the local wind speed? What are the prevailing winds in the area?

What seismic zone is your building site located on?



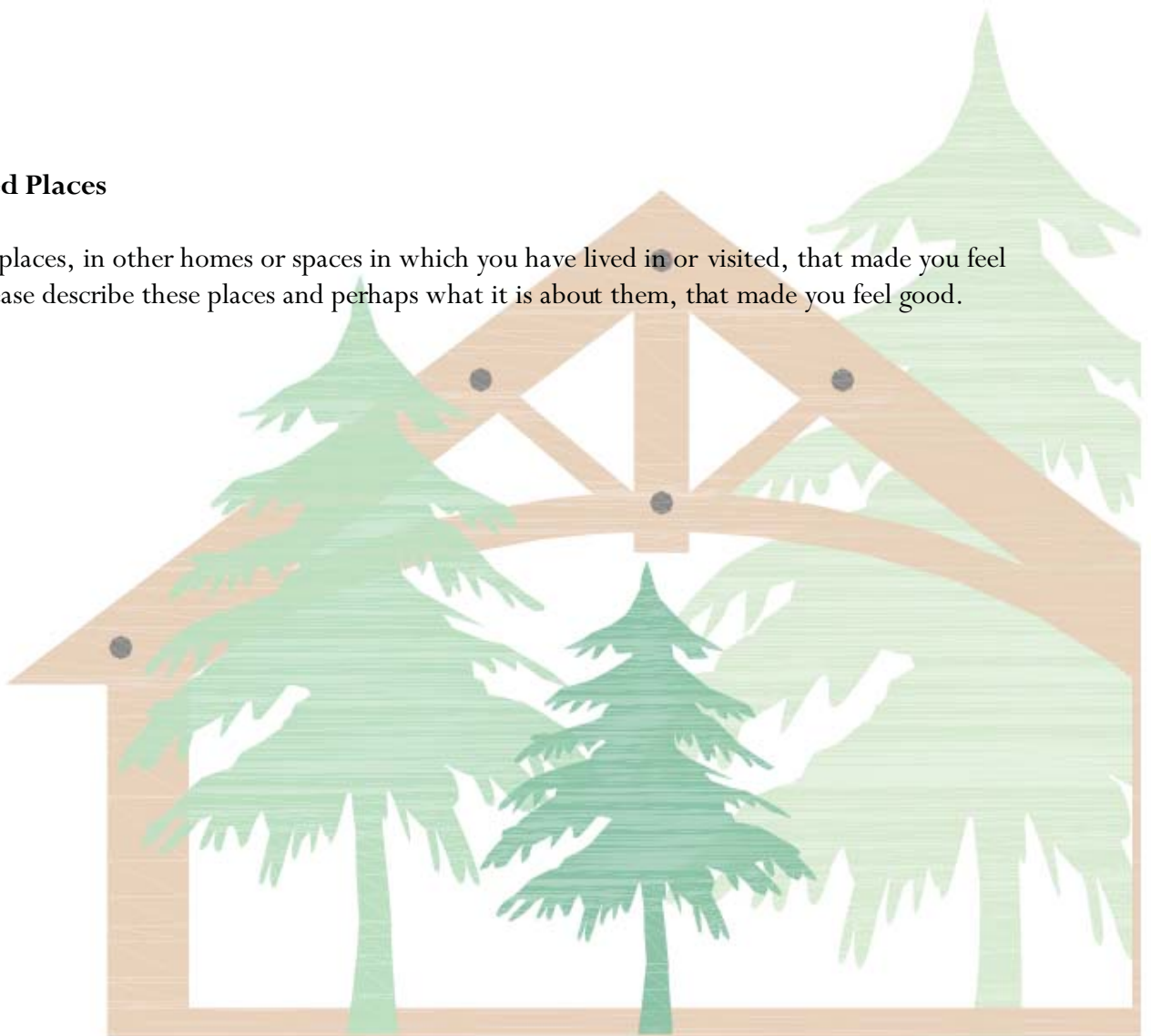
What is the soil bearing pressure on your site?

Are there local building codes, or architectural controls that will influence the design? For example: height restrictions, roof slopes, percentage of glazing, land coverage limits, environmental restrictions, etc.

Where is the septic field, water well, gas and power lines in reference to the proposed building and the access to the proposed building?

Cherished Places

Are there places, in other homes or spaces in which you have lived in or visited, that made you feel good? Please describe these places and perhaps what it is about them, that made you feel good.



Interior Spaces

Are you more partial to wide open spaces, or spaces that are compartmentalized?

Do you like large, lofty spaces or more intimate rooms?

What public rooms / spaces do you require?

You can choose to give an approximate size of each of the rooms, or describe what items of furniture or people will occupy the spaces. For example, perhaps a dining area of 12 feet by 14 feet does not mean the same thing to you as a dining area where eight people can dine comfortably.

Kitchen

Dining Area

Family room

Laundry room

Bathroom

Pantry

Utility room

Others:



Exterior Spaces

Do you like to spend time on outdoor decks or terraces?

Would you like these spaces to be covered? Would you like an outdoor living room with fireplace?

Should indoor and outdoor spaces blend together or maintain a strong separation?

What activities would you like to accommodate in these outdoor spaces? Dining, sun bathing, entertaining?

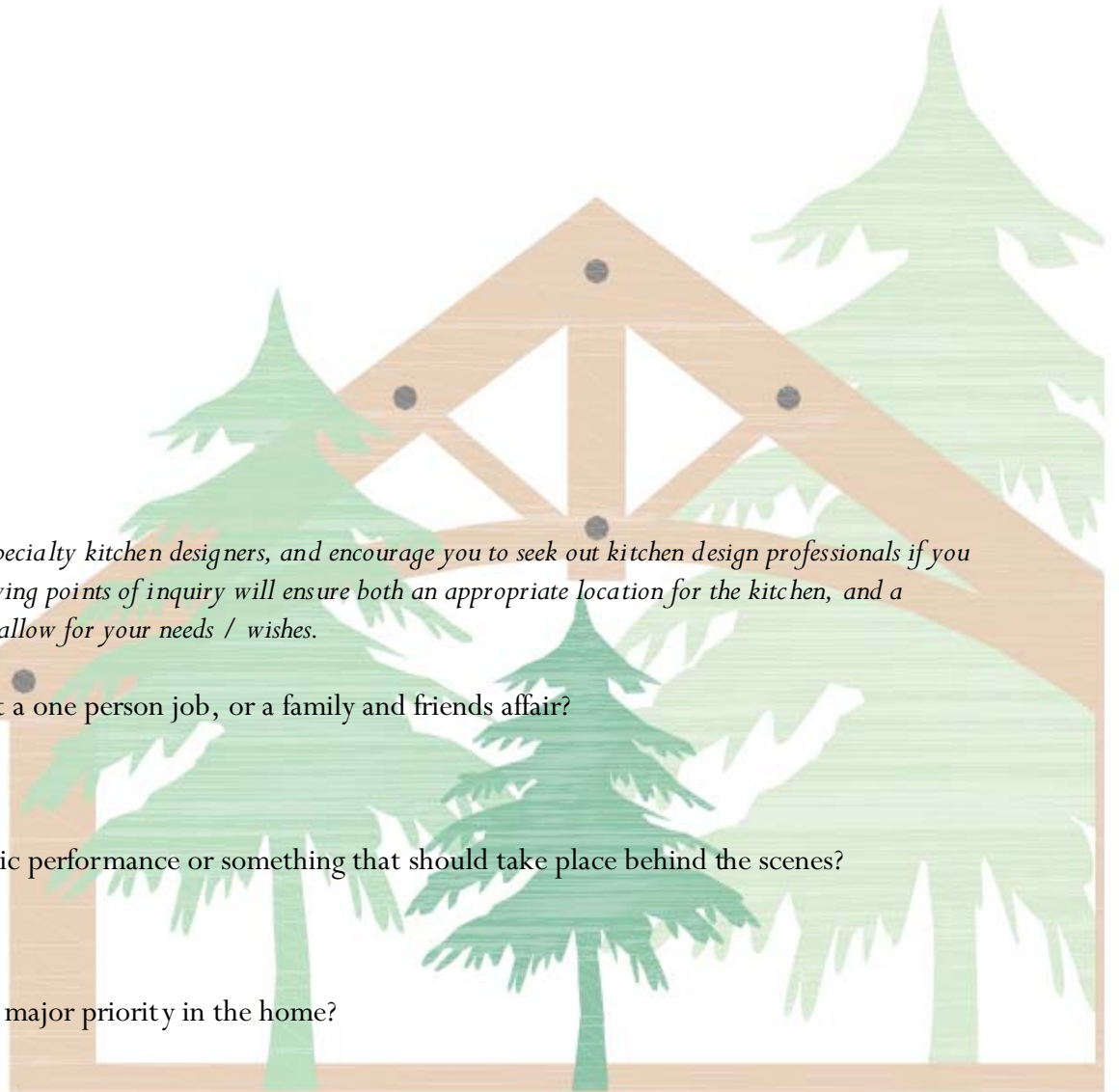
Kitchen

While we are not specialty kitchen designers, and encourage you to seek out kitchen design professionals if you so desire, the following points of inquiry will ensure both an appropriate location for the kitchen, and a footprint that will allow for your needs / wishes.

Who cooks? Is it a one person job, or a family and friends affair?

Is cooking a public performance or something that should take place behind the scenes?

Is the kitchen *the* major priority in the home?



Would you like to include a breakfast nook, eating bar, or island in your design?

What kind of equipment would you like in your kitchen?

Range/Oven / Wall Ovens?

Pantry (separate room, or slide-out pantry cabinets?)

Type and number of sinks?

Oversized fridge? Separate freezer?

Wine storage?

Comments:

Dining

What is your normal dining routine? Where do you usual eat your meals?

When guests are invited, what sort of meals are usually prepared? How often does this happen on an annual basis?



Do you serve drinks and tapas outside of the dining area?

Do you require a separate, formal dining room?

Family Space

Where does the family spend most of their time in the house? What are they doing in these spaces?

Does anyone have any special interests or hobbies that should be taken into account?

Is a formal parlour required?



Specialty Rooms

Would you like to have a study or office? Where should this space be located in the house? Are there any special requirements for this room?

Would you like to have a library, or is there extensive space required for the storage/display of books?

Would you like to have a media room, for either watching television, movies or to listen to music? How many people would make use of this room at one time?

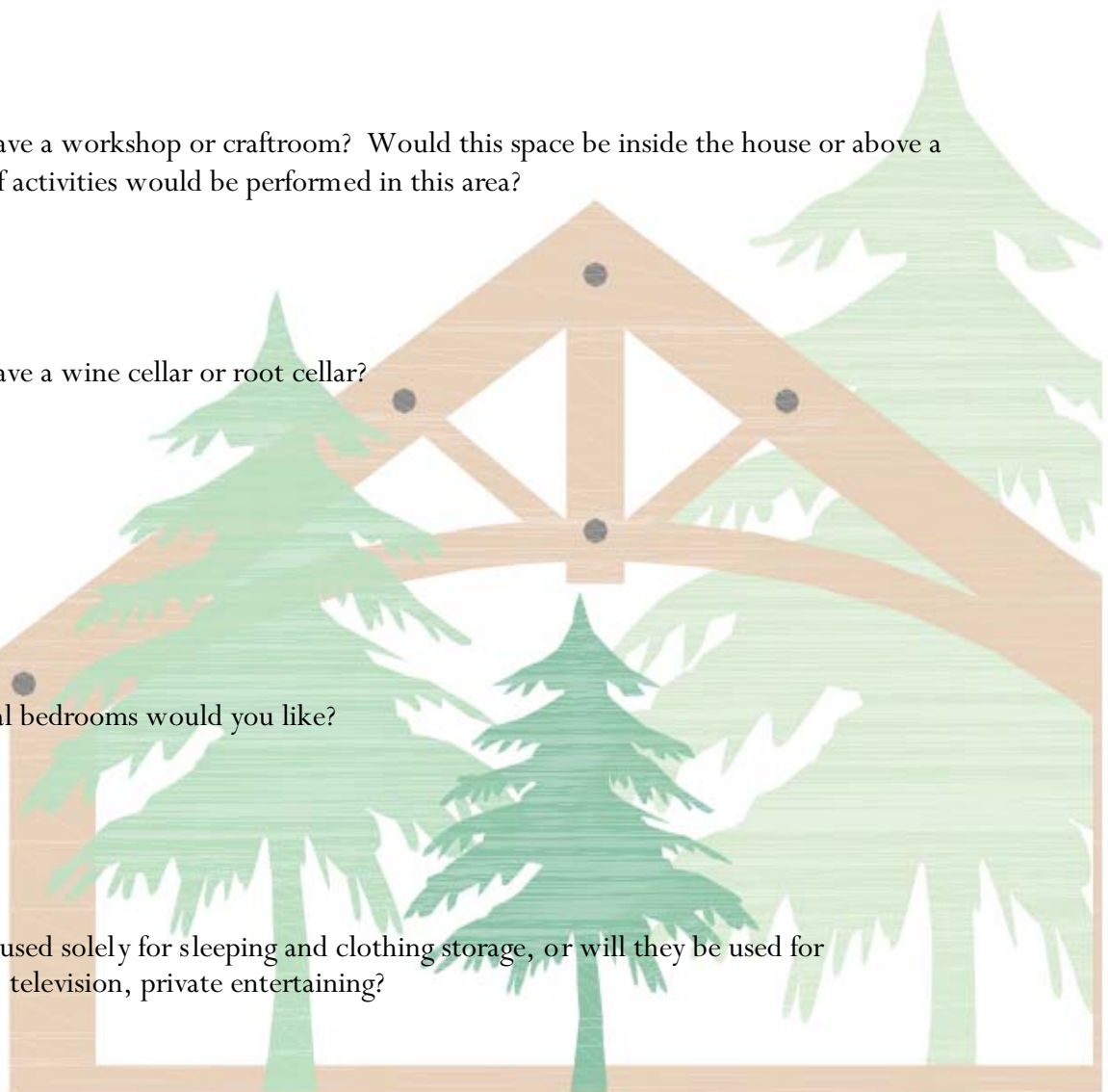
Would you like to have a workshop or craftroom? Would this space be inside the house or above a garage? What kind of activities would be performed in this area?

Would you like to have a wine cellar or root cellar?

Bedrooms

How many additional bedrooms would you like?

Are the rooms to be used solely for sleeping and clothing storage, or will they be used for homework, hobbies, television, private entertaining?



Will these rooms share a common bathroom?

Will these rooms have balconies?

How much separation from other spaces do you want the bedrooms to have?

The Master Bedroom / Suite

Will this be a significant space?

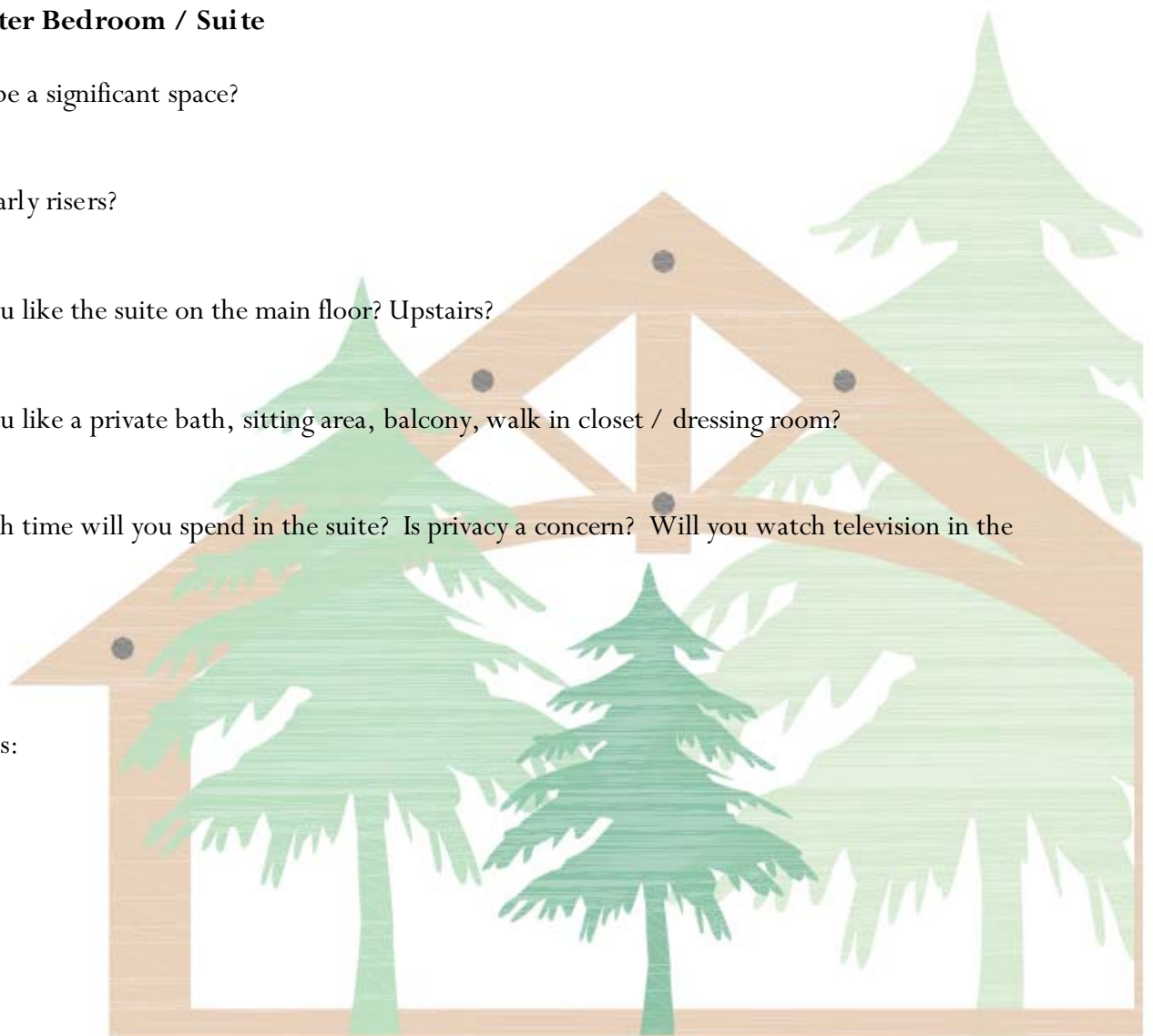
Are you early risers?

Would you like the suite on the main floor? Upstairs?

Would you like a private bath, sitting area, balcony, walk in closet / dressing room?

How much time will you spend in the suite? Is privacy a concern? Will you watch television in the suite?

Comments:



The Master Bath

What are you looking for in a master bath? Number of sinks, soaking tub, whirlpool, separate walk in shower, sauna, steam shower, bidet, separated toilet room, windows

Comments:

Laundry

Where will the laundry be done in the house?

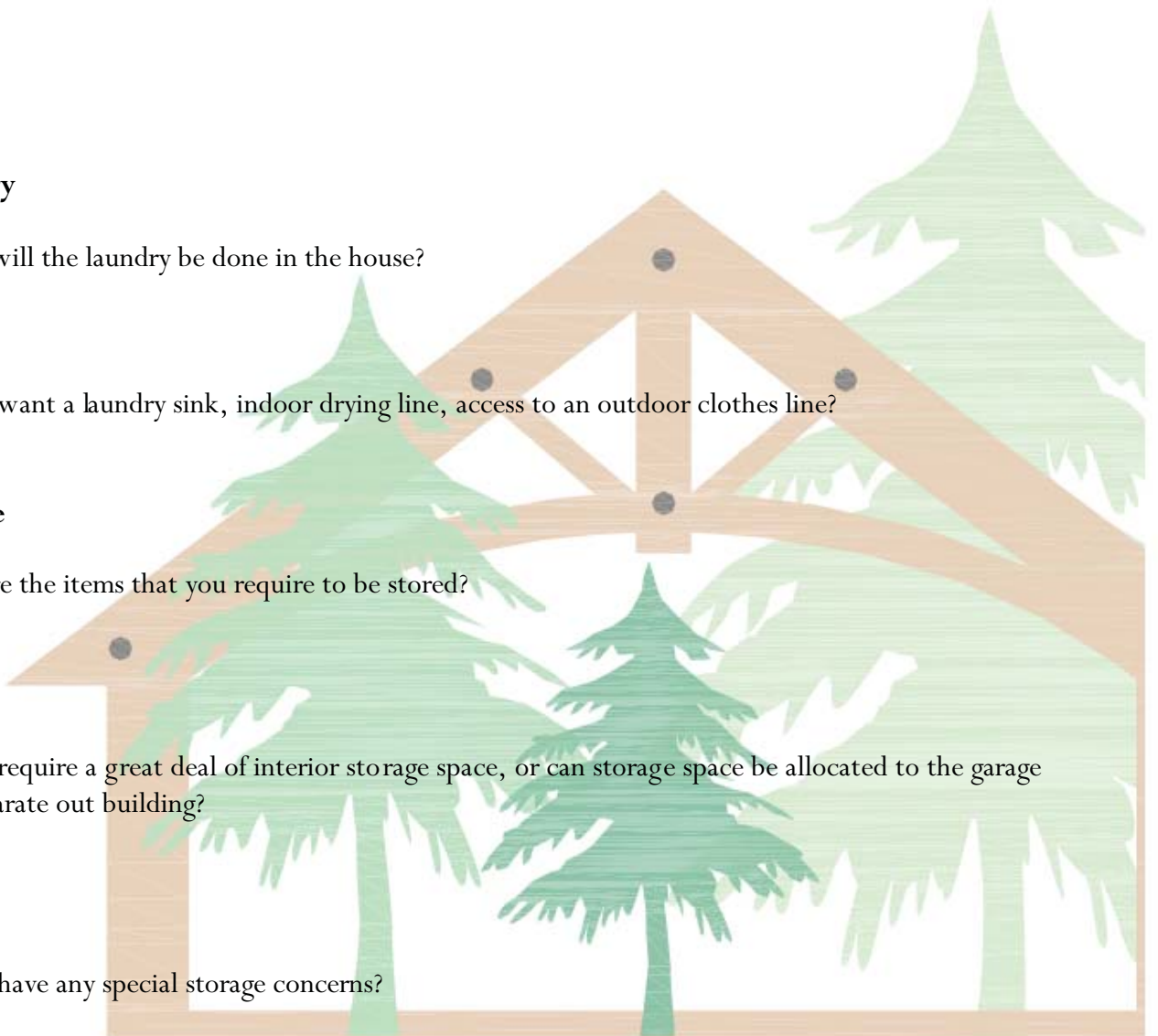
Do you want a laundry sink, indoor drying line, access to an outdoor clothes line?

Storage

What are the items that you require to be stored?

Do you require a great deal of interior storage space, or can storage space be allocated to the garage or a separate out building?

Do you have any special storage concerns?



Collections / Artwork / Furniture

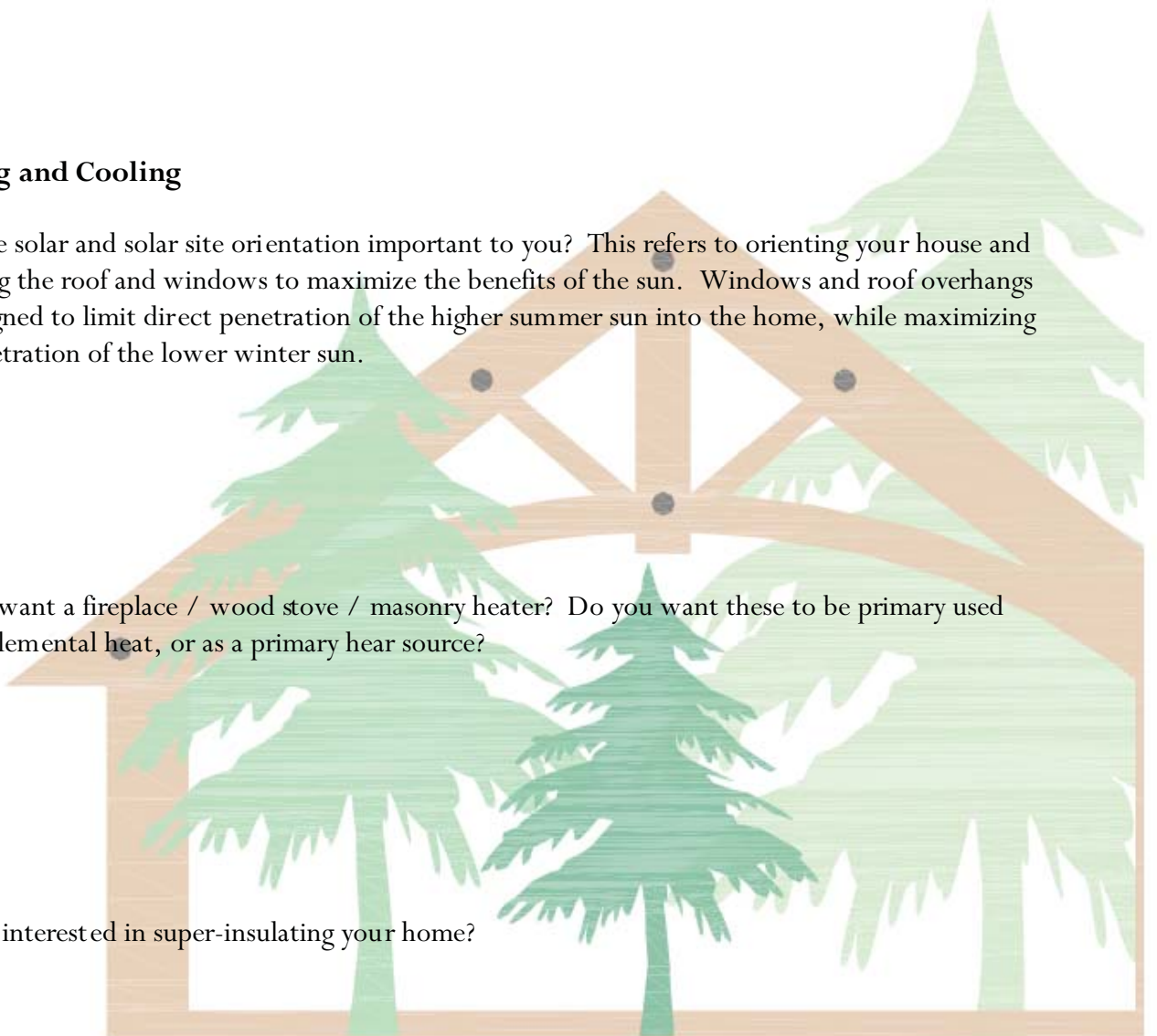
Are there any special items that require special consideration? Should display walls and specialty nooks be created for any items? Are there any large items of furniture or sculpture that need space allotted to?

Heating and Cooling

Is passive solar and solar site orientation important to you? This refers to orienting your house and designing the roof and windows to maximize the benefits of the sun. Windows and roof overhangs are designed to limit direct penetration of the higher summer sun into the home, while maximizing the penetration of the lower winter sun.

Do you want a fireplace / wood stove / masonry heater? Do you want these to be primarily used for supplemental heat, or as a primary heat source?

Are you interested in super-insulating your home?



What type of heating / cooling system do you favour? Forced air, in floor, other?

Exterior Materials

What exterior materials would you like your home to be finished with?

Walls:

Roof:

Decks:

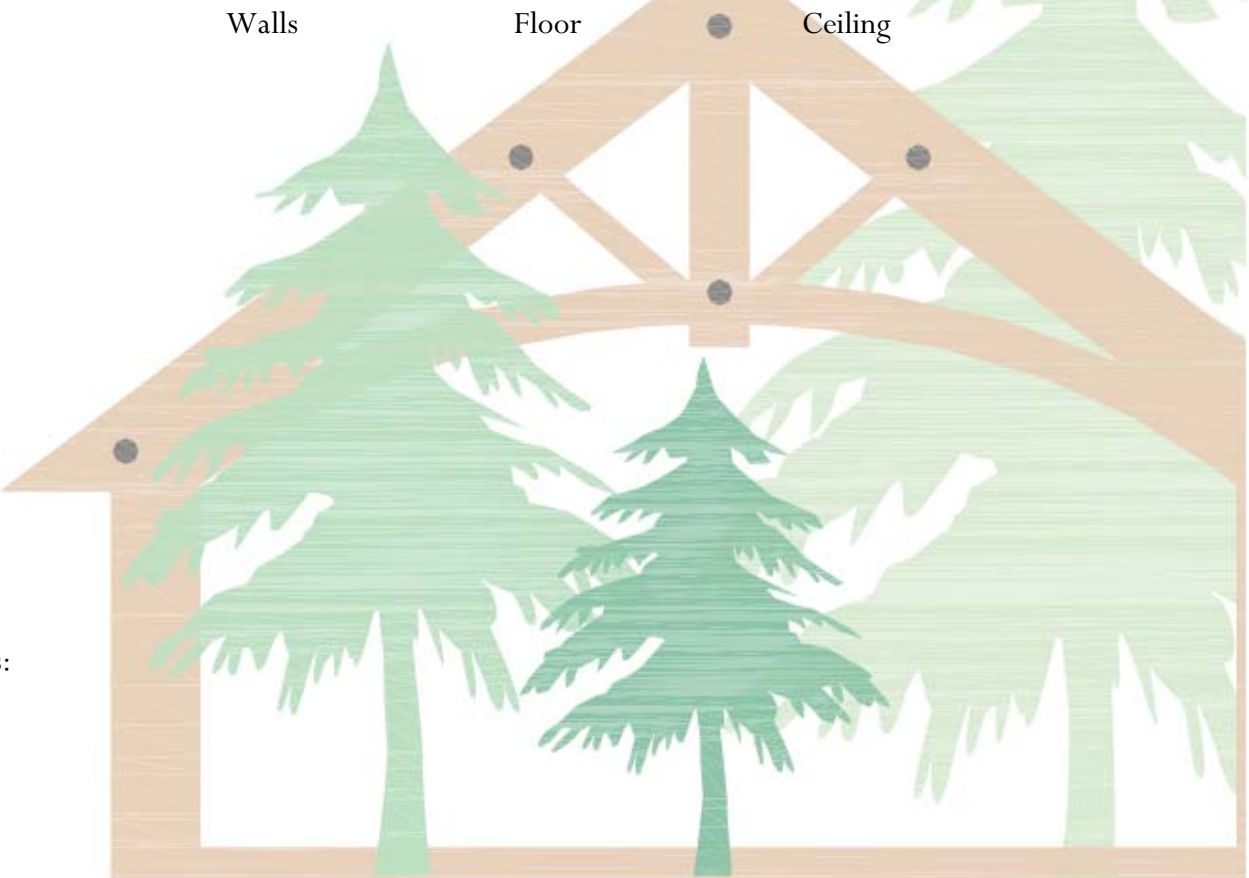
Door and Windows:

Comments:

Interior Materials:

What kind of materials would you like to see in the various rooms and spaces inside your home?

	Walls	Floor	Ceiling
Living			
Dining			
Kitchen			
Bedrooms			
Bathrooms			
Decks			
Laundry			
Other rooms:			



Well, that should give us an excellent start! Naturally, your answers to some of these questions may change throughout the design process. That is to be expected. We do, however, strongly believe that the more you have thought about the home that you want, the easier it will be for you to make decisions along the way. Not only that, but you should also get the home that you really want, and not a home that was designed with someone else in mind. We are very excited to start this incredible process with you!

You may have noticed that we did not ask any questions concerning your preferences as to the “style” of the home. A rather glaring omission. Because timber framing has a very different vocabulary from other means of construction, and because there are a myriad of options available, we felt that these questions should be contained in a separate document. Please refer to our “Timber Frame Design Styles and Value Engineering” document.